Good Friday Rituals of Resistance

Drone warfare resisters in New York depict the modern crucifixion 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 tableaus the group creates for protest blockades.

For this day, 10’ tall Reaper drone replicas were mounted upright on plywood bases, resembling the three crosses on Calvary. Three people in orange jumpuits, 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, Diplomacy, Rule of Law, 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 another set of the large props that have come to characterize the theatrical tableaus the group creates for protest blockades. When police finally arrived on the scene, the nine people for obstructing pedestrian traffic.

Hannover Field Blockade

On April 14 and Maundy Thursday, April 13, Widespread anti-war protests were reported the day after President Trump ordered a fusillade of Tomahawk Cruise Missiles to strike the Al Quds air base in Iraq. The Las Vegas Catholic Worker marked the 23rd annual Spring Sacred Peace Walk with two strikes that stopped traffic and brought to the public light changed the debate if not the tragedy of recent U.S. wars.

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 had already been held. The growing demonstration brought traffic to a standstill in the area.

After the Union Square rally, marchers headed back uptown. Police officers then moved to leave in 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,
Resistence Reflections

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 Jr. 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 and tested today. In a world where ... guided ballistic missiles are carving highways of death throughout 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 militarism, and we continue to process toward the building holding signs: “Standing with the Crucified — Stop Crucifixion Today.”

Fr. Pat Cunningham, who has lived in South Korea for the last 23 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 intersection of the barbed wire 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 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 Bombs — 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 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 a group in front of the White House for 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 commoner’s body by the cross of the group song, “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” There were no arrests.

For more information, visit nevadadesertexperience.org.

Pentagon

A group of students from Loras College in Iowa again traveled 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 “Justice, Peace and Nonviolent Resistance at Lockheed Martin, 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, Dr. King, Sr., 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 their continuance and their comfort. We are on this earth. We have for 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 protecting the cross of nonviolent resistance.

The readings came to an end, the bell continued to toll, and a line of people with prayers (please, 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 kept overnight, according to aicle citation: Theresa Camerota, Beth Cent, Caroll 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.

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

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, 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, Sr., Dorothy Day, Daniel Berrigan, Bob Marley, Jimi Hendrix, William Penn, Gandhi and Jesus.

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“Can’t you 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.

The Nuclear Resister

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nukeresister@igc.org
ISSN 0883-9875

You CAN HELP!

Please send news updates, letters, photos! Mail us or e-mail (or phone) new action reports, updates, jail information, statements, graphics, photos & slippings about local actions. Thank you!

SUBSCRIPTIONS and BULK ORDERS

One-year subscriptions are US$25 in the United States, US$30 to Canada, and US$35 overseas. Payment can only be accepted in US currency at checks drawn on US institutions. All subscriptions are non-refundable. 

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 (1988 - present) and the Alternative Press Center Supplement of the Underground Press Collection (1980 - 1985) offered by the ProQuest Company, 789 E. Eisenhower Pkwy., P.O. Box 1429, Ann Arbor, MI 48106 or online at proquest.com.

About the Nuclear Resister

Since 1981, the Nuclear Resister has provided comprehensive reporting on protests for non-violent 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 Resistance also began reporting on anti-war activism 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 the mainstream of change and are often quite cut off from the larger community. We act politically to remain connected to the larger community. We act politically to remain connected to the larger community. T

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
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 Betty and Brian Jacob in the lead up to the anti-NATO protests in Chicago, Illinois. The three were originally charged with 11 felony counts including material aid for terrorism, conspiracy to commit nuclear weapons proliferation, and possessing an incendiary device. They were acquitted of all terrorism charges. They were found guilty of terrorism and possession of an incendiary device. They did not consider the implications of the use of nuclear weapons and that there must be “trust” among world leaders in order to solve the existential problems we face, particularly nuclear weapons and climate change.

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 defendants’ testimony, visit antiwarrelatedactions.org to receive it via email.

LARRY KERSCHNER, BERNIE MIEYER AND GILBERTO PEREZ AFTER THEIR APRIL 15 TRIAL IN THE TACOMA FEDERAL COURTHOUSE.

MOTHER’S DAY AT BANGOR

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.

BANGOR TRIAL UPDATE

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 our illusion 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!

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Johnson made with his wife Jennifer to leave the 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?

One big 18 wheeler drove down the shoulder of the road leading from Las Vegas to the rural air base where lethal missions are remotely piloted for the Pentagon and CIA. 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 Mcklosky were arrested on the scene and taken into Las Vegas, where they were held on $2000 bail, each. Later that day, Blomé’s daughter Marpeaus Terehala, 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. Mcklosky and Terehala 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, ratherbencyceling@comcast.net, 510-215-5974 or Brian Terrell, brian@vcen.org, 773-853-1886.

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.

Peltier Meets Attorney as Campaign Regroups

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.

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Resisting Robotic Warfare — Ground the Drones!

With President Trump increasing the number of armed drone war attacks, the Des Moines Catholic Worker community and local Veterans for Peace (VfP) chapter hoped to provoke a conflict with the military. 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 ran out for one day that week, and continued with a handful of stalwarts and supporters dropping by. A dozen people were arrested on May 17, and another 10 on May 20. They gathered directly in front of the closed gate to share thoughts and reflections with each other.

For more information, contact justiceforthejax5@gmail.com, 515-490-2490.

For more information, contact Gil Landolt, Veterans for Peace, peacevet@hotmail.com, 515-333-2180 or 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 $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 Burlington, has been charged with trespass for sparking the protest. In February, Gagnon could not attend the last day of trial and sentencing for an earlier protest at BIW. The judge would have given him 60 days or 40 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 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 gilbelnt@gmail.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 controlled communal forest in Mandres-en-Barrios. The court also allowed the forest-dwelling activists have not abandoned their resistance despite the court order.

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 area, and tear gas was used against demonstrators at the barricades.

The council again voted 6-5 to sell the woods, and again has been challenged in court. Thirty-five people – one third of the village population – 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 an appeals court ruling in late February overturned the council’s sale vote. The council majority has glaring conflicts of interest, and tidal power systems – all viable economic enterprises of commuter rail systems, offshore wind turbines, solar and tidal power systems – all viable economic enterprises along the coast.

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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. They sent a gattusa (postcard) tostep 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 “Trumb 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.

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 locked themselves into a gate at an empty lane 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 dissolving 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 on the crossroads could remain until 5 p.m., at 4:45 p.m. the police moved in and made 91 arrests. The organisers were bussed away from the site and jailed while details were recorded. They were then released.

For more information, visit agirpourlarpai.be and vredesactie.be/en.

Ireland

On the night of April 25, Irish peace activists Edward Horgan and Dan Dowlings discreetly entered Shannon Airport. They headed on foot to Taxway 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 and from war zones in the Middle East and Africa.

“Rendition” flights have been documented through Shannon on carrying kidnapped terrorist 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 flash lights.

Horgan presented the police with a 34-page document titled “A 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 murder of 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 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 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.

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- hey was being forced out of office 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 Korea 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, joined by peace activists who came from across the country.

Won Buddhist monks, whose sect founders lived in the area a century ago, were locked in their traditional pilgrim 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-soon, 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 and nuclear weapons. The deployment of THAAD hasn’t done anything but escalate that.”

Twice on March 29 police tried to escort trucksload 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 road.

The next major clash came on April 20, as soon as the two governments announced a hastily 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 streets were blocked throughout the day, including 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 50 people were injured during blockades, and two hospitalized with broken bones.

On April 30, more supply trucks were turned back six times by 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 use as barricades, police had smashed windows to remove the occupants and use as barricades.

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 met by local residents.

“THAAD is a weapon of war,” 64-year-old farmer Ms. Lin Sooongto told The Washington Times, as people of all ages hanged 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 like peace activists.”

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 interested 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 summerscamp@ 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.
LÜNEBERG

Climbing activists provided a fitting backdrop when the German city of Lüneberg closed off the town square for a gala ceremony to honor the German 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 engraving, a SWAT team was ready with ropes for some arresting action in front of a crowd that cheered on... the activists!

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 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 a warning that they might be censored by the warden and not sent out. Subsequently it took a court order to allow her more commissary money to supplement her diet with vegan commissary purchases.

For more information, visit blog.eichhoernchen.fr.

Germany

Pointing to the “absurdity of the system,” she noted “The jail system is not reformable,” she concluded...

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 Podgig and others blocked a uranium transport train. The action was part of an international campaignlarger than 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, Podgig 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 the protest at the Hildesheim jail. As the Nuclear Ban Treaty Conference at the United Nations adjourned, Podgig 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 nuclear weapons are stored in bunker tanks deep inside the hillside by one of the most beautiful lochs in Scotland. For more information, visit tridentploughshares.org.

The words of Martin Luther King Jr. at Riverside Church, fifty years and exactly one year before his assas... silence.

More future actions and event details can be found at nukeresister.org/future-actions.
VANDEMBERG 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 my message is continue to demand my freedom, my right to be free from this prison without end.”

BRITISH AEROSPACE: Rev. Daniel “Woody” Woodward and Stan 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 on 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...