

the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

No. 186

September 7, 2017



photo by Aaron Jorgenson

Activists blockade the entrance to Des Moines’ Iowa Air National Guard Base, the home to a drone warfare command center, July 28.

Des Moines No Drones Campaign ‘Stretched’ by Pipeline Arrests

A nonviolent action campaign to ignite public debate about the Iowa Air National Guard drone base in Des Moines continued throughout the summer. But their efforts were overshadowed by the confession of two participants in the drone campaign, Ruby Montoya and Jessica Reznicek, to sabotage and arson of the Dakota Access pipeline.

The MQ-9 Reaper drone command center at the base places Des Moines in the center of global warmaking. Since May, it has been the focus of regular vigils with occasional blockades and arrests. The “Stop the Killing, Shut it Down” campaign is sustained by a small number of Des Moines Catholic Workers and members of the local Veterans For Peace chapter.

Seven people arrived for the vigil on the afternoon of June 10 to find the main entrance to the base had already been shut down and police were waiting.

As the demonstrators circled together in front of the gate, a guard behind it announced over the public address system that they were all trespassing and must leave. Five of them hugged Al Burney and Mark Kenney, who planned to stay and risk arrest. (Just the day before, Burney pled guilty and was ordered to pay court costs but not fined for blocking the gate on May 27.)

City police emerged from the gate to arrest the two men as the others began to walk away. An officer called to Frank Cordaro to come back. The Catholic Worker returned and was placed under arrest for violating a “ban and bar” letter from his May 27 arrest at the base.

“A dumb arrest on my part,” Cordaro wrote. “Lesson learned in the process. Once you get a ‘ban and bar letter,’ don’t go to the gate as a support person, unless you’re willing to be arrested, too.”

Cordaro was in court a few days later on June 15 to enter a plea for his June 3 arrest at the drone base.

In his statement to the court, Cordaro said, “For me, this is primarily a spiritual exercise and public witness of my Christian Catholic faith. I am modeling my efforts after Dorothy Day, the founder of the Catholic Worker movement, who, in the 1950s, protested at the annual Air Raid Drills in New York City five years in a row, until the city stopped having them. Dorothy and the CW’s pled guilty, refused to pay fines and court costs and preferred to go to jail as a penance for those killed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. For me, every day I serve in jail for this drone campaign, I do it as a penance for those killed by our U.S.-led drone wars, especially those killed in connection with the work and mission of the Iowa Guard Drone Command on the south side of Des Moines.”

“It is a shame that we have to resort to our civil courts and jail for a venue to speak to our fellow Des Moines Christian communities about this important moral wrong taking place on the south side of our city, without a peep, question or real discussion on the morality of drone

warfare and whether or not Jesus would kill anyone from space.”

After pleading guilty, he was sent to the Polk County jail for 72 hours.

On June 20, Cordaro was back in court with Kenny and Burney for their June 10 arrests – the first time for Kenney, a second for Burney and Cordaro’s third in the course of the campaign.

All three entered a guilty plea. Kenney and Burney were fined, and Cordaro was again jailed for 72 hours.

Cordaro told the judge, “Your Honor, this is the wrong venue. I’m looking for access to the religious leaders in Des Moines. I am forced to come here to try to start a discussion about issues they don’t want to address.”

Despite outreach to the press about the regular vigil, repeated arrests and jail sentences, local media had only reported the news once – a TV report at the outset of the campaign, back on May 11.

The absence of media attention and any resulting public discussion or commentary from religious leaders about the reality of global drone warfare waged locally led the campaigners to the decision to amplify the optics of a blockade.

On the morning of Wednesday, June 28, four people locked their arms inside three large barrels filled with concrete to blockade the base. The entry road was closed for about two hours while fire crews cut through the barriers.

Jesse Horne, Spencer Kaaz, Ruby Montoya and Jessica Reznicek were arrested and charged with interference with official acts and obstructing a public way.

After spending a night in jail, they all pled guilty to the two misdemeanors and were fined and released. The court also ordered a joint restitution payment of \$3,241 for street maintenance, police and fire labor costs.

The action garnered some local press and on Saturday, July 1, 20 people participated in the largest Saturday protest to date at the drone base. Ed Bloomer and Jesse Horne were both arrested and jailed overnight. In court the next morning, both entered guilty pleas and were ordered to pay a fine and court costs, then released.

On Saturday, July 9, Cordaro was arrested as soon as he arrived for the weekly witness. Police had a recent warrant for him for disorderly conduct at the June 28 blockade, when he stood directly in front of vehicles stopped by the blockade but left when police ordered others to disperse. Held overnight, Cordaro pleaded guilty on Sunday and was sentenced to five days in jail.

A different local debate was fueled on July 24, when Montoya and Reznicek held a press conference outside the headquarters of the Iowa Utilities Board to criticize the Board’s recent actions over a Dakota Access

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HIROSHIMA/ NAGASAKI ACTIONS

Events commemorating the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 72 years ago took place around the world in early August. In the United States, nuclear abolitionists were arrested during planned demonstrations at five nuclear-related sites: a major nuclear arms contractor in Pennsylvania, a California missile base, a Washington Trident submarine base, a California nuclear weapons lab and the Pentagon.

Lockheed-Martin

On Saturday, August 5, on the eve of the Hiroshima bombing, members and friends of the Brandywine Peace Community gathered at Lockheed-Martin in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. On the grassy area out front where they have met a few times each year for decades, they displayed colorful banners and signs. One reading “Hiroshima! We Shall Not Repeat the Sin” hung boldly from the wall leading up to Lockheed Martin’s main entrance. Musicians Tom Mullian and Rev. David Brown performed original and traditional folks songs for the occasion.

As a peace bell tolled, all those gathered walked to the main driveway entrance. Four people then blocked the entrance, holding the classic picture of the Hiroshima child. Arrested and cited for disorderly conduct were Beth Centz, Tom Mullian, Paul Sheldon and Fr. Patrick Sieber.

For more information, visit www.brandywinepeace.com or email brandywine@juno.com.

Vandenberg AFB

On the west coast on August 5, members of the Los Angeles Catholic Worker joined the Guadalupe, California Catholic Workers and others in a prayerful witness at Vandenberg Air Force Base. Their commemoration of the 72nd anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki included a call for the elimination of ICBM missile testing from Vandenberg.

Three Los Angeles Catholic Workers who had each received a ban and bar letter after previous arrests at the base – Jeff Dietrich, Mike Wisniewski, and Karan Benton – were approached by police and threatened with arrest for “ban and bar” violations if they did not immediately leave the protest area. Dietrich and Wisniewski chose to leave, while Benton refused. She was immediately arrested, cited for trespass and later released pending a future court date and possible jail time.

For more information, visit lacatholicworker.org.

Pentagon

On August 9, about 30 faith-based peace activists held a midday witness of repentance at the Pentagon to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of the U.S. nuclear bombing of Nagasaki. They carried disarmament signs and photos of the carnage and victims of the atomic bombings in a procession from Army-Navy Drive to the police-designated protest zone. The zone is a space enclosed by a chain link fence between the south parking lot and the Pentagon Metro entrance.

Bill Frankel-Streit and Eric Martin proceeded past the protest zone and were told by police that they could not continue further nor remain on the sidewalk. They refused to comply with an order to go into the designated zone, and, after several warnings, they were placed under arrest.

Before their arrest, as the two men stood in silence on the sidewalk holding photos of Nagasaki victims, Art Laffin read the following statement aloud as the soldiers and war workers passed by:

Seventy-two years ago, on August 6, 1945, the U.S. ushered in the Nuclear Age by committing the unspeakable act of using nuclear weapons against the people of Hiroshima. Three days later, on August 9, the U.S. used a second nuclear weapon against the people of Nagasaki. Over 200,000 Japanese died in these bombings and many thousands

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where we're at

Friends, it certainly has been a long, hot summer, in more ways than one.

Here in Tucson, June brought record breaking heat and July followed with record breaking monsoon rains. In August, we learned that the Raytheon missile factory in our city, where we have held a peace vigil once a month for close to 20 years, was awarded a \$900 million contract to develop the nation's next generation of air-launched nuclear cruise missiles.

While we were heartened on July 7 that the U.N. treaty to ban nuclear weapons was endorsed by 122 non-nuclear nations, we were alarmed a month later by Trump's "fire and fury" threats against North Korea, and no less by that country's nuclear threats and tests. We who work for social justice and a peaceful and nuclear-free future have some very long and rocky rows to hoe in the months and years ahead.

Amidst the nuclear saber rattling and manifest hatred and violence seen in Charlottesville and beyond, two men of peace died who were dear to us.

Throughout his life, Bill Doub passionately engaged his interests in Chinese philosophy, religion, language and literature; peace, environmental and social justice activism (including nonviolent direct action); outdoor adventures; and his family and friends. Jack became friends with the Doub family in 1978, when Bill, his late wife Nancy and daughter Marian were also arrested at the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons production facility, and the family (including son Eric) has supported the Nuclear Resister since it began in 1980. Even in recent years, despite declining health, Bill was arrested along with Marian, her husband Bob and their son Aidan while blocking a door at the state building in San Francisco to protest fracking.

Jerry Zawada was a beloved member of our anti-nuclear family. Over the past decade, we attended actions and demonstrations together near and far. While he lived in Tucson, Jerry helped with the Nuclear Resister archives, mailing parties and more. He was arrested 100+ times over 30 or so years, at nuclear weapons sites, military bases and elsewhere, and spent about 5 years locked up in jail and prison cells across the U.S. as a result (including three 6-month sentences for crossing the line at Ft. Benning). A humble and loving man of gentle strength, Jerry's commitment to nonviolence, peace and justice was unwavering. He was a friend of the poor, the refugee, the torture survivor and the prisoner. Jerry was a Franciscan priest for more than 50 years, and a treasured brother and uncle.

We loved to sing with Jerry, and will always remember him when we sing his favorite song:

My life flows on in endless song;
Above earth's lamentation,
I hear the sweet, tho' far-off hymn
That hails a new creation;
Thro' all the tumult and the strife
I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul —
How can I keep from singing?

Thank you, brothers, for the example of your lives. You will be deeply missed.

You can read more about Jerry and Bill at www.nukeresister.org.

Felice & Jack

Thanks

Thanks to Sonia, Xiomara, Faith, Richard, Jim, John, Gretchen, Leonardo, Cindy, Catherine, Polly, Betty, Paige and Steve for helping to mail the last issue, and to Ruth for proofreading this issue.

Resistance Reflections

Ending the Nuclear Nightmare

by Bonnie Urfer

Not everyone you meet invites you to get arrested, but, in the name of peace, nuclear disarmament, and reactor shutdowns, that's exactly what I'm doing. Actually, consider this a 10-minute commercial for challenging the nuclear establishment on the line and in court.

There's no harm in nonviolent resistance. I have been arrested fewer than 100 times over the past 30 years to draw attention to the deadly nuclear industry and to senseless ongoing war. I encourage you to do the same as the U.S. nuclear arsenal daily threatens everyone on planet Earth. The nuclear industry is responsible for vast amounts of contaminated air, sea and land in areas called "dead zones" on our own soil. Pick up a copy of Nukewatch's *Nuclear Heartland*; it should put you in the mood for action.

I know you can and do write letters, sign petitions, pass out literature, call into radio programs, write songs, do dances, create art and videos to further the cause of peace and justice. I know you plaster your car with bumper stickers. You may belong to an organization that purchased a billboard for peace, painted a mural and had a discussion about community justice. Perhaps you've joined a march or vigil, organized a Run for Freedom, and maybe you even recycled your TV. There are so many things to do to create change. Buy responsibly, picket, strike and divest from harmful industries. Why, you could refuse to pay war taxes, help blockade the entrance of a weapons manufacturer, sit in a tree to prevent clear cutting and save old growth forests, occupy a nuclear missile silo, even do a citizen's arrest of the president. My dream is that one day, we'll be so huge, we'll walk up to the White House and simply ask for the keys. But that is going to take a lot of help from a lot of people and people willing to take the next bold step.

In the meantime, our water is being poisoned, food supply altered, people tortured and everyone — today and into the future — radioactively contaminated. And we drive, drive, drive. You know the story. Each of us is responsible for environmental destruction.

For almost three decades I have resisted the nuclear industry and the war system and I know that what I do is not enough and I know we are not enough, yet. And I know this is no time to stop. As people have turned their focus to climate change, the reality of nuclear war and the danger of nuclear reactors have been minimized in the media and industry. Don't believe the nuclear utilities that say nuclear power is green or, more importantly, safe. Don't.

When it comes to nuclear weapons, the law is on our side. The Nuremburg Principles, the Geneva Conventions, the Hague Conventions, the International Court of Justice at the Hague, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, U.N. General Assembly Resolutions, humanitarian law, Article Six of the U.S. Constitution making treaties part of the supreme law of the land, the Fifth Commandment via God, the Golden Rule, Sam Day my mentor, and I all agree that the mere possession of nuclear weapons is immoral, illegal and a crime against humanity.

Our situation is serious. And nuclear weapons make it grave. The flight-to-impact time for your average nuclear weapon is 12 minutes. That's it. And what if it's a computer accident? The fact that nuclear weapons sit on hair-trigger alert deserves nonviolent civil resistance and more. And the more people we are the more change happens.

The Nuclear Freeze movement of the '80s would not have been complete or as effective without nonviolent

civil disobedience: Greenham Common and the Seneca Women's Peace Camp were part of an influential bunch of people, as were the thousands and thousands of people crossing the line in Nevada to oppose nuclear testing. The list of dynamic campaigns is long. Plowshares disarmament actions have been outstanding, outrageous, and necessary examples of citizen actions in our defense. More than 100 times, individuals have physically trespassed to physically disarm parts of the nuclear weapons delivery systems or the raw weapons. Thanks go to committed activists at locations such as Los Alamos, Lawrence Livermore, Savannah River in Georgia, Oak Ridge in Tennessee, and peace groups at dozens of other nuclear weapons sites for continuing the work forward. Join these committed and courageous people and organizations. Support and read *the Nuclear Resister*. Call before midnight tonight!

Nonviolent resistance has worked; plus, think of the assets of getting arrested. It's a whole new experience. You meet people you would never have the chance to otherwise meet, come face to face with our soldiers, their guns and tanks, meet the police, get a ride in a police car, go to court, be silenced, be found guilty, get another ride, go to jail, have your picture taken, wear ugly clothes and used — but clean — underwear, watch TV all day, play cards, live in solidarity with the poor, meet more new people, and celebrate the day, like never before, when you get out. Getting out of jail or prison feels so good that, really, it's worth going in. And I can guarantee for artists, it's great studio time even if toilet paper is the only resource.

Furthermore, the jails and prisons deserve us. Who else has the opportunity to speak for the millions and millions of imprisoned people. People in jails are hungry in way overcrowded conditions. The food can be rotten enough to make prisoners sick. Rehabilitation is an illusion fed to the people outside. There is much to be done inside.

I've been asked if civil disobedience or resistance works. I don't know. I know it can't hurt and I'm a firm believer in trying everything. At home we call a life of resistance a life of high adventure. It's waiting for you, too.

Helen Woodson, anti-nuclear activist, retired, once asked, "How much is too much to give for the lives of our children?"

[Longtime activist Bonnie Urfer is the retired co-director of Nukewatch. This is the text of a presentation she gave at the Democracy Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 5, 2017]

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!

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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

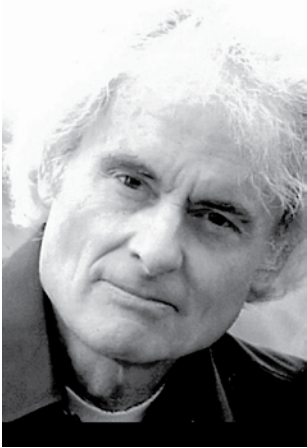
Since 1980, the Nuclear Resister has provided comprehensive reporting on arrests for anti-nuclear civil resistance in the United States, with an emphasis on providing support for the women and men jailed for these actions. In 1990, the Nuclear Resister also began reporting on anti-war arrests in North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

¡Presente!



Bill Doub

peace, anti-nuclear, environmental and social justice activist, father, grandfather

July 9, 1935 – August 4, 2017



Fr. Jerry Zawada, OFM

nuclear resister, prophetic voice for peace and justice, Franciscan friar

April 28, 1937 – July 25, 2017

HIROSHIMA/ NAGASAKI, cont.

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more have suffered and died since from the effects of nuclear radiation. The U.S. has never repented for the use of these weapons of indiscriminate mass murder.

The renowned Trappist writer and peacemaker, Thomas Merton, in his remarkable "Original Child Bomb," describes the firepower, death and destruction that was unleashed on Hiroshima: "The bomb exploded within 100 feet of the aiming point. The fireball was 18,000 feet across. The temperature at the center of the fireball was 100,000,000 degrees. The people who were near the center became nothing. The whole city was blown to bits and the ruins all caught fire instantly everywhere, burning briskly. 70,000 people were killed right away or died within a few hours. Those who did not die at once suffered great pain. Few of them were soldiers."

We come to the Pentagon today to say "Yes" to the God of Life who commands us to love and not to kill, and "No" to the forces of evil, death and destruction. As people of faith, we stand here in front of the Pentagon, the center of warmaking on our planet, with contrite hearts as we call on our nation to join with us in repenting for the colossal sin and crime of building and using nuclear weapons, to apologize to the Japanese and A-Bomb survivors (known as Hibakusha) for our country's use of the bomb against them and to demand an end to ongoing criminal nuclear war preparations.

Livermore Lab

The August 9 "March for Nuclear Abolition and Global Survival" to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory was a timely opportunity for about 250 people to address the U.S. atom bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the context of President Trump's threat the day before to unleash "fire and fury" on North Korea, echoing the words of President Truman's threat to Japan, made just hours after he bombed Hiroshima.

"We are here to stand with the survivors of that nuclear attack, but we are also here to stop the next nuclear war before it starts," said Marylia Kelley, executive director of Tri-Valley CAREs, one of the organizers of the annual demonstration outside the center for nuclear weapons research and development east of Oakland, California.

After the speakers and music, one element of the day's program was the delivery to Livermore Lab of the newly adopted "Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons." Since the Lab director declined to accept it in person, the pages were strung across the West Gate.

Dozens of people lay down in the road while a few others moved among the die-in and outlined the fallen bodies in chalk. Police eventually arrested 48 people for trespass.

For more information, visit trivalleycares.org.

Bangor Trident Base

In Washington state, activists concluded this year's commemorative resistance with an action at the nuclear submarine base that would likely command any nuclear strike against North Korea should President Donald Trump give the order.

Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, just 20 miles from Seattle, is home to the largest concentration of deployed nuclear weapons in the U.S. More than 1,300 nuclear warheads are either deployed on Trident D-5 missiles loaded on eight missile-launching submarines based at Bangor or stored at the Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific (SWFPAC) located there.

The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action organized a vigil and nonviolent direct action at the Bangor base on August 14. Participants briefly blockaded the base during the morning shift change by carrying banners onto the roadway at the main entrance gate. One read: "No Nuclear Strike on North Korea!"

Seven people were removed from the road by Washington State Patrol Officers. Philip Davis, Susan DeLaney, Ryan DeWitt, Sarah Hobbs, Mack Johnson, Ben Moore and Charley Smith were cited for being in the roadway illegally and released on the scene.

Ground Zero spokesperson Leonard Eiger said, "No one knows where this escalating rhetoric of President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will end. To take either leader at his word, a nuclear holocaust is an acceptable event. There is no acceptable military solution to this nuclear standoff. Diplomacy is the only way out of this mess."

For more information, visit gzcenter.org.

PACIFIC LIFE COMMUNITY UPDATE

After five days in federal custody, Betsy Lamb was released after a detention hearing on June 12.

Bangor Trident base continued on page 4

NATICK PEACE CHAIN

On Sunday, August 27, more than two dozen people formed a Peace Chain in Natick, Massachusetts. Carrying a length of heavy steel links, they walked from Natick Common to the entrance of the U.S. Army Natick Soldier System Center to call upon the military to refuse any order to launch a nuclear attack on North Korea. Hanging from the chain were 12 large tags explaining "why nuclear war is not an option for the holder of the nuclear codes, unless, however, the President is mentally disturbed."

"Our government has no sane option but to negotiate with North Korea to prevent a human, environmental, moral catastrophe of our own making," their statement read. "We must remember the devastation in North Korea when, between 1950 and 1953, American war planes carpet bombed and burned to the ground nearly every city and town in North Korea. They haven't forgotten and

their fear and hatred towards the United States continue unabated.

"We have signed a petition to Vice President Pence and the Cabinet to recognize that President Donald Trump is mentally disturbed, witness his erratic and bizarre behavior, and to immediately initiate the 25th Amendment to have the President removed from office before we are cursed with a war that could very well leave our planet irreparably damaged and uninhabitable. Through the Peace Chain Action we will specifically spell out what a nuclear war would mean to a President who actually asked the question, 'If we have nuclear weapons, why can't we use them?'"

When they arrived at the base entrance, the twelve Peace Chain nuclear declarations were read aloud and the chain brought in front of the gates at the Army Base. Lewis Randa was arrested when he refused to leave the entrance, and he spent the night in jail.

For more information, visit peaceabbey.org.

Senate Hearing for Torture Memo Author Disrupted

At the Senate confirmation hearing for Steven Bradbury as general counsel for the Commerce, Science and Transportation Department on June 28, members of Veterans for Peace and CODEPINK protested Bradbury for his authorship of the "Torture Memos" under the Bush administration. Three members of Veterans for Peace were arrested for speaking out at the hearing.

"Anybody whose moral compass is so broken that they would condone torture doesn't deserve a position in the U.S. government," stated Ken Ashe as he was handcuffed by Capitol Police.

"I disrupted the hearing for a man, Steven Bradbury, who should be on trial for war crimes," said Tarak Kauff as he was pulled out of the hearing by police. "He sanctioned, condoned, and confirmed torture practices that were used by the Bush administration, practices that disgraced our country."

"I am a veteran. I am deeply concerned about our soldiers, who are at risk for torture if our nation tortures," said Ellen Barfield.

Bradbury was acting head of the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel from 2005-2009, where he authored the "torture memos" that contradict domestic and international law regarding the treatment of prisoners. In 2008, Bradbury was blocked from holding Senate-confirmable positions due to his role in Bush's torture program.

Ashe and Kauff both posted a forfeiture bond to resolve their cases, and Barfield faces trial this fall.

For more information, contact info@codepink.org.

Thanks to Code Pink

Emergency Surgery for Peltier

Leonard Peltier phoned his support group on Saturday, September 2 to pass along this message:

"Good Morning everyone. OK. ...it's been a rough ride for me, but I'm one step back from passing away.

I was taken to an outside hospital in Leesburg, Florida for what I was told was a routine heart stress test. And it turned out that they found clogged arteries – three of them! They decided to operate right away and I just returned from triple-bypass heart surgery. My chest was opened and they took arteries from my legs and placed them in the blocked arteries. I had to be given a liter of blood. Now I am back at the prison and getting around in my wheelchair. They said this would help my shortness of breath and the pressure in my chest."

The Native American activist is serving two life terms, fraudulently convicted in the killing of two FBI agents during a siege on the Pine Ridge Reservation in 1975 that provided cover for the theft of tribal land for mining, including uranium.

Peltier will turn 73 on September 12 and has visits scheduled around that time with family and friends. For more information, visit whoisleonardpeltier.info.



Please send birthday greetings and get well wishes to Leonard Peltier 89637-132, USP Coleman I, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521.

Inside & Out



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

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)

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

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)



photo by Art Laffin

Anti-war activists demonstrate on the steps of the U.S. Capitol before their arrest.

RIVERS OF BLOOD AT THE U.S. CAPITOL

In Washington, D.C. on July 12 – the 200th anniversary of Henry David Thoreau’s birth – members and supporters of the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance (NCNR) visited both the Senate and House Office Buildings with a petition to congressional leaders condemning U.S. militarism.

Wearing t-shirts marked with red blood-like stains, they first stopped to deliver the petition to Sen. Mitch McConnell. A staffer graciously accepted the petition and indicated that it would be delivered to someone in the office who works on military spending.

At the office of Sen. Chuck Schumer, a staff member met with the activists and listened to each one. Their pleas covered the issues of war funding, drone strikes, the authorization for military force, poverty and other concerns.

From there, the petitioners went to Rep. Nancy Pelosi’s office, where staff also accepted the petition.

House Majority Leader Rep. Paul Ryan’s door was locked, and a sign upon it said only those with a scheduled meeting may enter. Knocks went unanswered, so the petition was slipped under the door.

After the petition deliveries, the activists went to the Capitol steps, across from the Supreme Court, with a banner reading “Stop the War Machine: Export Peace.” They unfurled a red sash on the steps to symbolize the rivers of blood flowing out of the Capitol.

As they read from their petition, Capitol police tried to interrupt with a warning that they were subject to arrest. After the fourth warning, Max Obuszewski was taken off the steps by police, followed by Alice Sutter, Phil Runkel, Joy First, and Malachy Kilbride. Janice Sevre-Duszynska insisted on reading the entire petition, which the police allowed before taking her into custody with the others.

The six activists were cited and released at the scene. On the eve of a scheduled appearance two weeks later, their charges were dismissed.

Joy First, who helps organize NCNR actions from her home in Wisconsin, wrote:

“The day before the action I received an email from someone named Andrew Bolinger. He wrote that he wanted to join us in our action and he wanted information on what we would be doing. The email was suspicious sounding. There was a professional tone to the message, and it didn’t use the language of a peace activist, even though he claimed he had been arrested for nonviolent demonstrations. He said he “wants to seek more justice.” I responded that if he was interested he could meet us for the planning meeting, but didn’t give him any specific information. Later Max noticed one of the officers during our arrest had a name tag with his name. Bolinger lied to me in his email...”

U.S. Join the Talks! Ban the Bomb!

On June 19, after a vigil for nuclear disarmament at the Isaiah Wall opposite the United Nations buildings in New York City, 50 people marched to the U.S. Mission to the U.N. in protest of the U.S. decision to boycott negotiations on a nuclear weapons ban treaty. Nineteen of the activists blocked the doors, some holding a long banner with the words of the Bhagavad Gita spoken by physicist Robert Oppenheimer as he witnessed the world’s first nuclear test in July, 1945: “I am become Death, Destroyer of Worlds.”

While the group chanted “U.S. join the talks, ban the bomb,” police soon moved in and arrested the blockaders for disorderly conduct. All of them were taken to the 7th Precinct on Pitt Street, and were released at 5 p.m. with desk appearance tickets and an August 24 court date.

For more information, email nycwrl@att.net.

A Memorial Day Mixtape Tale

Columbia, Missouri Catholic Worker Steve Jacobs will appear for trial before a local judge on September 7 on a charge of “peace disturbance.”

A reluctant policeman wrote the citation on Memorial Day, as the city’s annual parade arrived and the Army’s Golden Knights paratroopers descended from the sky onto the Columbia College soccer field just across the street from St. Francis House.

Anticipating a crowd that floods their neighborhood and fills the streets around the house of hospitality, Jacobs had put together an 80-minute mix of anti-war tunes. That morning, he set up his band’s sound system in an upstairs room and pointed the speakers out the window towards the soccer field.

Jacobs writes:

I’d never cranked it up all the way before but when I put the music on at 9 a.m. I was impressed with how the sound traveled across the field and echoed off the tall buildings back to us standing down in our yard. Then we took our places with placards and signs and large laminated pictures of prisoners being tortured at Abu Graib prison by U.S. soldiers. We held signs that said “We Love You But Hate the War - Stop the Killing” and “Save a Soldier’s Life - Bring Them All Home”. We enlisted our statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary which faces the college to hold signs that said “Christians cannot love their enemies and kill them too” and another that asked “Who Would Jesus Bomb?”

I fully expected the police to be called at some point and before I started the music, I’d told my housemates that I would stop the music at 10:45 and we’d let them have the silence to fill as they wished because we didn’t want to get into a pissing contest with the college, but in the meantime we were providing a public service to the city to more fully represent the broad political spectrum of opinions held by its citizens. So for 30 minutes we listened to Phil Ochs sing “One More Parade” followed by Jackson Browne’s “Lives In The Balance,” Dylan’s “Masters of War,” my own song “Dead Toy Soldiers,” Chumbawumba’s “Jacob’s Ladder (Not In My Name),” Roy Zimmerman’s “Thanks For The Support,” David Rovic’s “Hang A Flag In The Window” and Pink Floyd’s “Dogs of War.” That’s when the police arrived.

Officer Bell told me, “We’ve had a complaint from someone at Columbia College so I’m kind of caught in the middle here and so I’m hoping you can turn down the music.”

I said, “Well, I appreciate your awkward position. It’s kind of a 1st amendment issue here, isn’t it?”

He acknowledged that it was. I went on to explain that the last few years the college has blasted the whole neighborhood with music from their ceremonies which we were not fond of and I told Officer

Bell that I knew that this type of patriotism was a religion to some people but that our pacifist anti-war expression was part of our religious beliefs.

He mentioned that his supervisor told him to “go take care of it”. He smiled and said, “Go take care of what? There’s no violation here.”

I said, “Well just tell your supervisor and the folks at Columbia College that we planned on turning off our music at 10:45 because the paper said that’s when their ceremonies were going to begin. I promise you we’ll turn it off then.”

He said OK and so anti-war songs and monologues by Utah Phillips entitled, “Michael,” “General Your Tank” and “Stupid’s Pledge” were heartily enjoyed by us and a few of our neighbors who smiled and waved as they walked by or drove slowly past our yard. They were able to hear David Rovic’s sing “Who Would Jesus Bomb?” and Gordon Lightfoot sing “The Patriot’s Dream,” Phil Ochs doing “I Ain’t Marching Anymore” and Jimi Hendrix’s scorching rendition of the “Star Spangled Banner” complete with the sounds of explosions and machine guns and warplanes dropping bombs, all produced by his guitar - (a personal favorite of mine). We heard Jackson Browne’s “How Long” and John Prine’s “Your Flag Decal Won’t Get You Into Heaven Anymore”.

We enjoyed watching the faces of spectators walking past us on their way to watch the skydivers.

Next we heard Gordon Lightfoot sing “Protocol” and Pete Seeger sing “The Ballad of the Fort Hood Three” about three soldiers who held a press conference announcing their refusal to be deployed to fight in Vietnam. It was followed by John Prine’s “Sam Stone” and David Rovic’s “Operation Iraqi Freedom” and my own song “Neither Soldier Nor Sailor”. I remember saying to Roni, “I can’t believe we’re getting away with this.” After the CD stopped, I went upstairs and started it over again.

Officer Bell appeared again and said he was sent over to ask if we could turn it down and I pointed over to where the parade was starting to march onto Columbia College and again promised to turn our music off when they started. He said his supervisor wanted to come talk to us if we didn’t turn it down. I replied, “OK, I’d be glad to explain the same thing to him.” So, our music blasted out across the field and throughout the college airspace. We looked over and saw one of the young military people in uniform dancing to our music and we all laughed. Then I noticed the brass band starting to tune up like bands do before the performance begins and I told Roni I was going upstairs to shut off the music. Just then Officer Bell sheepishly said, “My supervisor wants me to issue a citation for peace disturbance.”

For more information, contact Steve Jacobs at sfhcw913@aol.com, 573-875-7874.

Bangor Trident Base, cont.

continued from page 3

Lamb, 78, was only a few weeks shy of completing one year of federal probation for an August 2015 line-crossing at the Bangor nuclear submarine base when she joined five others for a similar protest with the Pacific Life Community (PLC) last March 7.

The six entered not guilty pleas on June 7 before federal magistrate David W. Christel, the same judge who had imposed the probation on Lamb. Her violation was noted and Lamb was asked to sign a promise not to risk arrest at any military base and to return for trial in September. She told the court she could agree to those conditions by adding the words, “as my conscience and faith allows” to the document, but her edits were rejected by the judge and she was taken to prison.

Lamb reports that when she arrived at the reception area of the SEATAC prison, corrections staff greeted her with a resounding and prolonged, “NO NUKES! NO NUKES! NO NUKES!...” They seemed to have known well and appreciated the previous presence of nuclear resisters in the prison.

At the detention hearing on June 12, Lamb told the court:

The situation in this country that precipitated and led to the violation in question and my present incarceration remains unchanged.

Even so, as a nonviolent resister, I believe that if an action that I take has consequences, I should accept those consequences.

I believe that my willingness to be incarcerated these past days has adequately demonstrated my commitment to be faithful to God and my conscience.

I want this court to know that I understand and take seriously the conditions of release on the proposed Appearance Bond, and that it is my intention to observe those conditions.

The fire in my heart [Jer. 20:9] for the welfare and

well-being of all God’s people and for a nuclear-free world will be channeled in lawful directions.

Being released to go home will allow me to follow up on some medical issues and to prepare for the trial with my co-defendants on September 6.

At this time I feel I am prepared to sign the signature bond offered me, and would appreciate the opportunity to do so.

Thank you.

Her promise to appear was accepted and Lamb was released. She returned for trial in Tacoma on September 6 with her PLC codefendants Alexandria Adesso, Karan Founds-Benton, Fr. Steve Kelly, SJ, Mary Mele and Charley Smith.

The six resisters had been reading sections of the Nuremberg Principles out loud before being arrested by military police. They stipulated to the facts of their case, but were not permitted to cite international law nor necessity as justification for their actions.

Judge Christel did, however, allow each defendant to testify about their state of mind at the time they crossed the line into Bangor Naval Base. Adesso, the youngest of the defendants, spoke movingly of nuclear disarmament as a right to life issue for her and her generation. She noted the many threats to younger people, from climate change to economic stagnation, and said, “I might not have ten, twenty or thirty years of life ahead of me, and I want to work with my peers to end the threat of nuclear annihilation.”

All were sentenced to 100 hours of community service and \$40 in fees and fines. All but Lamb were placed on probation for one year; Lamb was given two years probation because of the prior parole violations. Kelly made clear his refusal to cooperate with the sentence, but was free to go for now.

For more information, visit gzcenter.org and pacificlifecommunity.wordpress.com.

Arrests at Volk Field Drone Base

Members of the Wisconsin Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars returned on June 27 for their monthly vigil at Volk Field, in rural Juneau County. The Wisconsin Air National Guard Base trains personnel to operate the RQ-7 Shadow Drone, used for reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition. These are all critical components of the drone warfare being waged across the Middle East, Africa, and now reportedly in the Philippines. Some reports suggest that the RQ-7’s weapons capability is also now being used.

Numerous letters to the base commander seeking a meeting to talk about their concerns have gone unanswered, and people entering the base to deliver a letter in person have been arrested. When people met this day in a nearby park for the final planning meeting, two cars from the Juneau County Sheriff’s department drove up, one of them the canine unit. They arrested Brian Terrell of the Chicago-based Voices for Creative Nonviolence and took him away in handcuffs. It was not unexpected, as Terrell had an outstanding warrant for refusing to pay a fine from his arrest for trespass at the base in February, 2016.

After his arrest, the group finished their meeting and processed to the gates of Volk Field, where about ten deputies were waiting.

Fr. Jim Murphy and Joy First walked to the gate with crime scene tape they planned to hang on the fence, but it was quickly snatched from their hands as a captain told them that the base commander didn’t want any tape on “his” fence. First stepped across the line and was arrested as she started to read from a war crimes indictment. Murphy walked onto the base and was also arrested, as was Phil Runkel when he walked onto the base.

The three were taken to the Juneau County jail, charged with trespassing and disorderly conduct and then released.

Terrell was released three days later, when he wrote to friends:

Dostoyevsky said that a civilization is best gauged by its prisons, and just as the last jail I was in in Las Vegas is as extravagant in its cruelty as that city is with its neon and its floor shows, the

Juneau County Jail reflects the polite, understated friendliness of the rural Midwest. Even in this county that voted solidly for Trump, the cruelty of incarceration, as in other matters, is usually masked by good manners. Unlike the Clark County Jail in Las Vegas, the Juneau County Jail is clean, well-lit and orderly, and over the last few days that I was there anyway, I only heard the guards address inmates with courtesy, contrasted with the filth and the verbal and physical abuse that are constants in the Las Vegas lock up.

I shared a cell with three men all too young to be my sons who called me “old man” and who were pleased that I was amenable to being a needed fourth player in the game of spades. It was by far the chilliest jail time I have ever done and I come out well rested and ready to keep resisting.

Thanks to all for prayers and good wishes – keep them coming for all who are in prison and for the victims of our nation’s imperialist and racist wars at home and abroad.

Charges against First, Murphy and Runkel were dismissed in late July, before their first court date.

For more information, contact Joy First, joyfirst5@gmail.com.

Des Moines, cont.

continued from page 1
pipeline permit. Reading from a prepared statement, the two women claimed responsibility for several acts of sabotage, including arson, that targeted the pipeline pumps and construction equipment at multiple isolated sites. The actions began last November and ended in May, when oil began flowing in the pipeline.

After their confession, the women provoked immediate arrest by using crowbars to pry letters from the Board’s large sign behind them. They were arrested for misdemeanor damage and held overnight. The FBI visited the women in jail, but they refused to talk.

Their confession left the Catholic Worker community feeling “stretched,” but together with the veterans they vow to continue the weekly “Rally, Witness, Direct

Fr. Kabat Returns to K.C. Nuclear Plant

by Chrissy Kirchhoefer

In keeping with the tradition of Interdependence Day, the recognition of our need for each other as well as the impact of our actions on others, 83-year-old Catholic priest Carl Kabat took action on July 4 at the Kansas City National Security Campus. Kabat’s attempt to incarnate the destructiveness of nuclear weapons by symbolically pouring red paint on the National Nuclear Security Administration sign was thwarted by employees of Honeywell.

After five years of annual actions on Interdependence Day, Kabat witnessed security personnel at all of the entrances to the facility for the first time. Despite the heavy rainfall and security presence, Kabat opted for the bike path in his single-minded pursuit of nuclear disarmament. Further down the path, Fr. Kabat was met by additional security personnel who prevented him from getting any closer to the facility that is responsible for the production of 85% of the non-nuclear components of U.S. nuclear weapons. Carl was charged with trespassing and released. He did not appear for an August 8 court date.

After spending 18 years in prison over the past three decades, Kabat remains committed to this pursuit of nuclear disarmament 110%. He insists nuclear weapons are insane, not him.

Action, Risk Arrest & Go To Jail” witness every Saturday at 4:00 p.m. at the National Guard base.

On August 11, about 30 FBI agents conducted a pre-dawn raid of Berrigan House. Cordaro, Montoya and Reznicek were all roused awake and detained for a few hours at the house. Property was seized and Montoya and Reznicek again refused to speak to the agents.

For more information about the drone campaign, visit dsmberriganhouse.org. The actions of Montoya and Reznicek are being chronicled at mississippistand.com.

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from Low Moss Prison

by Brian Quail (published in Scotland’s *The National*)
July 19, 2017

BANGED up again! It’s been many years since I last supped porridge as a guest of Betty Windsor.

Memories of slopping out and sharing a smoke-filled cell did not prepare me for a sojourn in Low Moss. A cell to myself, tv, and shower were unexpected pleasures. Coming from Coulport Camp it was a relief to get a proper bed. The sad truth is at my advanced age moving the body beautiful from the horizontal to the vertical is a real problem when tackled from ground level.

So, truth to tell, I’m quite enjoying it! It’s just a pity that these comforts come with incarceration, and loss of liberty to leave my cell unsupervised. Apart from that, my main feeling is one of intense disappointment and irritation at the Court’s reaction to our blockade.

The magistrate’s refusal to look at the context of our action is unreasonable. “You blocked the road and stopped the traffic,” was all she would say. She refused to take cognizance of the fact that the traffic was serving a war crime.

I asked the magistrate what we had to do to get the legal system to recognise that Trident is a real and present, existing, ongoing war crime. Preparing to commit a crime is itself a crime, and the greater the crime being planned, the greater the crime. I pointed out that while we were talking, a young man was sitting at a control panel waiting for an order to launch, and Theresa May has already boasted that she would “press the button”.

So, here and now we are willing and able to bring death by blast, burning and radiation to untold thousands, as well as causing catastrophic environmental danger.

Her reply that “that was a matter for Westminster and not a concern of this court” is incredible, but typical. So what do we have to do to get the courts to recognise that Trident is a war crime?

Even if there were no Geneva or Hague conventions, no Genocide Act of 1948, even if the vast corpus of International Law did not exist.

It is inconceivable that the Common Law of Scotland should regard the indiscriminate slaughter of millions as a permissible strategy in war.

On 7th July the U.N. made the most important decision it has ever made since its foundation in 1946 after WW2. The draft international treaty agreed by 122 batons means that nuclear weapons must be banned, as are chemical and biological weapons.

We might have a future after all. One thing is for sure: either we have a nuclear free future or we have no future at all.

Scotland is the one country in the world that can break the nuclear chain because it is the one country that (by independence) can free itself of nuclear weapons.

So while the cell door slams and the key turns in the lock, here in Low Moss prison, I promise to redouble my efforts to rid our land of the obscenity that is Trident and urge all people of good will to join in this, the most important campaign in the world.

[Brian Quail, from Glasgow, was jailed for refusing to agree to bail conditions after his arrest for blocking the road to the Coulport nuclear weapons depot in Scotland.]

~ from SC1 Dallas

by Norm Lowry
August 1, 2017

“The difficulty lies not in solving problems but in expressing them.” - Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Today I began my last scheduled year in prison. What an adventure this chapter of my life has been... My life’s finest. I have gained a good number of scars, both externally and internally. Yet I’ve reaffirmed the fact that scars can seam together a massive character... if we allow this to be.

When I first came to prison, in 2009, all but two persons known preprison needed to say their goodbyes. I still deeply miss those precious ones yet there are less traveled roads one must occasionally trod, roads too weird and/or too frightening to most. Besides, stark truth causes cognitive dissonance in the masses, especially within our western culture which is so “virtual” in its orientation. It’s a simple, structural truth.

Late in 2009, Jack and Felice made contact and have, over time, been largely responsible for causing an avalanche of nearly 3,000 new folks who’ve chosen to enter my crazy life. I’ve received mail from nearly every corner of the planet and visits from more than twenty completely new (to me) people - great connections all, including a close mentoring group. To all of you, I offer my most humble and heartfelt “thank you”. I simply could not have made this journey in such a quality manner without each one of you!

My largest learned or affirmed lessons over these years are: 1) to have love and to be love is enough, 2) irrepressible joy is an option, and 3) a life of boundless, indiscriminate, nonviolent, non-exclusionary compassion is the greatest, most fulfilling and extravagant of cosmic dances.

My post-prison plan goes back to a childhood desire, forged along the trails of Mt. Rainier and along the banks of Yosemite’s Merced River: to take a 3,000-4,000 mile walk around our vast and gasping-for-breath land. On the surface, these past years in prison have grown a need in me to enjoy a respite from bars, concrete walls and barbed-wire fences. Yet beneath the surface lies my desire to stop by to meet and personally thank the many who’ve so deeply affected my life, causing it to become fruitfully enlarged. And somewhere along the way, I’ll discover the doorway to my life’s next chapter.

*Afoot and lighthearted I take to the open road,
Healthy, free, the world before me,
The long brown path before me leading wherever I choose.
Henceforth I ask not good-fortune, I myself am good-fortune,
Henceforth I whimper no more, postpone no more, need nothing,
Done with indoor complaints, libraries, querulous criticisms,
Strong and content I travel the open road.*

- Walt Whitman

[Norm Lowry is serving a maximum seven year sentence in Pennsylvania for repeated criminal trespass at a military recruiting office.]



INTERNATIONAL

Germany

A delegation of U.S. nuclear resisters who protested this summer atop a nuclear weapons bunker in Germany is getting credit for helping put the issue of the “shared” U.S. nuclear weapons squarely on the German federal ballot this fall. At a campaign rally in August, Martin Schulz, leader of the opposition Social Democratic Party, declared, “As chancellor, I will commit Germany to having the nuclear weapons stationed here withdrawn from our country.” While Schulz’s party is trailing in the polls, the declaration is a benchmark in the long campaign to remove U.S. nuclear weapons stationed in Germany under a NATO agreement.

A group of five peace activists entered the Büchel Air Base in Germany after nightfall on Monday, July 17. For the first time in a 21-year campaign of protest against the deployment of at least 20 U.S. B61 thermonuclear bombs there, they climbed on top of one large bunker containing the nuclear weapons. After cutting through two exterior fences and two more fences surrounding the large earth-covered bunkers, the five spent more than one hour unnoticed sitting on the bunker. No notice of the group was taken until after two of them climbed down to write “DISARM” on the bunker’s metal front door, setting off an alarm. Surrounded by vehicles and guards searching on foot with flashlights, the five eventually alerted guards to their presence by singing, causing the guards to look up. They were taken into custody more than two hours after entering the base.

The group, American Plowshares activists Steve Baggarly, Susan Crane, John LaForge and Bonnie Urfer, and German Gerd Büntzly, said in their statement, “We are nonviolent and have entered Büchel Air Base to condemn the nuclear weapons deployed here. We ask Germany to either disarm the weapons or send them back to the United States for disarming. Everyone’s children and everyone’s grandchildren have a right to a nuclear weapons-free world. All of creation calls us to life, to disarmament, to a world of justice – for the poor, the Earth, and the children.”

The five were held for about an hour while their ID was recorded and they were photographed and searched. Susan Crane said, “The Commander of the base came to meet us at 3:00 a.m. and told us what we did was very dangerous and we might have been shot. We believe the greater danger comes from the nuclear bombs that are deployed at the base.”

An hour after being detained, they were released. The Americans were not charged and were later able to leave the country without further incident. Büntzly was reported for trespass and damage to property, but has not been summoned to court.

The action came at the conclusion of an “international week” at the base, part of a 20-week-long series of rallies and blockades – “Twenty Weeks for Twenty Bombs,” organized by the campaign council of a 50-group coalition, “Büchel is Everywhere, Nuclear-Weapons Free Now!”

More than 60 people from around the globe – Russia, China, Mexico, Germany, Britain, the United States, The Netherlands and Belgium – participated in a variety of actions that week. On July 16, about 30 activists from six different Catholic Worker communities in the United States, Germany and the Netherlands held a liturgy outside the base before opening several unlocked gates and walking in. Some offered bread to the surprised soldiers, then placed it on the three fighter jets displayed inside the entrance.

Ardeth Platte and Carol Gilbert read out loud to the amassing soldiers the recently approved treaty text declaring nuclear weapons illegal. Susan Crane and John LaForge lowered the U.S. flag from its pole and told the soldiers it was time to go home. After some time the German police arrived to take names and escort the group off base.

The next morning, the internationals blocked three gates and told police they would leave if they could speak with the commander and present him with the treaty text. Police pressed the commander to come out, which he grudgingly did. He returned inside the base after receiving the text and the Americans left the blockade while the others were removed and their names reported.

A total of eleven activists from the United States came to Büchel to highlight the plans for modernization of the B61. Ralph Hutchison, who vigils weekly at the Y-12 plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where a new thermonuclear core for the B61-Modification 12 will be manufactured, said, “It is important that we show this is a global movement. The resistance to nuclear weapons is not limited to one country. The new B61 will cost more than \$12 billion to produce, and when it is finished, Büchel will have new nuclear bombs.”

Scotland



Trident Ploughshares photo
Angie Zelter waits for police to cut her out of the metal tube locking devices she and four other activists used to blockade the road to the nuclear weapons depot at Coulport, Scotland, July 11, 2017.

On July 8, the day after 122 nations adopted the treaty banning nuclear weapons, about 50 nuclear disarmament campaigners from across Great Britain and Europe pitched camp together near the nuclear warhead depot at Coulport, Scotland. The nonviolent direct action network Trident Ploughshares had issued a call to follow the treaty accomplishment with a week of peaceful disruptive activity at the depot and the nearby Faslane base, homeport for Britain’s Trident nuclear submarine fleet.

During eight days of daily vigils at the gate, skill sharing, strategy discussion and creative public actions, the first arrests came early on the morning of July 11. Heavy concrete and metal tubes linked the arms of Spanish activists Almudena Izquierdo Olmo and Juan Carlos Navarro Diaz to the arms of British community worker Sam Donaldson and veteran disarmament activists Brian Quail and Angie Zelter, blocking the Coulport entrance. It took over two hours for police to cut through the devices.

From the blockade, Angie Zelter said: “British nuclear weapons are illegal and now there is a United Nations Ban Treaty. It is imperative that all of us get involved in nonviolent nuclear disarmament as our government is engaged in state terrorism.”

On behalf of the eleven Spanish activists taking part in the camp, Almudena Izquierdo said, “We demand our government, as part of NATO, sign and ratify the U.N. Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty in order to prohibit nuclear weapons from entering foreign military bases and ports in Spain.”

After being separated by police using power tools, the five were taken into custody and jailed overnight. Appearing in Dumbarton Magistrates Court the next morning, Quail and Zelter refused to accept a special bail condition which barred all five from going any nearer to the nuclear weapon bases at Coulport and Faslane than 100 meters, citing the potential impact of the blockades on the public.

Zelter argued that she had no intention of lying in the roadway again but had every right to protest at the bases. She told the court that she had had no conviction in the last ten years and that she had reported the U.K. government to the police for the crime of deploying a weapon of mass destruction, as well as the Prime Minister for her admission in the House of Commons that she would give the order to fire a weapon of mass murder. Trident is a breach of international law and the adoption of the U.N. Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty just five days earlier had further confirmed its illegal status.

The 20-week campaign kicked off in March, just as the first U.N. meeting on the nuclear ban treaty was starting. Four gates were blocked before dawn on March 27. Police removed eight people from the main gate and warned them not to return and block again. Later in the day, when the other blockades were lifted, a couple dozen activists met for a closing circle at the main gate. Police surrounded the group, arresting six people who had been cleared away in the morning. They were taken first to nearby Cochem, where a juvenile was released, and then to Koblenz, 60 kilometers away, where the others were released several hours later.

A group of youth activists arrested on the runway at Büchel during actions there in September, 2016, is due in court in Cochem on September 18.

For more information, visit buechel-atombombenfrei.de.

Quail told the court that at that very moment some young man on a U.K. nuclear weapon submarine was poised to unleash destruction. He could not understand why the crime of threatening to kill was not clearly outlawed by Scottish common law.

The judge nevertheless agreed to the special condition, and three codefendants accepted the restriction and were released. Quail and Zelter were sent to jail pending trial on August 3.

The next morning, July 13, a group of four protesters locked themselves together and blocked the main route to the base while a different group, in carnival costumes, occupied an alternative access route. Local traffic was directed around the actions but the base was blocked for over two hours. The “lock-on” group was eventually removed by police, who charged Esa Noresvuo and Kaj Raninen, both from Helsinki, Peter Anderson from Wales, and Jamie Watson from Glasgow with breach of the peace. All accepted the bail condition and were released pending trial on October 12.

The jailing of Quail and Zelter drew media attention in Scotland. Within two weeks more than 4,200 people had signed a petition calling for their release. A member of the Justice Committee of the Scottish Parliament called upon the Lord Advocate of Scotland to review the case. A supporter paid for Zelter’s appeal of the special condition, but that was denied on July 25.

Angie Zelter, co-founder of Trident Ploughshares, wrote from prison:

Right since Trident Ploughshares was launched in 1998, members of Trident Ploughshares have stood up in court and argued that Trident is illegal because it is an inherently indiscriminate weapon, the use of which would inevitably cause the deaths of at least hundreds of thousands if not millions of civilians. At times the courts have listened to those arguments. At other times they have not.

Now the United Nations has adopted a Treaty that will ban nuclear weapons for the very reasons so many of us have for so long taken action and gone to prison – because of the unacceptable humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons. The new global norm of not possessing, deploying or using nuclear weapons makes clear that the nine nuclear weapons states – including the U.K. – are out of step with the rest of the world.

So at this time it is even more important that we stand at the gates of the places where those weapons are held and demand that the government listen to the majority of the world and start the process of disarmament now.

We welcome support from all those who stand with us and for disarmament, and we will take our arguments to every court, government body, and high street, until the U.K. – and the world – is rid of these terrible weapons.

(See Brian Quail’s letter from prison on page 5, The Inside Line.)

At an intermediate hearing on July 26, the prosecutor dropped his demand for the special bail condition on Quail and Zelter without explanation, and they were released from prison. Their trial was joined with the others scheduled for October 12.

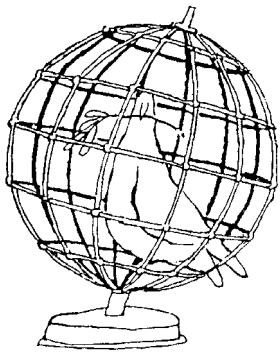
For more information, visit tridentploughshares.org.

France

Paris

On August 8, about fifteen “clowns-in-reverse” demonstrated in front of the headquarters of La République En Marche, the new political party of French President Macron. Under a super-sized inflated bomb, the clowns celebrated “Jupiterian France” for opposing with all its might the introduction of the international treaty to ban nuclear weapons. They were soon joined by some fifty men in blue who forcibly expelled the clowns from the building and detained them, recording their identities before they were released. Desobeir organizer Remi Filliau has since been summoned to report to the police station on September 7. For more information, visit desobeir.net.

NOTES



Australia Talisman Saber

Australian opponents of their country’s participation in joint military exercises with the United States travelled to Queensland this winter to protest the biennial Talisman-Saber war games.

Adopting a Star Wars theme for one of their public protests, a Citizens’ Inspection Team approached the USS Green Bay, “a ship from the Imperial fleet” docked at Cairns on June 30.

“What is this ship doing so far from home?” they wondered. “If we don’t ask, who will?”

Across the road from the dock, the team in their white lab coats implored the sailors that they could change the side of history they are on at any moment, and come over to the light.

“Join with the Force, join the Alliance, work with the Jedis, not with the Empire. At any moment, you could do that. It’s just a decision away!”

A visitor from a far-off galaxy, by all appearances the Princess Leia, commissioned the inspection.

“Such dark forces have already acted upon other galaxies, and we shall not let these dark forces to act upon this galaxy, this planet. Therefore, I do approve of the inspection of this warship,” she said, as she waved her light saber in the direction of the U.S. navy’s amphibious transport ship.

Margaret Pestorius then walked across the road to commence the inspection but was quickly intercepted by military police.

She was arrested and held in a police van for 45 minutes.

In court on July 18, Pestorius was given credit for time served and while no conviction nor penalty were recorded, she paid the \$120 “offender’s levy”.

For more information, visit peaceconvergence.org.

France Bure

The grassroots struggle to stop construction of a permanent underground dump for France’s nuclear waste escalated through the summer. Major multi-day gatherings in June and August drew up to 2,000 opponents from near and far to the rural site in the northeast department of Meuse.

Heavily armed police frequently patrolled the area roads and sometimes flew helicopter surveillance over the small village of Bure, where a House of Resistance is established, and other hamlets near the communal *Bois Lejuc* woodlands. There, a rota of resident activists – the “Owls” – live in a half-dozen tree houses and other structures where the nuclear dump’s ventilation and equipment shafts would be installed.

Following a three-day family-friendly “Bure-lesque” festival of education, networking, entertainment and action, *gendarmes* in riot gear blocked hundreds of marchers on a road leading to the Owl’s camp on August 15. When some rocks were thrown, the police responded with tear gas and explosive percussion grenades fired at demonstrators. In the ensuing melee more than 30 demonstrators were injured, two seriously. One young father was hospitalized and remains at risk of losing use of his toes after a grenade blasted his shoe off, shattering bones.

Despite this and other clashes including incidents of property destruction on the large research campus of ANDRA, the nuclear waste authority, police have made few arrests. The only person arrested last February when scores of demonstrators toppled a large section of fence around ANDRA’s campus was convicted in June and sentenced to four months in prison, suspended, plus five years probation and a €500 fine.

Where once area residents were resigned to the nuclear colonization of their land and local economy by the prospect of the waste dump and related businesses such as radioactive metal recycling and nuclear laundry, there is now a growing awareness that the project is not a done deal and can be stopped.

September 7, 2017

Toowong Plowshares Trial

Four Australian men were convicted in July of willful damage to the “Cross of Sacrifice,” a war memorial in Brisbane’s Toowong cemetery. In an Ash Wednesday act of repentance, Jim Dowling pried the brass blade of a big sword from the large stone cross where it hung for more than a century. Over a makeshift anvil they brought to the action, Tim Webb then hammered the blade into a simple hoe.

In a video interview with police played at their trial, Dowling said that it was blasphemy to attach a sword to the cross, and he felt compelled to remove it.

“Our consciences called us to resist war-making, and especially Christian war-making,” he said.

Fritz Dowling (Jim’s son) and Andrew Paine were also charged and convicted on video evidence that they joined the protest, even though they did not damage the sword.

Among more than two dozen supporters in court was Fr. Peter Murnane. As a student of Catholic symbolism, he took the stand and testified about the cross and the sword that, “Putting them together is like putting a swastika on a synagogue.”

The elder Dowling was sentenced to three months in jail, suspended for one year, 100 hours of community service and half of the \$17,812 cost of repairing the war memorial. Webb was ordered to pay the other half and perform the same community service.

Paine, who videotaped the protest and publicized it afterwards, was fined \$1,500.

“What you did here was not report dispassionately and independently as some of the reporters that are here today are doing,” the judge told him. “You were positively involved and supportive of their illegal activities, although to a lesser extent than others.”

Fritz Dowling, who provided music for their litany of repentance, was fined \$1,000 but had no conviction entered on his record.

For more information, visit swordtoplowshare.net.

The Owls are into their second year of occupation, somewhat secure from threatened eviction. Their commitment has won over some locals who had once opposed their militancy. A recent string of court decisions against ANDRA’s plan, plus growing public doubt expressed by experts and the actions of opponents on the ground have pushed the whole process back by a year or more.

A steady influx of activists and supporters have moved into the surrounding villages, consciously building economic alternatives that are not dependent on the nuclear project.

Follow the ongoing campaign at vmc.camp and burestop.free.fr.

New Zealand

In the lead-up to last November’s arms expo in Auckland, New Zealand, a Wellington maker of triggers for military explosives, mortar and artillery shells was visited by Death. Several specters in black robes with scythes, balloons, confetti and party poppers came to celebrate common cause with the management of MAS Zengrange at their nondescript factory in Lower Hutt. Turned away by party poopers at the door, the Dark Angels brought their macabre celebration next door to the company’s new construction site. In vain, a lone worker pushed back against the agents of Doom.

When police finally arrived, two Grim Reapers were arrested, both charged with trespass and an added charge of common assault for one accused by the worker of striking him with spittle.

Sean Blair and Laura Drew had their bench trial on August 24. Drew was acquitted of trespass while Blair was convicted of trespass and assault.

In June, Drew was also acquitted on a separate trespass charge from a protest at the Ministry of Defence in 2016, when she was roughly arrested for not leaving the scene on police orders. Video evidence showed she had left the building well before expiration of the two-minute warning given by police.

See Future Actions, page 7, about nonviolent resistance plans for the October arms expo in Wellington.

FUTURE ACTIONS

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

wellington weapons expo

Stop the Arms Trade Alliance is conducting trainings and planning for nonviolent direct actions to shut down the NZDAI Weapons Expo on October 10-11 in Wellington, New Zealand. For more information, email peacewellington@riseup.net or visit stopthearmstrade.nz.

jesuit universities ROTC

Catholic peace activists are invited to join in united nonviolent action at each of the 17 Catholic Jesuit universities that host U.S. military training centers (ROTC, NROTC, AFROTC), with major emphasis for action on November 16, the anniversary of the political assassination of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter in El Salvador in 1989. If you live near a Catholic Jesuit university that hosts military training, contact Bob Graf at 414-379-4162 or bobsyouruncle@sbcglobal.net for more details.

creech air force base

The Codepink Fall Drone Resistance Week at Creech Air Force Base in Nevada will take place October 5-12. Las Vegas airport pick-up and transportation/carpooling can be arranged. Details in progress; for more information, contact Toby at ratherbenyckeling@comcast.net.

India

Across India, government-promoted nuclear power projects continue to face large scale protest and resistance.

Political parties often insert themselves into this opposition to harness the political power of local resistance to such projects. Twenty leaders of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) were arrested and briefly detained on July 27 when they protested at the office of a local tax assessor, where a back-room deal had just been announced. Without the required public hearing, the local authority agreed to hand over more than 2,000 acres of land for the Kovvada nuclear power project on India’s central east coast. Party leaders also protested that the land deal would force the evacuation of villagers before construction of the promised removal and relocation colony several miles away.

On the west coast, where a demonstrator was killed during an anti-nuclear protest in 2011, thousands of local villagers joined a jail-bhara on August 20. The protest involved courting arrest with a massive sit-in near the site of the Jaitapur nuclear power park, a six-reactor project that would be the largest ever built. Police monitored the situation but did not try to arrest and detain all who joined in.

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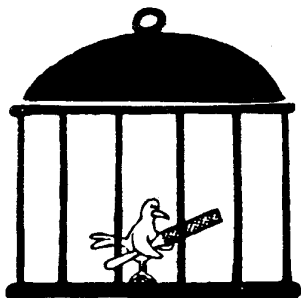
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Update Files



HANCOCK FIELD: The long-awaited appeal of Mary Anne Grady Flores will be heard in the New York State Court of Appeals in Albany on October 11. Grady Flores has already served 56 days for violation of a 2012 order of protection granted to the commander of a drone attack unit based at the Syracuse airport. An order of protection, usually reserved for cases of domestic violence or stalking, was granted against Grady Flores and about 50 other demonstrators not because the commander felt threatened by their peaceful presence, but because, as he testified at her 2014 trial, “I just want the protesters away from my base.” Her violation consisted of photographing an Ash Wednesday, 2013 protest from across the road, unaware that by entering the roadway she had crossed the property line claimed by the base. If her appeal is denied, Grady Flores may have to complete her sentence with 65 more days in jail...

BRITISH AEROSPACE: Sam Walton and Woody Woodhouse entered not guilty pleas at their pretrial hearing on July 10. They are charged with two counts each of criminal damage for entering a manufacturing plant and attempting to disarm warplanes bound for export to Saudi Arabia and almost certain use to commit war crimes in Yemen. Trial is now set for four days beginning on October 23 in Burnley, Lancashire...

BURGHFIELD, ENGLAND: Five Christian activists who blocked an entry drive into the Atomic Weapons Establishment had their convictions overturned on appeal. They were convicted of willful obstruction of the highway during a series of coordinated actions in June, 2016, but the court agreed that they had only blocked the private driveway and not the public thoroughfare...

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE: After a series of federal trespass summons over the last few years were all eventually dropped, it happened again for four people charged during a May blockade. But this time the state issued traffic citations three weeks later for the same action at the gate of the California command center for the Global Hawk military surveillance drone. They are summoned to court anytime before the end of September to answer the charge...

CREECH AIR FORCE BASE: Nevada authorities have not filed charges against people arrested during last April’s Shut Down Creech blockades of the drone warfare base and the highway nearby. However, on his own initiative *sua sponte*, the chief judge of the Las Vegas Justice Court summoned one of the ten people arrested, Brian Terrell, to appear before him on September 25 to answer a charge of disturbing the peace. Terrell has been arrested multiple times at Creech over the last eight years and helped to organize protest there while on the staff of both the Nevada Desert Experience and Voices for Creative Nonviolence. Terrell filed a motion seeking more information about the charge and was told in reply that he will not need to appear in person...

PINE GAP, AUSTRALIA: The six self-described Peace Pilgrims arrested for trespass in September, 2016 at the U.S. spy satellite station in the outback are now set to face trials in Alice Springs on November 13 and 16...

SHANNON, IRELAND: Four men were in Ennis District Court on July 19 for separate hearings related to two different actions to inspect U.S. warplanes passing through the international airport. The ShannonWatch activists believe the frequent flights are flagrant challenges to Irish neutrality. Dave Donnellan and Colm Roddy are charged with causing criminal damage when they entered Shannon International Airport in May, 2016 to search U.S. military aircraft for contraband. Their cases were moved up to the circuit court level and a jury trial, with a status hearing on September 25. Dan Dowling and Edward Horgan are alleged to have graffitied U.S. military aircraft at another citizen inspection last April. Each had their bail conditions loosened a bit and are “due for mention” in the court on September 13. Their cases are also headed towards a jury trial in the circuit court...

WITNESS AGAINST TORTURE: Two members of the group were among the two dozen people arrested in early January, interrupting the Senate confirmation hearings of Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. Their prosecution was deferred following completion of 32 hours of community service...

HAMBURG, GERMANY: After nine trial sessions over four months, a defendant, her lawyers, and an audience of supporters all got up and left the courtroom before the verdict was rendered by the judge on August 17. Decrying the historic political nature of prosecution for coercion and disturbing public enterprises, they agreed that conviction was a foregone conclusion from a court committed to protecting those who profit from environmental destruction. For her act of delivering food to people blocking a train hauling uranium ore in August, 2014, she was convicted and fined €600...

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND: In March, a man charged with two counts of assault during blockades of a November, 2016 weapons expo was convicted and sentenced to 50 hours of community service and a restorative justice program. Oddly, the police officer he’s to go through the program with did not know what “assault” he was meant to have suffered...

ANNOUNCEMENT

...**The 2017 U.S./Mexico Border Convergence** of School of the Americas Watch will take place in the Nogales, Sonora/Arizona border area on November 10-12. Join for forums and workshops, speakers and musicians, with a vigil Friday at the immigrant detention center in Eloy, Arizona, and cross-border rally and concert on Saturday at the Nogales border fence. On Sunday will be puppetistas and *¡Presentes!* SOA Watch demands: An end to U.S. economic, military and political intervention in Latin America; Demilitarization and divestment of the borders; An end to the racist systems of oppression that criminalize and kill migrants, refugees and communities of color; Respect, dignity, justice and the right to self-determination of communities; and an end to Plan Mérida and the Alliance for Prosperity. For information and registration, visit soaw.org/border. [*editors’ note:* After the convergence, a memorial peace vigil honoring Fr. Jerry Zawada will be held at 8 a.m. on Monday, November 13 at the Craycroft gate of Davis Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson.]

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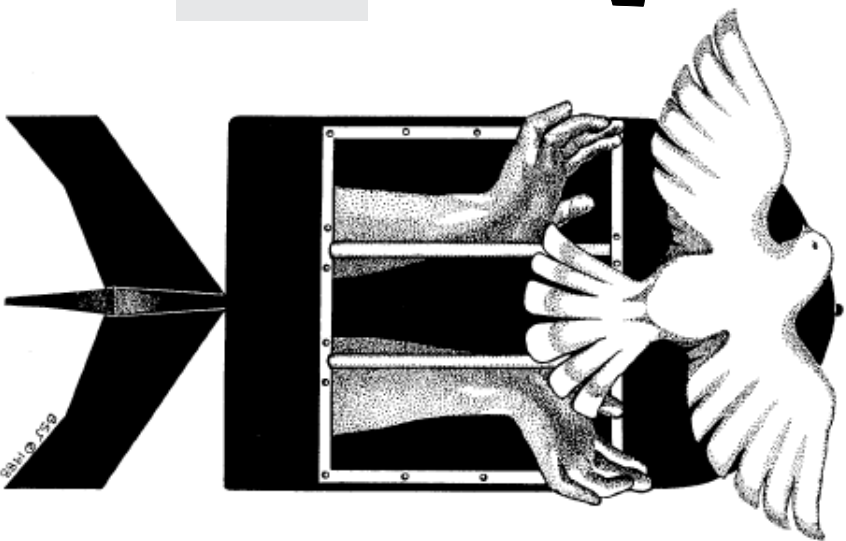
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#186 September 7, 2017

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