

the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

No. 187

March 14, 2018



photo by Upstate Action to Ground the Drones and End the Wars

Upstate New Yorkers use large banners and visual props to again blockade the Hancock Field Air National Guard base near Syracuse on September 25.

RESISTING DRONE WARS

HANCOCK FIELD

As U.S. drone warfare expands under the Trump administration, resistance to the flying killer robots continues at several critical locations across the country.

Last September 25, seven members of the grassroots group Upstate Drone Action once again were arrested as they delivered a citizen's war crime indictment to the chain of command at Hancock Field, just outside of Syracuse, New York. For an action they titled “Rich Man's War, Poor People's Blood,” the activists brought a huge dollar sign [\$] dripping with “blood” to help block the main entrance way to the base. The six-foot-high dollar sign dramatized the corporate greed that the group believes is behind the many overseas wars waged by the Pentagon/CIA.

Hancock hosts the 174th Attack Wing of the New York National Guard which remotely pilots the MQ9 Reaper drone on regular missions over Afghanistan. The CIA also uses such airborne robots for its clandestine assassination missions over northwest Pakistan and other majority-Islamic nations and oil lands.

Ann Tiffany, Ed Kinane, Rae Kramer, Julianne Oldfield, Dan Burgevin, Mark Scibilia-Carver and Harry Murray were arrested and released within an hour, charged with trespass and disorderly conduct.

Oldfield observed that “The Hancock Reaper terrorizes whole communities, generating desperate refugees.” Mark Scibilia-Carver added that “U.S. taxpayers fund this terrorism, keeping the pot boiling and creating enormous ill will toward the United States – instead of funding health, education and infrastructure here.”

Since 2010, there have been some 200 anti-Reaper arrests at Hancock in about a dozen such street theater actions. These have resulted in extreme bails, maximum fines, Orders of Protection, and incarcerations... as well as some acquittals.

On January 18, pre-trial motions related to three outstanding protests at Hancock were argued before two DeWitt town court judges, Gideon and Jokl. The case of the Jerry Berrigan memorial blockade in January, 2016 was dismissed for violating speedy trial rules, and a motion to dismiss prosecution of the 2017 Good Friday blockade for the same reason was taken under advisement, since the prosecution had ignored a court order last August to produce its video evidence. Prosecution of the recent “bloody dollars” protest was also dismissed, in this case because charging documents referred to “federal property” over which the judge has no jurisdiction. Judge Jokl gave the prosecution leave to refile properly worded documents if they wish to.

In the first few years of the resistance at Hancock,

many of those arrested were also issued Orders of Protection (OOPs) to stay away from the base and its commander. In 2014, Mary Anne Grady Flores was convicted of violating the order and sentenced to one year in jail. She served 56 days before being released on appeal of the sentence. On October 11, the New York State Court of Appeals heard her case.

Her appeal contends that an order of protection cannot be used on behalf of property. Normally, OOPs are given on behalf of a victim or a witness. The use of a form of protective order developed to address domestic violence to deter protesters and chill speech raises important First Amendment issues.

Depending on the verdict, Grady Flores may need to serve an additional 65 days in the Onondaga County Jail. The New York State Court of Appeals, the highest court in New York state with a panel of seven judges, will render a decision within six months.

For more information, visit upstatedroneaction.org.

CREECH

Thanks to Toby Blome for this report.

Our drone resistance presence at Creech Air Force Base last October was overshadowed by the tragic Las Vegas mass shooting incident just days before our arrival, stealing the lives of 59 innocent concert-goers, injuring hundreds more, and leaving thousands of witnesses changed for life. All week long we contemplated and discussed as a group how we could thoughtfully tie in the senseless violence of the mass shooting event with the routine, intentional and well-disguised mass violence of U.S. foreign policy that occurs daily around the planet, to which few Americans give much thought.

This key U.S. Reaper/Predator drone base is referred to by the U.S. military as “Home of the Hunters.” Still trying to tie in the Las Vegas massacre with the routine mass killings of U.S. military massacres from bombs and drone missiles, we finally came up with a new banner: “Mass Shooter & Drone Pilot: Both Hunting People?”

Prior to the Las Vegas massacre and before arriving for the week, CODEPINK member Eleanor Levine had proposed doing a re-creation of a drone wedding party attack. Our nonviolent civil resistance action began on Friday, October 6, with Cecile Pineda reading loudly through a megaphone the real stories of many of the wedding parties that had been brutally bombed by U.S. drone forces. In hearing range of the MPs and Las Vegas police, our “wedding ceremony” then began.

After the “ceremony,” our wedding party processed up to and along Highway 95. A sign was held high over the wedding procession, “USA Wedded To War,” as hundreds

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The World Says No to Profits From War

Last September and October, organized anti-militarists and their allies confronted the global arms trade at major exhibitions and sales events from London to South Korea to New Zealand, while a Welsh great-grandmother faced trial for trying to disrupt an arms trade show last March in Cardiff. And in November, peace activists again disrupted the opening of the annual conference of the European Defense Agency in Belgium.

London

In London, a week-long series of nonviolent direct actions disrupted one of the world's largest international arms trade fairs before it even started.

The Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) exhibition is held every two years at London's ExCel Centre. Two years of organizing since the last event by the Campaign Against the Arms Trade, Trident Ploughshares and others resulted in thousands of people taking part in strategically coordinated actions in the days leading up to the September 12, 2017 opening. More than 100 people were arrested blocking roads and stopping convoys of massive military hardware from reaching the ExCel Centre venue. The actions pushed back the set-up schedule for days.

Campaigners highlighted the fact that weapons outlawed in the United Kingdom have been offered for sale at previous exhibitions. Despotism regimes are among the registered buyers, seeking weapons to use illegally against their own people or to attack civilians in armed conflicts with other states.

Because politicians and police have repeatedly refused to act on these violations, the multiple daily direct actions were undertaken as reasonable means to stop the imminent crimes. The activists also claimed that these actions were a lawful exercise of rights recognized by the European Convention on Human Rights.

Beginning September 4, a different theme directed each day of protest, and campaigning groups making up the broad Shut Down the Arms Fair coalition created actions to spotlight the connection between their work and the global arms trade. Daily blockades and multiple lock-downs at two gates created a logistical nightmare for delivery trucks. Teams of police were kept occupied with cutting through metal and concrete locking devices or coaxing down banner-hangers dangling from an overpass. London police announced at least 102 arrests between September 4 and 11, and organizers report that protests continued through the duration of the exhibition and several more arrests were made. Most were charged with obstruction and summoned to court for first appearances in late September and early October.

A tent camp for activists, an Art the Arms Fair exhibit and public performances by musicians and rebel clowns added to the scene surrounding the protests. A billboard near the ExCel Centre venue and hundreds of advertising placards at nearby transit stops, in the buses and on subway cars were “hacked” with bold messages declaring “Arms Dealers Not Welcome in London.”

The first arrests came on Monday, September 4, with action focused on the arms trade in the Middle East. Sales to Saudi Arabia were a target, while Palestine solidarity activists and their allies took aim at Israel as both arms buyer and “battle-tested” arms producer. Trucks carrying Israeli military vehicles were blocked and at least six people arrested.

Tuesday was No Faith in War day, with participation *continued on page 6*

Resistance Reflections

IT'S TIME WE OCCUPIED CONGRESS

by Joy First

January 15, 2018

As I entered my jail cell at Capitol Police Headquarters in Washington, D.C., I sat down on the cold steel bench and looked around thinking - here I am again. My eyes came to the mirror above the toilet and I noticed the word “occupy” scraped into the glass and it brought a smile to my face. I thought someone was here before me, someone who cared about the same things I cared about, someone who thought the way I thought, someone who, like me, was doing what they could to try to make the world a better place.

And then I thought that this was a message that was coming to me across time, a message with a deeper meaning for me right here and right now. OCCUPY. I had just been arrested with six brothers and sisters after occupying the office of Democratic Rep. Steny Hoyer, the House Minority Whip.

We need to occupy the offices of members of Congress regularly. We need to put our bodies on the line and force them to do the right thing. The myth is that they are there because we voted for them and they are supposed to represent us and do our bidding. The reality is that they are there because they have the backing of multinational corporations, many of them military contractors, who give large sums of money so they can win elections. So, whose bidding will they be doing? Over the last 15 years I have contacted members of Congress and have been ignored. Steny Hoyer has refused many constituent requests to meet with him or a staff person.

This has to change. So, while sitting in Hoyer’s office on January 11, my good friend Malachy made an impassioned plea to the 20 activists there to create a campaign of occupation of congressional offices to shake things up and change the system. And this idea that Malachy brought up made so much sense as I looked at

the mirror with the “occupy” scratched into the glass.

A few months ago, we, from the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance, decided we needed to address what is happening in Yemen. As a result of selling arms to Saudi Arabia and refueling their fighter jets in mid-air, we are responsible for the enormous death and suffering occurring in Yemen. Besides being killed by bombs, over a million people are plagued with typhoid, and there is an epidemic of diphtheria. Many children are starving to death. We have blood on our hands.

On the morning of January 11 we attended the Witness Against Torture vigil at the White House. This marked 16 years of illegally held prisoners being tortured in Guantanamo. Five people in orange jumpsuits and hoods walked under the yellow tape towards the White House and were quickly arrested.

Members of the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance then went to the Longworth Congressional Office building where we had a final planning meeting in the cafeteria. At about 2:30 p.m. we went up to Hoyer’s office.

I was carrying a rock in my pocket and I could feel the weight of the rock when we walked into the office. My nine-year-old granddaughter gave me the rock the week before when I was still in Wisconsin. She had painted it with a golden horseshoe on one side and a heart with a peace sign in the middle on the other side. She said she made it for me to give me courage. So, carrying that rock, I thought about her and my other grandchildren who I love from the bottom of my heart. In my hands I was carrying a picture of a Yemeni child who was suffering and I thought about how much that beautiful child is loved. I knew I was just where I needed to be.

We talked to the receptionist, Paul, and told him why we were there and that we wanted a meeting with a foreign policy staff person. We had three demands: 1) that

Rep. Hoyer speak out against Saudi war crimes, 2) that he condemn any further U.S. arms sales to the Saudi-led coalition bombarding and blockading of Yemen, and 3) that he help bring to a vote House Resolution 81 invoking war powers to end U.S. involvement in the Yemen war, a bill he had previously sabotaged.

Paul said that we could get a meeting, but not today because everyone was busy. We were dubious about this because we knew that a number of people had asked for a meeting and had been ignored.

After much discussion, we decided we would not leave the office until we got a clear statement from Hoyer that he would speak out against Saudi Arabian war crimes and the sale of weapons to Saudi Arabia, and that he would push for House Resolution 81.

At 5:00 p.m., Paul announced that the office would be closing and we needed to leave. We told him that we couldn’t leave until we were able to meet with someone who could let us know that Hoyer was acceding to our demands. In an effort to get us out of there Paul finally gave us an email so that we could contact the scheduling person to get a meeting which might not take place for a week or two. As we thought about how many innocent children could die before a meeting would take place, we told Paul that we still could not leave.

Eventually the police were called and they arrived at the office at 7:30 p.m., and cuffed us and arrested us. We were taken to the Capitol Police Headquarters where we were processed, including being fingerprinted and having our pictures taken. We were all finally released around midnight.

Arrested were Janice Sevre-Duszynska and Dick Ochs from Baltimore, Alice Sutter from New York City, Malachy Kilbride from Maryland, and three from the Midwest, including Kathy Kelly from Chicago, Phil Runkel from Milwaukee, and me, Joy First, from Mount Horeb, Wisconsin. We were charged with unlawful entry [and await trial, likely this summer].

It was a long day, filled with anxiety as we went up against the greatest empire in the history of the world, but this is what I have to do. And, of course I have a choice, but because I know what is happening to the beautiful children of Yemen I really don’t have a choice.

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where we’re at

The first couple of months of 2018 have been somewhat bumpy for us. We’re glad to finish this issue of the Nuclear Resister, even if it is a bit later than we’d hoped!

Jack and I are very grateful to our daughter Emma for her generous gift of help with airfare so we could visit her in Vietnam at the end of 2017/beginning of 2018! She has been teaching in Ho Chi Minh City for the past year and a half. We had a really great time traveling together, meeting many wonderful people and visiting amazing places. As beautiful as the countryside, temples, pagodas and other sights were (oh, the flowers, birds and water buffalo!), at times it was sobering and painful, such as our visit to the war museum in Ho Chi Minh City, or to see the craters and rubble from U.S. bombing among Champa temple ruins, and spot bullet holes in Sanskrit stone engravings.

During our trip, we spoke with Jack’s mother, Eloise. Sadly, she learned the day after Christmas that she had cancer, and it was very advanced. She died the day we returned home, soon after we were able to talk to her one more time. We are grateful for the love she shared with her family and many, many others throughout her 87 years of life.

As it happens, Felice saw her once before ever meeting Jack. Felice joined the anti-nuclear demonstration in Washington, D.C. on April 26, 1980 and spotted a woman standing at the side of the road along the march route, holding a sign that read, “I’m 50 years old today. I hope

my five grandchildren live as long. No Nukes!” It turns out that the woman holding that sign was Jack’s mother, and he had made that sign for her (and she ended up with eight grandchildren, including our son and daughter)!

We returned on March 5 from Las Vegas, where we attended the Pacific Life Community gathering. It was great to be with friends, both old and new! Thanks to the Las Vegas Catholic Worker and Nevada Desert Experience for hosting a wonderful weekend together. We had a vigil at the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and nonviolent action at the Nevada National Security Site/ nuclear test site. Two dozen of us were arrested after crossing the line at the test site with copies of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in hand, to let test site/NNSA people there know that the treaty (signed at the U.N. by 122 nations on July 7, 2017) prohibits use, threat to use, development, testing, manufacture, production, possession, sharing and stockpiling of nuclear weapons. See the report on page 4.

Felice & Jack



Eloise Starr Joppa

¡Presente!

Judy Beaumont

peace and justice activist,
member of Trident Nein Plowshares,
Sister of St. Benedict,
Roman Catholic Woman Priest

December 10, 1937 – January 1, 2018



Helen John

peace and anti-nuclear activist,
co-founder of Greenham Common
and Menwith Hill women’s peace camps,
mother, midwife

September 30, 1937 – November 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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Please inquire about multiple copies of the current issue for free distribution at conferences, workshops, trainings, etc.

THE NUCLEAR RESISTER ON MICROFILM

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

ABOUT THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

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

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

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

Jack and Felice Cohen-Joppa, Editors

NATO 3 APPEAL HEARD

by Friends of Jared Chase

A Chicago courtroom was packed with supporters of the NATO 3 on December 12, as oral arguments were presented for the state court appeal of convictions resulting from their arrests at the NATO summit in Chicago in May 2012. While the NATO 3 and their legal team beat the more serious terrorism charges in their 2014 trial, they were each found guilty of two counts of mob action, possession of incendiary devices with intent to commit arson and possession of incendiary device with knowledge someone else intended to commit arson.

In April 2012, Occupy Chicago was infiltrated by two

Fifteen Years and Counting for Charity to Iraq

February 28 marked 15 years since New York oncologist Dr. Rafil Dhafir was “kidnapped” by the U.S. government, jailed without bail for nearly two years before trial, then convicted and sentenced to 22 years in prison.

Dhafir, an Iraqi emigre and leader in the Muslim community in upstate New York, founded a charity in the 1990s to direct aid back to the country of his birth. The charity, Help the Needy, could not be registered due to the economic sanctions in place against Iraq between the 1991 and 2003 U.S. invasions. At the time of his arrest on the eve of the March “Shock and Awe” bombardment and invasion, Dr. Dhafir was an outspoken opponent of the Iraq sanctions and of U.S. policy that was moving inexorably towards a new war.

Carloads of federal agents blocked the driveway of his home when he left for work that morning. The widely respected physician was taken into custody while his home was searched and all of his business records seized. In the hours and months that followed, Dr. Dhafir and his charity were repeatedly said to be funding terrorists, but no such evidence was ever presented in court. Two associates in the charity were also arrested the same day and had their homes searched while FBI agents swarmed across the region, visiting their homes and questioning over 150 Muslim families.

Months later, a new indictment based on the seized business records charged Dhafir with more than four dozen counts of Medicare fraud, each count a separate allegation that viewed a disputed billing practice as fraud. According to court testimony, none of Dhafir’s allegedly fraudulent billing ever personally benefitted the doctor. The total of the disputed payments were just a small fraction of the money he personally poured into the charity, but the multi-count white-collar conviction provided legal grounds for the extraordinarily severe sentencing of a prominent Muslim voice against the war.

Outside of court he was repeatedly tarred with the terrorism brush by public officials, but in court he was forbidden from mentioning the slander. Still, the insinuation of nefarious funding was raised again at sentencing and has followed Dhafir in prison.

In late 2006, Dr. Dhafir was among the first small group of federal prisoners picked for placement in a so-called “Communications Management Unit,” a repressive innovation that targeted Muslims with strict limits on and surveillance of all written, phone and personal communication with the outside world.

He has since been moved to an administrative security federal medical center. There he has been subjected to periodic harassment, particularly during Ramadan, the month of fasting for Muslims. His legal appeals are exhausted. Dhafir has taken advantage of the very limited educational opportunities there, and spends time reading and praying.

Under federal rules, considering his advancing age, health, and time served, Dhafir would be eligible for compassionate release. But he does not expect it, and writes “I am a survivor, *alhamdu lillah*, officially I am to be released 4/26/2022 without any home confinement or half way house which would make it shorter. At this stage, it really makes no difference. I will NEVER ask/beg these criminals for any reprieve as they know well the crime they committed against me and the needy in Iraq.”

For more background about the case of Dr. Rafil Dhafir, visit dhafirtrial.net.



Letters of support should be sent to Rafil Dhafir 11921-052, FMC Devens Unit GB, Federal Medical Center, P.O. Box 879, Ayer, MA 01432.

undercover Chicago police officers, Mehmet Uygun and Nadia Chiko, ahead of planned protests surrounding the NATO summit. Over the course of several weeks, the officers targeted and entrapped Brian Jacob Church, Brent Betterly and Jared “Jay” Chase, later known collectively as the NATO 3. The undercover officers continuously encouraged the young men to make molotov cocktails and talked about their plans to riot. As audio recordings later revealed, none of these ideas were more than idle talk for the NATO 3.

The more than two weeks’ worth of audio recordings that were presented during the trial showed that the NATO 3 never concretely planned to do anything other than protest. Comments about doing more than protesting were fleeting, with conversations quickly turning to what folks were going to do that evening, who was able to grab beer, or when the weed would arrive.

The undercover officers went as far as buying alcohol for 19-year-old Church in an attempt to lure him and the others into making incriminating statements. After surveilling and pressuring the NATO 3 for two weeks without any luck, the undercover themselves proposed and took steps to make molotov cocktails on May 16, 2012. The molotov cocktails were only ever in the possession of the undercover officers, who quickly hid them in the house where they were staying and then obtained a search warrant to go get them. Later that evening, the home at which the NATO 3 were guests was raided, and the NATO 3 were disappeared to the Chicago Police Department’s notorious and secretive Homan Square station. After being assessed exorbitant money bails, they remained in Cook County Jail for nearly two years until their trial.

Now, more than three years later, Brent Betterly and Brian Jacob Church have finished their sentences and are out of jail. Jared “Jay” Chase remains incarcerated by the Illinois Department of Corrections at Dixon Prison in northwest Illinois. If the appeal is successful, Betterly, Church and Chase would have the felony convictions removed from their records and Chase could potentially be released sooner. As a result of his poor health, Chase has picked up several new charges from conflicts with prison guards during his imprisonment.

The NATO 3 are now represented by the Office of the State Appellate Defender, the public defender’s office for appeals. Each of the NATO 3 had their own attorney who made distinct arguments, which were then rebutted by the state. The defense focused on challenging the convictions for possession of incendiary devices with intent to commit arson by arguing that the evidence presented by the state was insufficient to prove intent beyond a reasonable doubt. These arguments were made primarily by the attorney for Brian Jacob Church, who focused her comments on several issues: the fact that it was the undercovers who repeatedly brought up and took steps to make molotov cocktails; that undercover officer Nadia Chiko was the only person who talked about using them; that the statements made by the NATO 3 were fanciful rather than based in reality; and that the NATO 3 were most concerned with defending themselves from overzealous riot cops protecting the NATO Summit. Most

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Norm Lowry Out of the Hole

It’s not uncommon for long-term prisoners coming near their release date to be targeted for a little arbitrary abuse, regardless of even a stellar disciplinary record, just because the turnkeys can get away with it.

Norman Lowry, who at the end of August will max out a sentence of one-to-seven years for repeated trespass at a military recruiting center in Pennsylvania, got poked by that power in February. On the second day of the month, a guard rudely invited him to the prison security office. For loaning a book to a kitchen supervisor, he’d triggered some sort of “investigation” and, while it ensued, he was shuffled off to the hole.

“The inner sanctum of hell, to be sure,” he writes. “I have been appalled to find it to be a concentrated repository for abjectly poor and ignorant ones – many suffering from various mental illnesses. On a good note, I’ve come upon a good number of my disappeared peers. I wondered where they’d gone – home?... The walls are etched with names of folks who’ve lived here. ‘Jesus’ is etched above the door... but I don’t think he left.”

On the last day of February, Lowry was told the investigation was over, no charges, and he was returned to his low-security cell.



Letters of support should be sent to Norman Edgar Lowry Jr. KN 9758, SCI Dallas, 1000 Follies Rd., Dallas, PA 18612.

NEW SUPPORT ACTIONS FOR LEONARD PELTIER

In mid-September, Leonard Peltier was visited by Paulette Dauteuil, co-director of his re-formed defense committee. After his emergency open-heart surgery, she was happy to report that he was up and out of a wheelchair and getting around with a walker.

Sadly, a week later, three days of visits with a son and grandson who travelled to Florida to see him were cancelled at the last minute due to lock-downs at the federal prison. In October, his niece, daughter-in-law and three granddaughters were able to visit. Peltier asked them to thank his supporters and the Rosenberg Fund for Children for their support that made the visits possible.

Dauteuil used her time in Florida to lay the groundwork for moving the office of the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee to the state to allow for more frequent visitation and consultation about renewed legal efforts to win his release.

The Native American activist is serving two life terms,

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Inside & Out



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
Dixon Correctional Center, 2600 North Brinton Avenue, Dixon, Illinois 61021.
(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)

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

NUCLEAR RESISTERS

Laura and **Aka**
c/o Maison de la résistance, 2 rue de l’Église, 55290 Bure, France.
(Arrested during 2/22/18 police raids on nuclear dump foes, awaiting court on 3/19/18)

Leonard Peltier 89637-132 (life)
USP Coleman I, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521.
(Framed for murder while defending traditional indigenous from threats including uranium mining on sacred lands)

Solidarity Arrests on 16th Anniversary of Guantanamo Prison

Compiled from reports by
Witness Against Torture
and Brian Terrell

Human rights activists, attorneys, ex-military investigators, faith leaders, and torture survivors rallied on January 11 across the street from the White House to mark the 16th year of the operation of the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where “war on terror” detainees were first brought in 2002.

The rally speakers blasted the existence of Guantanamo as a terrible experiment in lawlessness and torture, driven by hateful suspicion of Muslims as agents of violence.

Attorney Shelby Sullivan-Bennis, who represents men currently held in Guantanamo, read a statement from one of her clients testifying to the importance of rallies like this in showing the world that the men at Guantanamo are not forgotten.

The Witness Against Torture (WAT) community has been gathering each January in Washington, fasting and engaging in public witness while dressed in orange jumpsuits and black hoods, this year representing 41 Muslim men still held there.

After the rally, WAT activists on the fourth day of this year’s fast performed a simple ritual, serving 41 cups of tea one at a time to “detainees” who each lifted their hood to accept their cup and take a sip before placing it down in a row on the sidewalk. The names of the men were spoken aloud and had been written on each of the styrofoam cups, remembering that drawing and writing on such cups has been one of few outlets for expression for many detainees.

Five of the fasting activists – representing the five men cleared for release but still imprisoned on the island fortress – then crossed under the police tape and stepped onto Pennsylvania Avenue. Beth Adams, Ken Jones, Manijeh Saba, Helen Schietinger and Brian Terrell were immediately arrested.

With each succeeding administration, the space allowed for political discourse in front of the White House has been reduced and the once protected free speech of citizens increasingly criminalized there. Under Trump, half the width of the formerly public sidewalk in front of the White House is fenced off, with the inner perimeter now patrolled by officers armed with automatic weapons. Pennsylvania Avenue, long ago closed to vehicular traffic, is now closed off to pedestrians at the hint of a

Martin Luther King Jr. Day at Lockheed Martin

There were six people arrested at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. memorial resistance action on January 15 at Lockheed-Martin’s facility in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Among them was Fr. Patrick Sieber, a Franciscan priest who has joined such actions at the site of the world’s largest arms maker several times a year since 1978.

“God willing, the next will be on Good Friday,” he wrote. “Inspired by King’s resistance to militarism and his nonviolent direct action, this witness enables me to be hopefully a better preacher of the good news, and it enables me to have some ‘skin in the game’ – the willingness to suffer a little for peace and justice. We’re not just talking it, but walking it, and after all this time I cannot not do it. It is hard to explain my motivation. My job is to say Mass, and it is worthwhile and wonderful, but my liturgy is in the witness. It always feels like I spent a day in prayer, a week in retreat every time I go out. I believe that this is what the creator has in mind for me – where I am supposed to be in these moments.”

The six activists spent about an hour on the property, listening to recordings of King’s speeches with other protesters before being arrested, cited for trespass and later released.

For more information, visit brandywinepeace.com.



Five activists representing Guantanamo prisoners cleared for release approach the White House on the 16th anniversary of the prison’s opening.

demonstration.

All but Terrell were released a few hours later. The Iowa Catholic Worker was held overnight on an outdated warrant from Nevada, where Terrell has helped to organize and participated in actions against drone warfare at Creech Air Force Base. Before he could appear in court the next morning, the charges against Terrell and the others were dropped, and he was released.

For more information, visit www.witnessagainsttorture.com.

NEVADA NUCLEAR TEST SITE PACIFIC LIFE COMMUNITY

More than 50 members of the Pacific Life Community converged at the Las Vegas Catholic Worker house from March 2 – 4 for their annual gathering to protest nuclear weapons. Twenty-four of them were arrested on Sunday, March 4 during a nonviolent action at the Nevada nuclear test site.

They kicked off the weekend with an hour-long vigil on Friday afternoon, holding signs and banners in front of the nearby offices of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), the managing agency for the test site and seven more nuclear weapons-related sites across the country.

After the vigil, Friday and Saturday’s schedule was filled with regional updates, activist story-telling, nonviolence exploration, action planning, an open mic and a Service of Remembrance for Fr. Jerry Zawada, OFM. There were excellent presentations from Sr. Ardeth Platte and Sr. Carol Gilbert on the nuclear weapons ban treaty, and from Leona Morgan, Peter Clark, Eileen Shaughnessy, Denise Brown and Susan Schuurman of the Nuclear Issues Study Group, who came from New Mexico to talk about “Dismantling the Nuclear Beast.”

On Sunday morning, the group drove about 60 miles northwest of Las Vegas. They gathered for a liturgy in the desert outside of the boundary fence of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). Afterwards, they carried signs and banners the short distance to the road leading into the test site, where they joined hands in a circle

NEVADA DESERT EXPERIENCE

Through the decades since thousands of people joined protests in the Nevada desert to win an end to nuclear weapons testing there in 1992, the activists of the Nevada Desert Experience (NDE) have continued with nonviolent witness at the Mercury, Nevada gate to the nuclear weapons test site, now known as the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). Their presence is a watchful reminder that the site has been kept ready for a resumption of full-scale nuclear weapons tests, a reversal of policy now being considered in the Pentagon and White House.

Laura-Marie River Victor Peace writes in the NDE newsletter:

On September 10, the second day of Justice For Our Desert, six peace activists carpooled from Las Vegas out to the Nevada National Security Site. (Western Shoshone Chief) Johnnie Bobb, drumming, led the rest of us to the line. We held signs and flags. The guards were ready for us and slightly outnumbered us. Johnnie Bobb spoke truth to power, and we prayed together. One of the officers

SHOPPING MALL SETTLES OVER UNLAWFUL ARREST

A San Diego nuclear abolitionist has settled a lawsuit against the Imperial Valley Mall and the City of El Centro, California, over his arrest for trespass and the night he spent in jail last summer.

Robert Holzman set up signs and a small table outside the movie theater at the mall on Hiroshima Day, August 6, and began passing out flyers and collecting signatures on a petition calling on the United States and North Korea to join others in talks to ban nuclear weapons. Mall security guards told him the activity was prohibited without prior permission, and that he had to leave.

Holzman, who has personally distributed flyers at “thousands” of places across southern California, including outside shopping malls, refused to stop. Mall security placed him under citizen’s arrest, then called police. When Holzman refused a police order to leave, he was arrested, handcuffed and forced off the property into a waiting police car.

The charges were dropped later but Holzman sued the mall for violating his civil rights. His attorney argued that shopping malls are considered to be public forums in California and must allow expressive activity within reasonable rules and with prior approval. But the rules in place at the Imperial Valley Mall were not reasonable, so the citizen’s arrest by mall security was a violation of his rights. The city was also wrong to arrest and jail him, the suit claimed. Without admitting fault, the city agreed to pay Holzman \$19,333, and the mall is working out valid rules for expressive activity as part of its settlement with Holzman, the final terms of which will be confidential.

to learn the Elm Dance, a dance that is performed “to celebrate commitment to life and solidarity with activists the world over.”

The activists then proceeded to the boundary line, where Sr. Ardeth Platte told the test site/NNSA employees and Nye County sheriffs on the other side of the line that the group was there to let them know about the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons that was signed by 122 countries at the U.N. on July 7, 2017. The treaty, which will come into force 90 days after it’s ratified by 50 countries, prohibits the development, testing, production, manufacture, possession, stockpiling, sharing, use and threat to use nuclear weapons. At Sr. Ardeth’s invitation, one of the NNSA employees accepted a copy of the treaty. With copies of the treaty in hand, two dozen people then crossed onto NNSS property. They were escorted to the nearby holding pen, where they were briefly held before being ticketed for trespass and released with explicit instructions not to pay the prescribed penalty.

The Pacific Life Community is a network of spiritually motivated activists from U.S. Pacific coast and other western states who engage in anti-nuclear direct action. They protest at different nuclear weapons-related sites each year on or around March 1, which is Nuclear-Free and Independent Pacific Day and the anniversary of the Bravo nuclear bomb detonation by the U.S. at the Bikini Atoll in 1954.

For more information, visit pacificlifecommunity.wordpress.com.

joined our circle and held hands with us as we prayed, which was a moving surprise.

As Johnnie Bobb ended his speech, three of us crossed the line into the NNSS in civil disobedience and were arrested. The guards didn’t want to open the pens for so few of us, so they gave us our tickets near their parked trucks and released us.

About fifteen NDE activists and Western Shoshone returned again to the Mercury gate on January 27, the 67th anniversary of the first atomic bomb test on the tribe’s ancestral homeland. The date is officially recognized as National Downwinders Day, and their protest also came two days after the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists announced that the hands on their iconic Doomsday Clock have advanced to two minutes to midnight.

After a brief prayer and protest, five people crossed the line. They were cited for trespass and released.

For more information, visit nevadadesertexperience.org or call 702-646-4814.

THE SOUND OF FREEDOM?

It wasn't the sound of freedom that boomed across Burlington, Vermont on Saturday, March 3, but a sonic assault simulating that of the F-35 warplane coming soon to an Air National Guard base at the Burlington International Airport.

On the eve of a city-wide advisory vote on the issue, opponents of the 115 decibel airborne arsenal put together a demonstration of what residents in the "noise zone" could expect to hear. Three men stacked big speakers in the back of a pickup truck. Banners explained, "F-35 noise demonstration", "F-35 Unsuitable for Residential Use" and "Vote Yes on #6". They drove into a downtown neighborhood, stopped the truck, and for six minutes blasted a deep, rumbling sound. The broadcast rose in a thundering crescendo that quickly penetrated buildings and drove people outside, hands on their ears, shouting for it to stop.

"We want to apologize for the discomfort that people experienced as a result of this demonstration," said Ben

Cohen, co-founder of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream, to the *Vermont Digger*. "This was a one-time experiment for them but, for the people in the zone, they will be hearing this for six minutes, eight times a day, five days a week for the next 50 years."

"We cranked this thing up and it's insane. A lot of people were pissed off... but we felt we had to do it... It was necessary to prevent a greater harm" to the health and well-being of the Burlington community.

Police arrived on the scene of the first blast and gave Cohen, military veteran Ray Gonda and Richard Joseph a \$300 ticket for violating a city noise ordinance. The demonstration was repeated in another neighborhood, and the men were ticketed again. A third neighborhood, and three more tickets, now \$1,200 each.

The fourth blast gave police authority to arrest the men, who were taken to the station and cited for disorderly conduct, then released pending a court appearance. Voters passed #6.

Holy Innocents Witness at the Pentagon

Thanks to Art Laffin for this report.

On December 27-28, over 40 members of the Atlantic and Southern Life communities, and other peacemaking friends, gathered for a retreat at St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church in Washington, D.C., and a nonviolent witness at the Pentagon to commemorate the Massacre of the Holy Innocents – past and present.

The retreat began on the afternoon of the 27th with a scriptural reflection on the apostle Matthew's account of the massacre of the innocents (Mt. 2:13-18). This was followed by an inspiring presentation by Plowshares activists and former peace prisoners Sisters Ardeth Platte and Carol Gilbert about the worldwide campaign to abolish nuclear weapons, and the efforts they joined at the United Nations to secure passage of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2017. In their concluding remarks, they emphasized the critical need for citizen action and nonviolent resistance at every level to demand that the U.S. government ratify the U.N. Treaty. They related certain actions already being undertaken across the U.S. in support of the U.N. Treaty, including city council resolutions and efforts to get banks to refuse financial transactions with companies involved in nuclear weapons-related work. They ended their sharing declaring that in this urgent time all of us are called to continue doing the many actions we have done in the past to abolish nuclear weapons.

Braving bitter cold temperatures in the single digits, the community gathered early the next morning shortly before sunrise at Army-Navy Drive and processed to the Pentagon's southeast entrance with signs about abolishing war, disarmament and the plight of children. Surprisingly, there was not the usual squadron of Pentagon police awaiting their arrival.

Carrying copies of the "Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons" with the intention of delivering it to a Pentagon official and requesting that the U.S. ratify it, seven members of the community made their way to the police check point closest to the building where they encountered several heavily armed Pentagon police. They were told by the officers that they had to leave this high security area. After three warnings were given, Steve Baggaly, Ardeth Platte, Carol Gilbert, Ralph Schwartz, Bill Frankel-Streit, Lenore Yarger and Sheila Stumph were placed under arrest. As they were being escorted to police vehicles, the rest of the community, who lined the sidewalk in view of the seven, sang "Down By the Riverside."

The seven were taken to the Pentagon Police center, which once served as a day care center, and charged with "disobeying a lawful order." All were released and will appear in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Virginia on March 15.



@ActionCorpsNYC photo

Martha Hennessy carrying a photo of a Yemeni child while being arrested at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, December 11, 2017.

Blockades Over U.S. Role in Yemen War

Calling for an end to Saudi Arabia's bombardment and blockade of Yemen, more than 50 activists marched to the United States and Saudi missions to the United Nations in New York City on December 11. The Saudi war is already a tragic humanitarian crisis in progress, actively supplied and supported by the United States. Protests were also held the same day outside Saudi consulates in other cities.

When the New York demonstration arrived at the U.S. mission, some people stood in the doorway, blocking access in protest for about an hour before police moved in. Fifteen people were arrested for disorderly conduct/obstructing pedestrian traffic. They were handcuffed and taken to a nearby police station for processing. A smaller blockade of a door leading into the building where the Saudi mission is located did not prevent access via a side door, so police made no arrests there.

Most of those arrested have since accepted adjournment of their cases contemplating dismissal. Three are currently set for trial on March 28.

RESISTING DRONE WARS, cont.

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of Creech personnel whizzed past us in the early morning light, flooding into the base. Reaper and Predator drones were already "buzzing" over the Nevada desert landscape, by pilots in training for future remote-controlled killing.

All the while, throughout the entire wedding procession, the grim killer reaper drone, played by black-veiled Michael Kerr, was lurking in the background, "surveilling" and "calculating" the correct moment to strike. Eventually we took our wedding procession back down the highway to the base's main commuter entrance. We crossed onto the entrance road, in a "celebration wedding circle dance" that formed a barricade for any cars attempting to enter the base.

The entire wedding party agreed to participate in the "die-in" for as long as possible, and as the lurking drone made its "attack," the wedding party collapsed to the ground as if dead. The Las Vegas police moved in quickly, but gave the expected five minute warning that allowed us to finish dramatizing the real tragedy of a wedding party massacre.

JoAnn Lingle and Toby Blomé did not leave the road with the rest of the wedding party, so they were arrested and taken to Las Vegas, where they spent about nine hours in custody before their release. Their next court date is May 7.

Prosecutors have notified people arrested last spring during the annual Shut Down Creech actions that no charges will be filed.

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

BEALE AFB

Back home in California, Toby Blomé was arrested 11 days later for blocking morning traffic into Beale Air



photo by Des Moines Catholic Worker

Veterans for Peace and Catholic Workers discuss drone warfare and nonviolent resistance with officials at the Iowa Air National Guard base in Des Moines, Iowa, December 28, 2017.

Force Base in Marysville. She was cited and released.

Blome is one of the "Occupy Beale" group who camp overnight about once a month while demonstrating outside the home base of the Global Hawk military surveillance and reconnaissance drones. Scores of activists have been arrested over the last six years, some multiple times, and were issued federal citations for trespass. Each time, prosecutors have then decided not to proceed, and charges are dismissed. State traffic citations were issued to blockaders last May, and these, too, were dropped before their arraignment date.

The October 16-17 demonstrations took place outside all three gates to the base as part of an international month of actions against U.S. foreign military bases by

participating groups in Italy, Germany, S. Korea, Japan, Afghanistan, the Philippines and elsewhere.

For more information, visit facebook.com/OccupyBealeAirForceBase.

DES MOINES

Four Catholic Workers were arrested on December 28 in Des Moines, Iowa at a protest that linked King Herod's murder of young children in his quest to kill the infant Jesus with the deaths of innocent people killed by U.S. drone strikes.

The two-day Feast of Holy Innocents Faith and Resistance Retreat and Witness began on December 27 with a Bible study led by Des Moines Catholic Worker Frank Cordaro, and a report on drones by New York Catholic Worker Brian Hynes and Des Moines Catholic Worker Julie Brown, who is acquainted with drone victims through her work with Christian Peacemaker Teams in Iraqi Kurdistan.

On December 28, the group celebrated a liturgy, then planned and carried out an action at the entrance of the Iowa Air National Guard Drone Command Center. They held banners that read: "Herod Killed the Infants. (Matt. 2:16.) Today the Des Moines Armed Drone Command Kills Them Too! Celebrate Christmas. Shut Down DM's Drone Command!"

After refusing to leave, four Catholic Workers – Hynes, Ed Bloomer, Al Burney and Greg Boertje-Obed – were arrested and spent the night in the Polk County Jail.

All four were released on December 29 and charged with misdemeanor trespass. Burney pled guilty and was fined, while Hynes, Bloomer and Boertje-Obed pled not guilty and are set for a jury trial beginning April 16.

For more information, visit dmcatholicworker.org.

Court Comes Down on Greenpeace France

A pair of dramatic demonstrations to highlight the vulnerability of aging nuclear power plants in France have led to the first prison sentences ever for Greenpeace-France activists engaging in their high-profile nonviolent direct actions.

Eight activists broke into the nuclear power plant at Cattenom, near the Luxembourg border before dawn on October 12, where they set off fireworks.

On November 28, a much larger group of 22 entered the grounds of the nuclear power plant at Creus-Maysse in the south. Four of them scaled the spent-fuel storage building and set off flares while fireworks burst from the ground around them.

Both actions furthered Greenpeace France’s campaign to demonstrate the risk from terrorist and military attack of nuclear power plants and their above-ground pools that hold vast quantities of highly radioactive used fuel rods.

The October group was charged with trespass and damage inside a building containing nuclear materials, the first prosecution under a 2015 law that increased the penalty for entering nuclear power plants. They faced up to five years in prison and a fine of €75,000.

Dozens of supporters rallied outside the courthouse in Thionville for their trial in late February. Not only were the eight activists convicted, but Greenpeace France, as a corporate person, was also found guilty, and its legal representative Yannock Rousselet named for “complicity” in the crimes. Greenpeace was fined €20,000 and ordered to pay €50,000 in non-property damages. Six of the activists were sentenced to five months, suspended, and two were sentenced to two months in jail. The two sentenced to jail had previously been convicted of entering two other French nuclear sites.

They are free on appeal.

For more information, visit greenpeace.fr.

Another Nuclear Warhead Convoy Blocked

by Nukewatch UK

On November 16, a convoy carrying nuclear weapons was halted briefly by three members of Nukewatch UK as it left the Defence Support Group base in Stirling, near Bannockburn, Scotland, in protest of the continued transport of Trident warheads on public roads and the risks that these pose to the community.

Janet Fenton, David Mackenzie and Jane Tallents safely brought the vehicles to a standstill as the convoy attempted to leave the base on its way from Atomic Weapons Establishment Burghfield near Reading, where warheads are assembled, to Royal Navy Armament Depot Coulport near Helensburgh, where the warheads are loaded onto submarines. They were taken to a police station, charged with “obstructing the police” for not moving out of the road when asked, and later released. They have not yet been summoned to court.

Mackenzie and Tallents have recently published a report, *Unready Scotland*, which exposes how unprepared the local authorities on the convoy routes in Scotland are to deal with a serious accident involving nuclear weapons convoys. Most of the responses to a survey of these councils said that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) would deal with the outcome of an accident; however the MOD’s own information document makes plain that civil authorities would be responsible for public safety. In light of this, the three took action to hold the convoy inside a secure MOD establishment and are continuing to press the Scottish government for a review of arrangements by the civil authorities for dealing with a radiation release from a serious convoy incident.

Jane Tallents said, “We want the Scottish government to conduct a review of the arrangements for dealing with a convoy accident and let the public know what the risks really are.”

Janet Fenton said, “There is a United Nations treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons now, so the Scottish government can align itself with the world and challenge the U.K.

government. How can Scotland plan for the safety of its population when the U.K. government shows such arrogant disregard for the safety and welfare of people everywhere by transporting warheads across the land with impunity?”

David Mackenzie said, “Here’s a peaceful wee corner of Scotland. Kids in the school, folk going about their ordinary business, others playing golf around the corner, the usual stuff. And then, in the middle of it all, this absolute monstrosity and us pretending, mostly, that the horror of the nuclear threat is part of the normal. The pretending has to end. The world is waking up to the fact that if we continue down this route there is no future for humanity, only terror and hideous suffering. Let’s all wake up and chase this vile thing from our roads, our lands, our hearts.”

Coulport Update

The truck blockade came one month after three people who blocked a gate at the Coulport depot last summer were convicted of breach of the peace. Last July 8, the day after 122 nations at the United Nations approved the text of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Sam Donaldson, Brian Quail and Angie Zelter blocked a delivery gate.

Quail and Zelter spent 16 days in jail after their arrest when they refused to stay away from Coulport as a condition of their pretrial release. They left jail only when the condition was dropped after public protest.

At their October trial, Dunbarton Court Magistrate Symon listened carefully as police witnesses agreed that the protest had been conducted in a peaceful manner. In his defense, Donaldson told the court of his Quaker faith, and the obligation of his faith to act on the dictates of his conscience. Zelter asserted that her right under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights to express her opinion included nonviolent obstruction of the offensive activity.

Brian Quail gave a vivid account of the effect of nuclear weapons testing on the people of the Marshall Islands, and then offered an historic precedent for the court to find their blockade lawful.

“In 1778, the sheriff of Perthshire liberated a Jamaican slave called Joseph Knight, ruling that slavery was not recognized by the law of Scotland and was inconsistent with its principles. His decision was upheld on appeal where Lord Kames stated that ‘we sit here to enforce right, not to enforce wrong.’ But slavery was not abolished by Parliament until 1833. The law anticipated Parliament then, why cannot the law have the courage and integrity to uphold basic justice against the government of the day now in 2017, as it did then in 1778?”

Symon nevertheless found the three guilty, and despite Quail’s refusal to accept her verdict, and Zelter’s sworn intention to continue disrupting activities at nuclear weapons bases until Trident is removed, she only admonished the three, the lightest penalty a Scottish court can impose.

“I think the whole set-up is fundamentally problematic in that the police can’t arrest people who breach international law by having nuclear weapons. They arrest us instead,” Donaldson told the *Hull Daily Mail*.

“It’s a flawed, upside-down system which protects the real criminals. I got the feeling the officers were sort of in agreement with what we did. Their hands are tied.”

In another case from the protest camp at Coulport last summer, two men were convicted in Dunbarton magistrates court in January, on charges that they breached the peace at a July 13 blockade of the north gate. Peter Adamson was fined £50 and Jamie Watson was fined £100 due to a previous conviction.

Two international activists also arrested during the lock-down action did not return from Finland for trial.

For more information, visit tridentploughshares.org and nukewatch.org.uk.

serious charge brought: assaulting a police officer. The Nonviolence Resistance Network reports that the case against Chris Maunder “descended into farce when the prosecution declined to show its body-cam video evidence because it ‘showed nothing’ and dropped the case.” Maunder had previously pleaded guilty to obstructing the highway and possession of cannabis resin (hashish) as well as the small knife (“a weapon”) used to cut it. For this he was fined £485, his right to protest was affirmed, and he was advised not to bring along his cannabis kit the “next time” he protested.

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World Says No to Profits from War, cont.

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from anti-war activists of many faith traditions. Nearly 200 British Quakers, ages 1 to 98, joined what may have been their largest meeting for worship outside the yearly general meeting as they occupied the blocked road. At least six more arrests were made.

Wednesday’s themes were “No to Nuclear” and “Arms to Renewables.” Trident Ploughshares, Faslane Peace Camp and Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament groups staged repeated blockades of both roads leading to the ExCeL Centre. Police teams were so busy removing multiple heavy locking devices that they had to take a break and recharge their battery-powered portable cutting tools. Another 25 arrests were made during the day, once the blockaders were separated and removed from the road.

On Thursday, September 7, the Stop DSEI activists demanded “Free Movement for People Not Weapons!” They asked, “Why do weapons, tyrants and arms dealers move freely, while refugees and migrants are stopped at borders?” North London Food Not Bombs hosted a road block picnic after several activists locked down to again stop shipments into the expo center.

Among the handful of arrestees was Cameroonian actor Bernadette Mappa Kouame Agyei, who performed to great acclaim the role of a judge in the All African Women’s Group roadside performance of “We are Here Because You Were There.” She was jailed and threatened with deportation after more than 20 years in Britain, but a support campaign generated over 200 letters to the authorities and stopped her exit flight a week later.

A delegation of Veterans for Peace tried to enter the hall to conduct a citizen’s inspection for internationally condemned and contraband weapons, but they were stopped by police. (Inside the expo the following week, an undercover team of veterans documented a laser weapon on display, capable of blinding combatants, in violation of international prohibition of such weapons.)

Friday’s blockades were led by costumed supervillains from across the universe “on strike” against the Empire of War Merchants on earth. A few more arrests were made.

At the Festival of Resistance on Saturday, large crowds blocked both gates and more than 30 arrests were made. Sunday was devoted to hearing the stories of resistance to war and militarism from participants who came from around the world to demonstrate.



photo by CAAT

Opponents of the global arms trade lock their arms together for one of the blockades that disrupted set-up for London’s DSEI arms exhibition in September, 2017.

As a finale, a flashmob die-in was staged on Monday morning, September 11 on the sidewalk entrance. Accompanied by a soundtrack of gunshots and explosions mixed with the “cha-ching” of a cash register, the arms dealers had to walk over the “dead and bloodied” bodies that represented the human cost of the deals done that week.

In court last fall, some of the 100 arrested had their charges dismissed for “lack of evidence.” A few pled guilty and received a six-month conditional discharge plus a £20 “victim surcharge,” and 43 were scheduled for a series of individual and small group trials through the winter and spring of 2018.

The first trial in November was for the most

NOTES

Police Smash Nuclear Dump Protest Camp

Amidst what one writer called “a quasi-colonial control of the territory,” two people have been jailed since February 22 in the Meuse district of northeast France. They were arrested during the largest police operation there to date, following months of escalating state action against opponents of a planned underground burial dump for France’s high-level nuclear waste.

Local opposition is centered at the House of Resistance in Bure, strategically purchased over 15 years ago by anti-nuclear activists who accurately predicted that a nuclear waste research center established just outside the village would be tapped as the permanent dump.

The first wave of repression, including helicopter surveillance and frequent road blocks and ID checks, crested last September.

Early on the morning of September 20, dozens of police broke through the door at the House of Resistance. Acting on a warrant issued after vandalism last summer at the research center’s hotel/restaurant outside Bure, police held residents for up to ten hours in the rooms where they were found, many asleep at the time. Personal property and the entire contents of the office were seized.

At the same hour, other police raided an old railway station in Lumeville now occupied by dump opponents. Still more police invaded three homes of activists in nearby villages to search and seize property. Police recorded the identity of everyone they encountered. Two people in Bure were taken into custody and released later in the day.

News of the raids triggered support demonstrations across the country. Activists built on the momentum, embarking on a nation-wide speaking tour last fall to organize the formation of local support committees across the country.

The September raids were a harbinger of what was to come for the “owls,” those activists who have lived in the neighboring Lejuc woods since the summer of 2016, strategically occupying the site of the proposed dump’s ventilation shafts. Since then, activists have planted crops and established residency in treehouses and watchtowers to protect the communal woods. While title to the property remains in dispute, putting any construction at the site on hold, a court last summer ordered the eviction of the new community, providing police with the authority to act at any time.

A week before the September raids, a court in Bar-le-Duc found local farmer Jean-Pierre Simon guilty of lending his tractor and a trailer for use by the activists occupying the forest. On October 24, he was sentenced to two months in prison, suspended. Police had seized his equipment 15 months earlier, but because Simon cannot redeem it if he appeals the verdict, supporters quickly raised €7,000 to replace it.

Police mounted a large operation to evict the owls on October 20 but were held back when the activists set fire to barricades they had built on the roads entering the woods.

In preparation for the February 22 assault on dump opponents, at least 500 French police assembled their riot gear, trucks, bulldozers, helicopters and drones before dawn.

To isolate the resisters from their supporters, police blocked roads leading into the woods. Activists at the lookouts at the forest edge were arrested and the treehouse homes were surrounded. As news of the police action spread, cars approaching from several nearby villages were stopped for identity checks of the drivers and passengers. The streets in the village of Bure were blocked as police also surrounded the House of Resistance.

At least 30 occupants took refuge upstairs as police again broke down the door to enter. Some locked themselves together and had to be cut apart before police could clear the building to again search for and seize evidence.

A public relations offensive was part of this operation. Vilifying images from previous clashes of masked demonstrators, truncheons and tear gas were broadcast, and the media were fed dramatic body-camera footage from hooded police wielding chainsaws as they dismantled the protest camp.

The nation-wide support network was pressed into action. That night, there were demonstrations in front of

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Britons Not Guilty of Disarmament Attempt

Two British men have been acquitted on two counts each of criminal damage after breaking into a BAE Systems airplane factory in an attempt to disarm fighter jets sold to Saudi Arabia.

Following their October trial, East Lancashire District Judge James Clarke said that in his judgement, Daniel Woodhouse, a Methodist minister from Leeds, and Sam Walton, a Quaker activist from London, honestly believed that their action was justified for the immediate protection of property and lives.

Their aim had been to stop the jets, which had Saudi markings painted on them, from going to Saudi Arabia where they would be used to support the ongoing bombing of Yemen. Since the bombing of Yemen began in March 2015, the U.K. has licensed the sale of £3.8 billion worth of arms to Saudi Arabia. Woodhouse and Walton successfully argued that their intention was to save innocent lives and prevent war crimes, by physically disabling the warplanes.

The two campaigners broke through a fence on the perimeter of the site, and got within five feet of the warplanes before being stopped by BAE security.

The court heard evidence about the scale of the brutal bombardment, and the many serious accusations of war crimes that have been made against the Royal Saudi Air Force.

In a joint statement, the two men said: “We did not want to take this action, but were compelled to do so in order to stop the U.K. government’s complicity in the destruction of Yemen. Thousands of people have been killed in the brutal bombardment, while companies like BAE Systems have profited every step of the way.

“This vindication from the Courts is further evidence of the hypocrisy and moral bankruptcy that underpins so

Pine Gap Pilgrims Convicted

Following their conviction at two trials in Alice Springs, six Australian activists were sentenced on December 4 to pay fines for trespass onto a remote U.S.-run military satellite ground station.

Five of the Peace Pilgrims were arrested after entering the Pine Gap facility in late September, 2017 to sing a lament and pray, and the sixth a few days later when he repeated this action.

Paul Christie, the sixth pilgrim, was the first to face a jury on November 13. Defending himself, he testified that he had entered the base to pray and sing for those killed abroad in war because of the work of Pine Gap, and for the traditional aboriginal owners of the area occupied by the sprawling array of domed satellite dishes and support structures. He had their permission to be there.

After a two-day trial, the jury quickly returned a guilty verdict. Sentencing was set to follow the next trial, which began November 16.

As that trial began, Green Party Senator Andrew Bartlett spoke in support of the action in the Australian Senate while presenting an open letter to the Attorney General that he had signed, asking that the charges be dropped.

He said in part, “...Since the time of these protests, even more information has come out about the key role that Pine Gap plays in drone warfare and in enabling, increasing and expanding war and, clearly, in exacerbating the fulcrum and the conditions that enable terrorism to develop further. So, I join with those Australians in calling on the Attorney-General to reconsider his action, to call for clemency, to seek to ensure clemency for these peaceful Christian protesters and to respect those calls for freedom of peaceful expression, freedom of peaceful political communication and freedom of peaceful personal expression of religious beliefs...”

The five who entered Pine Gap together – Franz Dowling, his father Jim Dowling, Andy Paine, Margaret Pestorius and Tim Webb – all testified about their intent to mourn the dead and, if they got that far, nonviolently disrupt the vital communications links inside.

To support their defense of necessity, Professor Paul Tanter was called to the stand. He has written extensively about Pine Gap, and described how its role in the U.S. drone warfare program had grown rapidly over the last decade. He speculated that a disruption of activities at the base could limit its ability to provide targeting



photo by Amy Corcoran

Following their acquittal for trying to disarm warplanes bound for Saudi Arabia, Rev. Daniel Woodhouse and Sam Walton stand outside the courthouse with their barrister, Blinne Ní Ghrálaigh.

much of U.K. foreign policy. It is time for the government to stop putting arms company profits ahead of human rights. We do not regret taking action, and would do it again in a heartbeat. The only thing we regret is that we were not able to finish the job.”

Their action on January 29, 2017 took place 21 years to the date after three women entered the same factory and disarmed a warplane bound for Indonesia. The Seeds of Hope/East Timor Ploughshares, including a fourth admitted co-conspirator, were also acquitted in a jury trial where they argued the necessity of their action to prevent greater crimes.

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

information, while also drawing public attention to the ramped-up drone program.

The judge ruled that a defense of necessity did not apply and directed the jury not to consider this evidence. They deliberated for four hours, and the next morning returned a guilty verdict.

At the sentencing, the judge said he did not believe the activists were quite the threat portrayed by the crown’s prosecutor and declined to jail them. Instead he ordered fines for the activists ranging from \$1,250 to \$5,000 for Jim Dowling, who has a protest rap sheet three decades long.

For more information, visit closepinegap.org.

Irish Courts Stall on Shannon Protests

Four Irish peace activists who have had to return to court again and again “for mention” of their related protest cases – a form of punishment without trial, noted one – now await their next appearance in Ennis Court on May 8. That’s nearly two years since two of the men, Colm Roddy and Dave Donnellan, were arrested as part of ShannonWatch, a campaign of nonviolent resistance to U.S. warplanes stopping off at Shannon International Airport in violation of the Irish Republic’s historic neutrality. They’ve both been through more than a dozen pre-trial hearings, while Edward Horgan and Dan Dowling have been to court at least nine times each since their arrest for putting graffiti on a U.S. warplane at the airport in April, 2017.

While the men acted in pairs, the court has insisted on dealing with each man individually, even though they are called to court on the same day.

After exchanging familiar pleasantries with Judge Durcan during a November appearance, Ed Horgan objected to the proliferation of court dates. He noted that his situation was compounded by the recent addition of a trespass charge to the present case. While the graffiti case was now assigned to the circuit court, he’d been summoned to the district court on the new trespass charge.

continued on back page

The World Says No to Profits From War

Wellington

(Thanks to Auckland Peace Action for much of this report.)

The 2017 New Zealand Defence Industry Association exposition was held this year at the Westpac Stadium in Wellington. For the third year in a row, it was disrupted by protests.

Early on the morning of October 10, scores of people began gathering outside the stadium, prepared to block as many gates as possible and prevent delegates from entering. They represented a broad coalition brought together for the protest by Peace Action Wellington. The coalition included peace, labor, prison, indigenous, environmental, climate, solidarity and religious groups from across the country, as well as many individuals. Many had recently taken part in trainings for nonviolent direct action that were part of coalition organizing.

Carrying signs and several large banners, they marched up the vehicle ramp that was to be the main entry point for delegates. While they occupied the ramp, a skilled team of climbers got into position to hang a suspended barricade spanning the distance of the ramp. If the ropes were removed, the climbers would fall. Once the climbers were in place, most of the activists moved forward to begin the blockades.

By 8 a.m., about 300 people were on hand, prepared for a day of active blockades. More large gates were blocked as they spread out along a half-mile of public footpath beside the only access road around the stadium.

When the first bus full of delegates arrived from their hotels, police moved their lines to secure a small gate just 20 meters away. A group at the main gate moved quickly to block the small gate. The bus began to turn across oncoming traffic but was blocked from entering. It was stuck in the middle of the road for some time until police shut down the whole road in both directions so the bus could back up and try a larger gate.

At this point, the police began to open a path through the blockade with increasing brutality. People were picked up and thrown around, punched, kicked and sexually assaulted as the police lines pushed through the nonviolent blockaders.

The blockaders were undeterred: they regrouped, blocking the road around the bus. Police arrested six people who were held for several hours inside the police wagon, before they were all released without charges. It appeared that police were unable to break the blockade to remove them to the police station.

The scene repeated itself throughout the day as each van or bus load of delegates arrived. Protesters were bruised and bloodied, clothes ripped off, a finger broken. Hundreds of delegates were delayed for hours before they could attend.



On a day of many such encounters, New Zealand police grapple with nonviolent resisters blocking entry to the New Zealand Defence Industry Association exposition, October 10, 2017.

London, cont.

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In adjacent courtrooms on January 12, two groups who had blocked the highway on No to Nuclear Day were commended by their respective judges for acting with good conscience on an issue of public concern; yet nine people were still convicted of obstruction. One was acquitted. The nine were given conditional discharges plus court costs of £180 and a £15 or £20 victim surcharge. One man was also fined £100 for violating previous discharge conditions.

Charges were dropped for two more people facing trial on January 24 and, in early February, three groups totaling 13 defendants were found not guilty. The case against them collapsed at trial when the prosecution could not prove that Seagull Lane, the site of the blockades, was a “public highway” under the law.

When the government’s case against the four “No Faith in War” blockaders was dismissed on February 7, District Judge Angus Hamilton declared their lock-box roadblock and prayer vigil was legally protected despite the obstruction it caused, and he called it “the epitome of a peaceful protest.” It was “clearly related to a matter of general concern,” he continued, “namely the legitimacy of the arms fair and whether it involved the marketing and sale of potentially unlawful items.”

Seven more defendants were among two groups dismissed before trials in late February and, at this writing, only a handful of cases remain set for trial in April.

In the wake of these mostly failed prosecutions, Fr.

Another nine people were arbitrarily arrested before the end of the day, eight for “obstructing a public way” and one for “disorderly behavior.”

By 3 p.m. on what became a hot, sunny day, the blockaders recognized their waning strength. After some discussion, and to avoid further injuries, they called it a day. They withdrew together to safely bring the climbers down and shuttle them off into waiting vehicles to avoid the clutches of the police. After a brief celebration, many headed off to the police station to support their arrested comrades until they were released later that day.

A few of the nine had their charge dismissed, others took a diversion, and four who pled not guilty do not yet have a date for their trial, which is expected to take three days.

Summing up the event, Auckland Peace Action wrote: The diversity of people and groups that are coming together show the power both of intersectional politics and of direct action. The analysis brought to this campaign is based on an understanding of the interconnected and disastrous consequences of war, capitalism and ongoing colonialism. It is an embracing of strength through difference, and a rejection of all forms of oppression. This approach is grounded in the practices of genuine solidarity: we can all be accomplices in the many struggles for freedom. The choice of a blockade and the use of nonviolent direct action also makes sense. It is the right tool for the job. At a time when there is widespread support for endless wars of aggression alongside the U.S. and Australia, direct action is the tactic most effective for creating a material change on the ground. We want to cost the military-industrial complex time and money. We don’t believe in appealing to their “better nature” to do the “right thing.” Capitalism doesn’t work that way; rather, it rewards the greediest and most vicious war-mongers the most.

For more information, visit peaceactionwellington.wordpress.com and aucklandpeaceaction.wordpress.com.

Cardiff

During the year-long organizing leading up to the DSEI actions in London, Welsh anti-militarists demonstrated on March 28 at the annual Defence Procurement, Research, Technology and Exportability (DPRTE) exhibition in Cardiff.

“DPRTE does not deal in the trading of armaments,” one of its spokesmen rationalized. “Instead [it’s] designed to support the vast range of suppliers to the U.K.’s defense procurement industry.”

Unconvinced, about 70 demonstrators were on the street early to greet the merchants and buyers as they arrived. Among them was Deirdre Murphy, a 62-year-old great-grandmother and long-time peace activist. Two days later, she was arrested and charged with two counts of communicating false information on the day of the demonstrations.

Police alleged Murphy had used two downtown pay phones to call in a bomb hoax to police and Media Wales, threatening the Motorpoint Arena where the exhibition was getting underway.

She was released on police bail, and pleaded not guilty at her arraignment on May 30.

Her arrest surprised local arms trade opponents, who nevertheless rallied to her side, packing the court for her October jury trial.

Crown prosecutors played recordings of the calls. In the first, to South Wales Police, a crying woman tells police she thinks there is a bomb in the arena, planted by a friend who worked there as a cleaner. Half an hour later, Media Wales took a call from a woman claiming to represent Radical Action Against War. “We have planted a bomb at the Motorpoint.”

Murphy admitted making the phone calls, but told police when she was arrested, “I just want to say one little brief thing. I think you have arrested the wrong person. I think the people you should have arrested are the arms dealers.”

Representing herself, Murphy told the twelve jurors, “I have been a long-time campaigner against the arms trade and have gone down every avenue available to me to voice my opposition to it. In the early days this was signing petitions, writing to my MPs, leafletting and picketing Parliament and arms companies and the banks who invest in them, going on marches and demonstrations, etc. But I have realized that no one is listening.”

She spoke of how her resolve to resist the arms trade was strengthened after driving an ambulance with medical aid to Gaza in a 2009 humanitarian convoy, and seeing firsthand the aftermath of Israel’s 2008-9 war.

Murphy decried British arms sold by special arrangement to Saudi Arabia, which is using them to wage war on Yemen. British-made bombs have been used to target civilians while fueling famine and disease by destroying infrastructure to the degree that British aid organizations cannot deliver relief supplies.

“All of this leads me to where I am today and why I took the action I did,” she explained.

“...It is an Arms Fair, no matter how the arms dealers try to disguise it. The U.K. Ministry of Defence is directly supplying Saudi and DPRTE is a Ministry of Defence Arms Fair. DPRTE is sponsored and attended by most of the world’s largest arms companies, all of which supply arms currently being used in Yemen...

“I joined about 70 protestors outside the Motorpoint Arena, and from early morning we protested with banners, placards, leafletting and chanting, but, as on other occasions, the arms fair went ahead. After nearly 20 years of protesting against the arms trade, nothing we did seemed to be making any difference.

“On that day, I acted in the only nonviolent way open to me. I acted not out of a desire to do harm but precisely to PREVENT harm to innocent civilians in Yemen and by seeking to get the event peacefully and safely evacuated. I wanted to stop the fair, to stop the selling of arms. That was my intention.”

She told the jury, “I believe with all my heart and mind that war crimes occurred inside the Motorpoint Arena that day,” and she asked that they find her not guilty.

Instead, she was found guilty on both counts, just 15 minutes later. The next day, Murphy was sentenced to three months in jail, suspended for 18 months.

The DPRTE returns to Cardiff’s Motorpoint Arena on March 27, where it will again be met by protest. For more information, visit facebook.com/stopcardiffarmsfair.

Martin Newell was in Birmingham Magistrates Court on February 28 regarding his nonpayment of a fine imposed for his arrest at the DSEI in 2009. The court gave him 28 more days to pay, which he still refuses to do.

For more information, visit www.caat.org.uk and www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk.

Seoul

World Without War in South Korea took several nonviolent actions at ADEX, the Seoul International Aerospace and Defense Show held mid-October at Seoul’s international airport. At the VIP opening reception, STOP ADEX banners were unfurled from a mezzanine, activists chanted and blood-stained dollar bills were scattered on the floor. The activists were all removed by security but no arrests were reported. Inside the hall, a March of Shame moved quietly among the exhibits with posters and banners denouncing the corporate death merchants and their wares.

Brussels

For the fourth year in a row, peace activists confronted delegates to a conference of the European Defense Agency (EDA) in Belgium. More than three hundred arms dealers and their lobbyists were meeting again to promote military solutions to dozens of policymakers who set

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WRITINGS FROM JAIL

THE INSIDE LINE

~ from USP Coleman

February 6, 2018

Greetings, Family, Friends and Supporters,

I am overwhelmed that today, February 6, is the start of my 43rd year in prison. I have had such high hopes over the years that I might be getting out and returning to my family in North Dakota. And yet here I am in 2018 still struggling for my FREEDOM at 73.

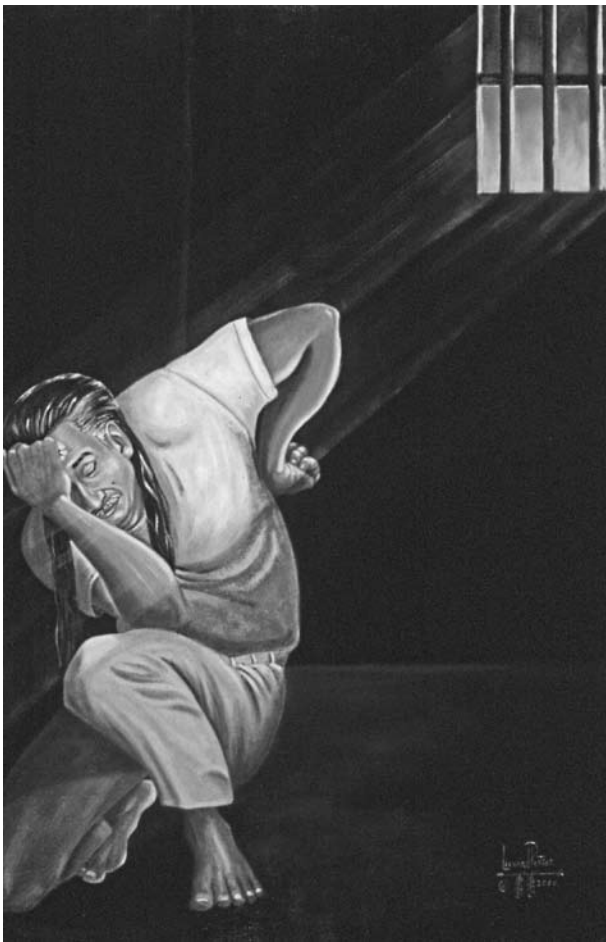
I don't want to sound ungrateful to all my supporters who have stood by me through all these years. I dearly love and respect you, and thank you for the love and respect you have given me.

But the truth is I am tired and often my ailments cause me pain with little relief for days at a time. I just had heart surgery and I have other medical issues that need to be addressed: my aortic aneurysm, that could burst at any time, my prostate and arthritis in my hip and knees. I do not think I have another ten years, and what I do have I would like to spend with my family. Nothing would bring me more happiness than being able to hug my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I did not come to prison to become a political prisoner. I've been part of Native resistance since I was nine years of age. My sister, cousin and I were kidnapped and taken to boarding school. This incident, and how it affected my cousin Pauline, had an enormous effect on me. This same feeling haunts me as I reflect upon my past 42 years of false imprisonment. This false imprisonment has the same feeling as when I heard the false affidavit the FBI manufactured about Myrtle Poor Bear being at Oglala on the day of the fire-fight. A fabricated document used to extradite me illegally from Canada in 1976.

I know you know that the FBI files are full of information that proves my innocence. Yet many of those files are still withheld from my legal team. During my appeal before the 8th Circuit, the former Prosecuting Attorney, Lynn Crooks, said to Judge Heaney, "Your Honor, we do not know who killed those agents. Further, we don't know what participation, if any, Mr. Peltier had in it." That statement exonerates me, and I should have been released. But here I sit, 43 years later, still struggling for my Freedom. I have pleaded my innocence for so long now, in so many courts of law, in so many public statements issued through the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, that I will not argue it here. But I will say again I DID NOT KILL THOSE AGENTS!

Right now I need my supporters here in the U.S. and throughout the world helping me. We need donations large or small to help pay my legal team to do the



original color oil painting by Leonard Peltier

research that will get me back into court or get me moved closer to home or a compassionate release based on my poor health and age. Please help me to go home – help me win my freedom!

There is a new petition my Canadian brothers and sisters are circulating internationally. Please sign it and download it* so you can take it to your work, school or place of worship. Get as many signatures as you can – a MILLION would be great!

I have been a warrior since age nine. At 73 I remain a warrior. I have been here too long... I need your help. I need your help today!...

I remain strong only because of your support, through prayers, activism and your donations that keep my legal hope alive.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse
Doksha,
Leonard Peltier

* You can sign the petition online at bit.ly/2018peltierpetition. If you would like a paper petition please email contact@whoisleonardpeltier.info.

[Leonard Peltier is serving two life sentences, wrongly convicted for the 1975 deaths of two FBI agents while defending traditional indigenous from threats including uranium mining on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.]

NATO 3, CONT.

continued from page 3

importantly, Church's attorney argued that the evidence did not actually show that the NATO 3 had any intention to use the molotov cocktails.

Brent Betterly's attorney made an additional argument that statements of his that were introduced as evidence by the state should have been deemed inadmissible because they were evidence of other acts that the state could not prove actually occurred. During the trial, prosecutors entered dozens of hours of recordings made by undercover officers into evidence. One of the audio clips played in court featured Brent talking about throwing an "acid bomb" at a Sheriff's office in Florida. Betterly's attorney argued that since the event Brent was describing could not be substantiated, it should not have been entered into evidence and used to skew the jury's perception of him. Betterly's attorney closed her comments by reiterating that the evidence was weakest against Betterly, who was completely absent from the recordings in the nearly two weeks leading up to the night the molotovs were constructed by the undercover officers. Additionally, she reminded the court that the government's own evidence showed that Brent was not present when the molotov cocktails were actually made. (He was inside the house while the others were outside.)

The defense for Jay Chase went last. His attorney's arguments concentrated on Chase not having been fit to stand trial due to cognitive and physical disabilities resulting from Huntington's Disease. Chase first began experiencing the effects of the hereditary disease in 2008. Huntington's causes people's physical mobility to gradually decrease until coordinated movement becomes difficult and the person is unable to talk. It also causes cognitive impairments similar to dementia. For people like Chase who are experiencing early-onset Huntington's, the effects are similar to Parkinson's Disease. His attorney argued that the court did not conduct a full fitness hearing and that, if it had, the court would have found him unfit to stand trial. She cited evidence from the case, the court's own comments regarding his deteriorating health, and the fact that he had to be prescribed antipsychotic medication in order to stand trial. The prosecution rebuked these claims with offensive comments about Chase's medical condition.

The defense rested their case with Chase's lawyer bringing up the importance of the First Amendment, stating that "dissent is the highest form of patriotism," and again emphasizing the lack of evidence that the NATO 3 intended to do anything other than protest. The court adjourned and has up to one year to release its decision.



A few days before the appeal was heard, Chase was transferred to a prison closer to Chicago. Letters of support should be sent to Jared Chase M44710, Dixon Correctional Center, 2600 North Brinton Avenue, Dixon, Illinois 61021.

PELTIER, cont.

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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.

His statement on the recent 42nd anniversary of his imprisonment can be found above, The Inside Line.

In October, Dauteuil opened the new International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee office at 116 W. Osborne Ave., Tampa, FL 33606. They are on their way towards a fundraising goal of \$125,000 for a fresh round of legal work to bring long-delayed justice to Peltier. A thorough review of all previous appeals might reveal entirely new grounds on which to base a new petition for *habeas corpus*. Even more promising may be a renewed petition for federal parole. A third possibility is compassionate release, usually reserved for terminally ill prisoners but poor health and a long time already served could be factors in what is in practice a very subjective, case by case decision. The committee is also petitioning to have Peltier moved to a lower security prison and/or closer to home and better equipped to address his medical conditions.

Peltier has donated some of his original paintings to the Committee. The paintings are available for purchase online at the Committee website, along with T-shirts, posters and cards featuring his artwork. For more information, visit www.whoisleonardpeltier.info or call 218-790-7667.



Please write a letter to Warden Charles L. Lockett, USP Coleman 1, P.O. Box 1023, Coleman, FL 33521, to ask why Leonard has not been transferred to a federal prison closer to his home, and ask when he will get surgery for his enlarged prostate as recommended by the specialists, as well as treatment for his hip and knee problems. Notes of support should be sent to Leonard Peltier 89637-132, USP Coleman I, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521.

Resistance Reflections

U.S. Appeals Courts Agree: Facts About Nuclear Weapons can be Kept from Juries in Protest Trials

Judicial Protection Racket Keeps the Bomb Behind a Wall of Silence

by John LaForge, Nukewatch

If you were thinking that civil resistance to the Bomb will be a lot easier now that the United Nations has overwhelmingly approved a treaty ban outlawing nuclear weapons, think again.

Between 1980 and 2005, seven U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal have ruled, some more than once, that federal district courts may (in one case *must*) prevent juries from hearing a defense of necessity or any expert testimony that would support such a defense in nuclear weapons protest cases.¹

By repeatedly upholding lower courts’ granting of the government’s motion *in limine* excluding evidence and testimony about international law, the effects of nuclear weapons, or the nature of the U.S. nuclear arsenal, U.S. appeals courts have declared that defendants, “should not be excused from the criminal consequences of acts of civil disobedience simply because the acts were allegedly directed at international law violations”² (U.S. v. Allen, 1985). And, even more to the point of the new international “Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons,” that: “Even if it were contrary to international law for a nation to possess nuclear weapons, domestic law could properly and does make it a crime ‘to correct a violation of international law by destroying government property’”³ (U.S. V. Urfer and Sprong, 2002). Today, these 15- and 32-year-old decisions appear to be an attempt to proactively and permanently shield nuclear weapons from legal scrutiny, making them sacrosanct forever on a pedestal above the law.⁴

After their symbolic disarmament action on October 6, 2002 at a Minuteman missile launch site in Colorado,⁵ Sr. Ardeth Platte, OP, Sr. Carol Gilbert, OP, and the late Sr. Jackie Hudson, OP, all members of the Dominican Order of Preachers, were convicted of “sabotage” and of “depredation against government property.” Before trial, by court order, the convictions were guaranteed, made inevitable by the trial court’s granting of the government’s motion *in limine* — turning the courtroom drama into a version of a Kabuki dance, the formulaic Japanese stage play noted for elaborate costumes, heavy makeup, and a well-known rote ending. Platte, Gilbert, and Hudson were prohibited from presenting evidence (or jury selection questions, jury instructions, or opening or closing statements) that mentioned the effects of nuclear weapons use or the legal obligations of citizens under international law. The trial court in Denver — evidently having mined every previous federal nuclear weapons protest case for proffered affirmative defenses — forbade the three nuns from:

“any defense based on necessity or violation of international law or that impugns the ... legality ... of the Minuteman III missile system, including” the defenses of “necessity; duress; choice of evils; privilege; justification; ‘Nuremberg’; mistake of law; international law violations; U.S. Army Field Manual violations; International Court of Justice judgment violations; Treaty violations; U.N. Charter violations; Vienna Convention violations; ... Geneva Convention violations; and/or Tokyo Judgment violations.”

The nuns appealed, but in 2005, the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver upheld this all-encompassing exclusion of evidence from the jury.

Matthew Lippman, Professor Emeritus of Law at the University of Illinois at Chicago, has argued that, “Civil resisters typically ... claim that their criminal act was a justified attempt to halt an ongoing governmental illegality.”⁶ The government is, the resisters assert, “intentionally engaging in illegitimate criminal conduct” — nonchalantly called “deterrence” — which is the ongoing public, terroristic threat to commit massacres.

Most of the trial court orders forbidding “necessity” defenses rely on the Chicago-based 7th Circuit’s 1985 decision in U.S. v. Allen, which asserts, in error some would say, “Although their purpose may have been to uphold international law, their action disobeyed the

wholly independent federal law protecting government property.” Independent though federal law may be, it is not superior to or controlling of U.S. treaties, which constitute “supreme law” under the U.S. Constitution. The 7th Circuit’s error, or subterfuge, is obvious and egregious in view of five Supreme Court cases in which U.S. treaty law is declared the “supreme”⁷ law of the land, and therefore controlling of all the rest.

Prof. Lippman says, “By denying protesters the use of the necessity defense, courts merely are ... abdicating their constitutional duty to permit criminal defendants to introduce a defense.” Nowadays, most federal juries are prohibited from learning objective facts from expert witnesses about nuclear weapons — either about their uncontrollable, indiscriminate, and long-term radiological effects, or about what superior/controlling law says regarding individual responsibility for the planning and preparation of massacres. Federal juries only hear what the prosecutor’s military or weapons-building witnesses (so-called “experts”) say in testimony about the Bomb. (Occasionally, federal defendants are allowed to testify about the facts, but their testimony is always dismissed as inexperienced, and coming from potential saboteurs or terrorists.) The government witnesses’ biased, self-interested testimony and “exhibits” — from the perpetrators of the crime being protested — become the only set of “facts” the jury is allowed to consider.

Because of court orders granting these motions *in limine*, federal juries never hear any expert testimony (facts) that contest and even rebut or refute the military’s claims that nuclear weapons are defensive and legal. The reason for excluding these facts is obvious. Ordinary citizens, let alone legal scholars and weapons designers, can easily disprove the nearly axiomatic presumption that nuclear weapons are lawful. Judges at every level of the judiciary all know how easy it is to show that hydrogen bombs are ghastlier and more heinous than all other banned weapons (poison, cluster munitions, land mines, gas) combined.

This is my personal experience as well. In a simple Minneapolis, Minnesota case of trespass against depleted uranium munitions manufacturer Alliant Techsystems, four civilian non-lawyers, myself included, proved to a jury in 2004 that our refusal to leave the company’s premises was an act of justifiable crime-prevention, not criminal trespass. The jury found us not guilty. It is so easy to show that radiological weapons are unlawful — to manufacture, possess or to use — that we established our successful defense of necessity without the help of attorneys.

A legal vacuum into which federal courts allow no air

Binding international treaties in general,⁸ and U.S. Air Force, Navy and Army Field Manuals in particular, all hint at the legality of nuclear weapons by forbidding mass attacks on civilians. In view of the poisonous, indiscriminate, long-term and uncontrollable effects of nuclear weapons, military and international treaty law can be interpreted as having already prohibited them, like other contraband, in a class along with land mines, cluster bombs, biological weapons, and poison gas. Yet federal courts cannot tolerate any airing of these facts — which might prove the Bomb is unlawful — and the “supreme” law can’t be allowed within a jury’s earshot. To protect the bomb from legal scrutiny, federal judges have created a legal vacuum, where the introduction of even the tiniest bit of fresh treaty air would smash their bubble.

So frightened of this puff of air are federal courts that even former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, an expert on treaty law who helped negotiate and steer the U.S. adoption of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, was kept away from the jury in the infamous Y-12 nuclear weapons factory protest case of 2012. (The 6th Circuit Appeals Court in Cincinnati did nullify the three convictions in this case, but not because the trial judge excluded evidence friendly to the defendants in error. The convictions were vacated due to gross over-charging by the government which used the Patriot Act’s draconian

anti-terrorism language against gray-haired pacifist defendants, Sr. Megan Rice, 81, Michael Walli, 63, and Greg Boertje-Obed, 57.)

The courts are so afraid of any expert identification of the Bomb’s unlawful status that in one fantastic case, after a federal judge in Arizona agreed to hear a necessity defense by nuclear weapons protesters, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco rushed in *before trial* to prevent it. Arizona’s U.S. Attorney filed a complaint against the trial judge, in U.S. v. the Hon. Richard M. Bilby,⁹ in which he warned that the defense of necessity would, “divert the focus of the trial,”¹⁰ ... “transforming routine criminal prosecutions ... [in]to broad-ranging and time-consuming inquiries concerning the wisdom of nuclear ... policies...”¹¹ Indeed, “If left uncorrected, the ... order will ... possibly result in the defendants’ acquittal...”¹² A frightening prospect indeed — that the 9th Circuit quickly stifled.

Prof. Lippman notes that, “The judiciary, in ruling on necessity, must concede that the harm created by nonviolent protesters is minor when compared to the potential consequences of a nuclear...war...” But the judiciary habitually obeys appeals court precedents and U.S. Attorneys, one of whom has warned that if the necessity defense were allowed in nuclear weapons cases, “the harm to the government ... would be substantial.”¹³

Of course dozens of lower courts have allowed juries to hear necessity defenses by war resisters, as Lippman has noted, after which juries have returned acquittals. Lippman writes, “In my rather extensive experience, in civil resistance cases in which defendants have been permitted to rely upon the necessity defense, a significant percentage have been acquitted by a jury of their peers.”¹⁴ In U.S. v. Ashton, a judge in 1853 ruled that the crew of a faulty ship was justified by necessity to demand that the captain return to port. They were not bound to continue on a voyage that presented a risk to their lives. Lippman found in Ashton a perfect analogy to our dilemma of being involuntarily conscripted into the “ships’ company” of the nuclear weapons flotilla. “[T]he crew,” the judge said, “have a right to resist, and to refuse obedience.”

“It is time,” as the professor says, “to tear down the Berlin Wall that prevents civil resisters from pleading the necessity defense in an attempt to justify their formally criminal conduct — and to open the judicial politburo to the voices of change.”

Resistance Reflections

by Joy First

continued from page 2

We are at a scary time in history. Trump is a symptom of what is wrong. We have a government that caters to the rich and to corporations and does not seem to care what happens to the masses. The National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance has been planning and carrying out actions of nonviolent civil resistance against the crimes of our government since 2003, but we need many more to join us. We won’t bring change by voting for Democrats because they are part of the system. Just look at Sen. Tammy Baldwin who voted for the \$700 billion for the military and supported the F-35 in coming to Madison. She also gets large campaign contributions from Lockheed Martin and General Electric. Both companies are war contractors.

Our government does not want us to see what is happening overseas in the many wars and military actions, the incredible suffering and death of innocent children, women and men, and the mainstream media is complicit in this coverup. We have to look at alternative sources for our news so we really know what is happening.

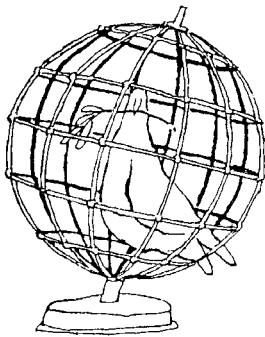
We can’t do anything about the plethora of problems here at home until we bring an end to military exploits abroad. Today, as we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King’s birthday, it is important to think about the triple evils of the U.S. government that he talked about — militarism, racism and poverty. We see these forces in what our government is doing both overseas and here at home, and it is killing us all. We have to take action.

What we need to bring change is active resistance. If you have ever wanted to get involved and do more to bring about a better world, NOW IS THE TIME! We need to demand our members of Congress do what we want them to do and stop catering to the elite. Let’s start a national campaign of occupying their offices. We can do this at their local offices in our home states or we can come to D.C. There has been too much apathy, but if enough people got involved and let members of Congress know we are serious, we could bring change. Please join me and others at the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance. It is up to us. THE PEOPLE HAVE THE POWER AND WE HAVE TO USE IT!

Contact joyfirst5@gmail.com to get involved.

1. The Tenth Circuit, US v. Platte, Hudson, Gilbert, 401 F.3d 1176 (2005); Seventh Circuit, US v. Urfer, Sprong, 287 F.3d 663 (2002), and US v. Haynes, 143 F.3d 1089 (1998); First Circuit, US v. Maxwell, 254 F.3d 21 (2001); Ninth Circuit, US v. Komisaruk, 885 F.2d 490 (1989), and US v. May, 622 F.2d 1000 (1980); Eighth Circuit, US v. Kabat, 797 F.2d 580 (1986); Eleventh Circuit, US v. Montgomery, 772 F.2d 733 (1985); and the Second Circuit, US v. Allen, 760 F.2d 447 (1985).
2. 2nd Circuit, US v. Allen, 1985
3. 7th Circuit, US v. Urfer & Sprong, 2002
4. The government tactic of excluding testimony in political cases using a motion *in limine* was used in prosecuting Tim DeChristopher (“Bidder 70”) who bid \$1.8 million on 22,000 acres of Utah wilderness at an unlawful 2008 BLM oil and gas lease auction, saving the pristine lands. Indicted on two federal felonies, the trial judge disallowed every affirmative defense the attorneys offered and prevented the jury from learning the auction was illegal. See the documentary, “Bidder 70” (<http://www.bidder70film.com/about>).
5. “Sacred Earth & Space Plowshares II,” Oct. 6, 2002 (http://www.jonahhouse.org/archive/space_plowshares.htm).

6. Matthew Lippman, “Towards a Recognition of the Necessity Defense for Political Protesters,” *Washington and Lee Law Review*, Vol. 48 No. 1, Winter 1991, pp. 235-251
7. See *The Paquette Habana*
8. The Hague Conventions ban the use of poison or poisoned weapons; the Geneva Gas Protocol prohibits gas weapons “and all analogous liquids, materials or devices”; the 1977 Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions outlaws weapons that do long-term damage to the environment; the Geneva Conventions forbid indiscriminate attacks, attacks on civilian objects, and reprisals.
9. “Petition for a Writ of Mandamus,” US v. the Hon. Richard M. Bilby, Dist. Judge for the Dist. of Arizona, No. 86, Jan. 23, 1986.
10. Prof. Matthew Lippman, “Towards a Recognition of the Necessity Defense for Political Protesters,” *Washington and Lee Law Review*, Vol. 48, No. 1, Winter 1991, p. 21.
11. *Ibid*, p. 19.
12. *Ibid*, p. 6.
13. *Ibid*, p. 18
14. *Ibid*, p. 249



Nuclear Dump, cont.

continued from page 7
Prefecture offices in more than 70 cities across France.

Five people were held overnight, and two remain in police custody for refusing both DNA sampling and an immediate court appearance before they could review the charges against them. One of them, Aka, is charged with resisting arrest and possession of incendiaries. Laura is charged wth rebellion during the raid on the House of Resistance. Both will be back in court on March 19.

Once the media and the environmental deputy departed, the owls were back in the trees again the next night. The situation remains tense as authorities continue to call for consultations in a context of ongoing surveillance and repression.

Several other court proceedings began this winter. At least two people now await sentencing in April for conviction on charges resulting from the initial occupation of the woods in August, 2016.

A joint press communique from nine of the groups opposing the dump condemned the raid and the hypocrisy of the government. While Environment Minister Nicolas Hulot had declared that dialogue, not “force and brutality,” would mark the way forward on the dump question, he sent the groups an invitation just the day before to meet with his deputy, Sebastien Lecornu. Lecornu arrived in the region right after the raids, where he was filmed walking victoriously with police through the rubble in the woods. The groups rejected the disingenuous invitation, asking,

“Is this the way democracy is practiced? Diplomatic visits, promises of employment and nuclear development on one side, and, simultaneously, brutality and indiscriminate repression of the opposition?... Who is illegal at Lejuc Wood? The occupants of the forest who built a barricade against an insane project that is questioned from all sides, or the authorities who by this incomprehensible evacuation supports this project?”

For more information, visit vmc.camp.



Letters of support can be sent to Laura and Aka, c/o Maison de la résistance, 2 rue de l’Église, 55290 Bure, France. Their status may change after a court appearance on March 19.

Brussels, cont.

continued from page 8
course for European Union (EU) defense.

The Belgian peace group Vredesactie had recently published a report showing how decision-making within the European Union on issues such as security and defense is dominated by the arms industry. In some cases, the European Commission practically copies the advice of the arms lobby. Neither the civil society nor the European Parliament have any substantial say.

The conference took place behind closed doors, away from critical voices. Dozens of peace activists, including a member of the European Parliament, presented themselves at the entrance to the conference on the morning of November 23. They were dragged away by the police to make way for arriving delegates, and seventeen people were arrested. All of the activists were released from custody by 5 p.m., without charges.

Their resistance was part of an ongoing series of public actions to demand No EU Money for Arms Dealers. Two weeks earlier, dozens of EU citizens tried to enter the buildings of the European Parliament with alarm clocks, sirens and bells to wake up the members about their “almost decorative role when it comes to war and peace,” but no arrests were made.

“We are not going to put our security in the hands of the arms industry anyway. That only leads to more arms exports, more violence, more war,” said one of the activists of I Stop the Arms Trade.

For more information, visit www.vredesactie.be.

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

sacred peace walk

The Nevada Desert Experience will again host a Sacred Peace Walk from March 24 – 30. The annual event includes one day of urban walking through Las Vegas and three days in the desert from Las Vegas to the Nevada nuclear weapons test site, including a vigil at Creech Air Force Base along the way. For more information including schedule, preparation, and registration, visit nevadadesertexperience.org/spw or call 702-646-4814.

creech air force base

CodePink will host Drone Resistance Week at the Nevada drone base, April 1 – 7, following the Sacred Peace Walk. Accomodations will be at the Temple of Goddess Spirituality in Cactus Springs

The 4th annual Shut Down Creech event is moving to the fall, September 30 – October 6. The weather then is milder for what is intended to be a larger mobilization. Camp Justice, the action base for Shut Down Creech, will move from across the highway at the base gate to the grounds of the Temple of Goddess Spirituality. Peace and justice groups across the country are invited and encouraged to send at least one representative and to consider co-sponsorship.

For more information about either Creech event, contact Toby Blomé at ratherbenyckeling@comcast.net or Eleanor Levine at eastbaycodepink@gmail.com.

pentagon

The Dorothy Day Catholic Worker in Washington, D.C. invites you to a Holy Thursday (March 29) and Good Friday (March 30) Faith and Resistance retreat and nonviolent witness at the White House and Pentagon. The gathering will start at 1 p.m. on March 29 at the St. Stephen and Incarnation Church auditorium, 1525 Newton St. NW, Washington, D.C., and conclude following a noon-time witness at the White House on March 30. Join in a time of prayer, reflection, community building and acts of nonviolent resistance to commemorate the Last Supper, arrest, torture, trial and crucifixion of Jesus, and what it means for us today. There will be overnight hospitality at St. Stephen’s - please bring bedding and food for a potluck breakfast. For more information, contact the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, (202)882-9649, artlaffin@hotmail.com.

Jeju Island

Nine foreign warships have visited the new navy base on Jeju Island, South Korea. Peace activists who resisted construction of the base and now organize against further militarization of the Peace Island spotted the nuclear-powered and cruise missile-armed USS Mississippi as it arrived on November 22. It was a nuclear first for the island, and unannounced by either the U.S. or South Korean government.

Despite the growing military presence, recent court decisions have been favorable for the vibrant opposition based in Gangjeong village, just outside the navy gate.

A civil suit brought by the navy two years ago demanded about \$3 million from 116 local opponents and five peace groups for the cost of construction delays due to their nonviolent resistance. In December, the court dismissed the suit with the backing of the new government of President Moon Jae-in.

On November 16, the local Jeju court gave “immunity” to former mayor Cho Kyung-chul and Kim Mi-ryang, a villager. “Immunity” means “guilty but no punishment,” a rare verdict.

In April, 2016, while Cho was mayor, the two peacefully blocked a truckload of soldiers who were pointing their guns all around as they drove through the village. The two were convicted of traffic offenses, but the court acknowledged that the protest only occurred because of the gunplay.

In December, the Korean Supreme Court declared an officer of the group Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea (SPARK) not guilty, and affirmed the acquittal of nine more activists arrested in 2012 during raids on the SPARK office in Seoul and staff members’ homes at the height of the anti-base resistance on Jeju. SPARK was playing a major role in nation-wide opposition to the base.

Then on January 11, Mang-gi was fined about \$500 for a series of base protests in 2016, with the local court judge acknowledging conflicts in the village over the base.

For more information, visit savejejunow.org.

livermore

The Ecumenical Peace Institute and the Livermore Conversion Project will offer the annual service of worship and nonviolent witness calling for an end to U.S. development of nuclear weapons on March 30, Good Friday, at 6:45 a.m., at the corner of South Vasco Rd. and Patterson Pass Rd. outside the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab. Following the procession to the main gate observing Stations of the Cross of Empire, there will be music, liturgical dance and opportunity for nonviolent acts of witness. Wheelchair accessible. For more information, visit www.epicalc.org or call 510-990-0374 or 510-654-4983.

poor people’s campaign

Building on the foundation of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s last campaign, a new Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival aims to unite tens of thousands of people across the country to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation and the nation’s distorted morality. Emphasizing state and locally based actions, the Campaign’s Fundamental Principles conclude with the call for “a season of sustained moral direct action as a way to break through the tweets and shift the moral narrative. We are demonstrating the power of people coming together across issues and geography and putting our bodies on the line to address the issues that are affecting us all. The Campaign and all its Participants and Endorsers embrace nonviolence...” The Campaign is actively recruiting participants willing to engage in civil disobedience actions, particularly during 40 days beginning Mother’s Day, May 13. For more information and to sign up, visit poorpeoplescampaign.org.

national security agency

As part of the events marking the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Catonsville 9 draft file burning action, Baltimore activists are planning nonviolent direct action on Sunday, May 6 at the headquarters of the National Security Agency in Laurel, Maryland, site of the last arrest of Catonsville 9 activist, the late Philip Berrigan. For more information, visit catonsville9.org or call 410-480-5256, email info@catonsville9.org.

eurosatory arms expo

The French group Disobedience is planning a nonviolent blockade on June 12 among other protests at the biennial Eurostatory arms exhibition at the Paris-Nord exhibition center in Villepinte. Interested participants should contact remi@desobeir.net, and attend a meeting in Paris on the afternoon of June 2. For more information, visit www.desobeir.net (French).

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Shannon, cont.

continued from page 7
Answering to two courts for a single case looked to him like a form of double jeopardy.

Judge Durcan avoided that issue as he sparred with the defendant, refusing to have his reasoning questioned while offering paternalistic sympathies for the inconveniences. Horgan complained that the extra court appearances were wasteful by themselves, and worse when combined with a bail condition that kept him from visiting Shannon Airport and taking part in regular vigils there. He saw a concerted effort to make the case go on as long as possible in a manner having nothing to do with holding him to account for the graffiti.

When Horgan suggested one might perceive that the court was conniving in such shenanigans, Durcan took it as a public allegation of wrong-doing, and demanded Horgan withdraw the statement. Horgan insisted he was only commenting on appearances, but withdrew the comment anyway.

For more information, visit shannonwatch.com.

Uranium Train
Blockade

While Germany touts a national commitment to phase out nuclear power and promote renewable energy, the country remains at the center of a European network of uranium processing and nuclear fuel fabrication plants that serve the commercial reactors across Europe and elsewhere. The port of Hamburg receives processed uranium ores (“yellowcake”) from Canada, Kazakhstan and Africa, some from ships that also traverse the Kiel Canal across northern Germany. The uranium is shipped by rail to conversion plants in France, by truck and rail back to an enrichment plant in Gronau and then to the fuel fabrication facility in Lingén.

On the rainy evening of October 5, three activists locked themselves onto concrete blocks buried beneath the railroad between Münster and Gronau, blocking a freight train carrying uranium hexafluoride for

Update Files

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI: A charge of disturbing the peace against Steve Jacobs has been dismissed. The Catholic Worker was cited for blasting a mixtape of anti-war songs out the window of St. Francis House as the annual Memorial Day parade arrived across the street...

BANGOR: Four people testified at a hearing in Kitsap District Court on November 2, seeking mitigation of their \$68 fines for demonstrating in the road in front of the nuclear submarine base in Washington state. Judge Kevin Kelly listened attentively as Susan Delaney, Ryan DeWitt, Mack Johnson and Benjamin Moore each explained the reasons for their action. He acknowledged their commitment and sincerity and reduced each of their fines to the minimum \$25...

enrichment. Three more activists blocked the tracks in a similar manner behind the train, halting its progress along the only route to Gronau.

“The uranium enrichment plant has an unlimited operating license and is excluded from the so-called nuclear phase-out. We want to interrupt the uranium processing here,” said one.

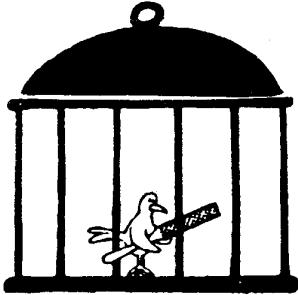
They held the blockade overnight, risking hypothermia, until police finally excavated the blocks to release and remove the activists. The train had been stopped for 17 hours.

The six blockaders face prosecution for violating the liberty of others with their protest.

For more information, visit urantransport.de (German).

Also in October, in Potsdam, climbing activist Cécile Lecomte was fined €500 for violating railway rules. In 2016, Lecomte and another climber suspended themselves with protest banners over the tracks between Hamburg and Bremen, stopping a train loaded with “yellowcake” for three hours on its way to Narbonne, southern France.

For more information, visit nirgendwo.info.



FASLANE: Five people from the peace camp outside Britain’s Trident nuclear submarine base were told there was “no case to answer” for their February 2017 lock-down blockade of the base gate. After an hour of private discussion in Dumbarton Sheriff Court on November 8, the sheriff said that under Scots law there had to be both disruption *and* fear or anxiety caused before a breach of the peace had occurred. And since the five were not scary, they were free to go...

ISRAEL: Nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu was sentenced last summer to two months in jail, suspended, and 120 hours community service for violating the terms of his 2004 release from prison after serving his full 18 year sentence. Vanunu was convicted of talking to foreigners, in particular two U.S. nationals in 2013, without permission from authorities. In September, Norway’s Directorate of Immigration confirmed that permission has been granted for Vanunu to move to Norway to be with his Norwegian wife, theology professor Kristin Joachimsen. The two were married in Israel in May, 2015, but authorities there have steadfastly refused to allow Vanunu to leave the country...

CAPITOL HILL: Ellen Barfield agreed to do 16 hours of community service in exchange for the expungement from her record of her arrest last summer. She spoke out at a Senate hearing against the appointment of Bush-era torture memo author Stephen Bradbury...

PENTAGON: Bill Frankel-Streit and Eric Martin, arrested at the August 9 Nagasaki Day demonstration of repentance, had federal charges of failure to obey dismissed in October...

LIVERMORE: Four dozen people arrested last Nagasaki Day, August 9, at the nuclear weapons lab in California appeared at the local courthouse for arraignment on September 12, only to learn that no charges would be filed...

the Nuclear

Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

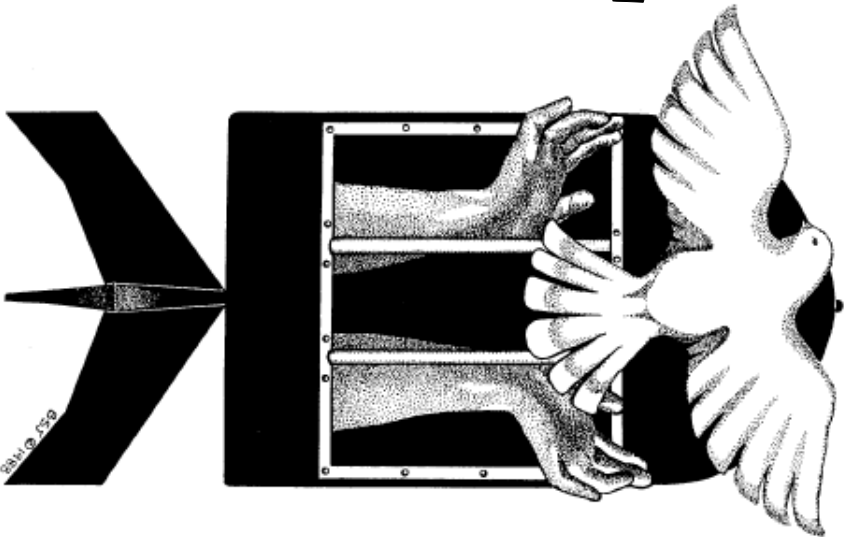
Resisting Drone Wars

The World Says No
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Solidarity Arrests on
Guantanamo Anniversary

French Police Smash
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Prisoner Updates



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ABOUT AND
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