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, 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, Julienne 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 conflict for our citizens.”

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 bail, 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 Bertrian 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 Tobi 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 lie in the Las Vegas massacre with the routine mass killings of U.S. military masses 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 process up to and along Highway 95. A sign was held high over the wedding procession, “USA Wedded To War,” as hundreds...
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 began to teardrop above my glasses 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 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 now right. 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 and I am sure he would be the first to admit that.

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 my five grandchildren live 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 continuing 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 by 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. 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 green peace sign 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 bombing 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 he had been in that same office for the first time in over a year.

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 got some answers and he said he couldn’t give them to us. He said he could give 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 Metropolitan Resistance Center, and from First Mout Horeb, Wisconsin. We were charged with unlawful entry [and await trial, likely this summer].

It was a long, full 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.

WHERE WE’RE AT

The first couple of months of 2018 have been some- what 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 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

During our trip, we spoke with Jack’s mother, Eloise. Sadly, she learned the day after Christmas that she had cancer. She was a wonderful weekend hosting a wonderful weekend 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 Nevada Nuclear Regulatory 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 Nonproliferation 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 next page.

Eloise Starr Joppa

Felice & Jack

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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 Nevada Nuclear Regulatory 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 Nonproliferation 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 next page.

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**February 28 marked 15 years since New York oncologist Dr. Rafil Dhafir was “killed” 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 Islamic 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 military invasion, Dhafir was ensnared by the spread 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 on the day that morning. The very respected physician was taken into custody while his home was searched and all of his business records seized. In the hours 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 at the charity who were also arrested the same day 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 Medicaid 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 his charity, but the multi-count white-collar conviction of a prominent Muslim voice against the war.

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Now, more than three years later, Brent Betterly and Brian Jacob Church have finished their sentences and are out of prison. “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 will be released. Betterly's conviction was removed from their records and Chase could potentially be released sooner. As a result of his poor health, Chase has picked up seven new charges, which were then rebutted by the Illinois Department of Corrections at Dixon Prison during his imprisonment.

The NATO 3 are now represented by the Office of the State Appellate Defender, the public defender’s office in Illinois. Each of the three originally had their own attorney who made distinct arguments, which were then rebutted by the state. The defense focused on challenging the credibility of the undercover officers, who quickly hid them in the house where they were staying and then obtained a search warrant to get them. Later that evening, the home at which the NATO 3 were guests was raided, and the NATO 3 were incarcerated to the Chicago Police Department’s notorious and secretive Homan Square station. After being assessed exorbitant money for the repairs, they remained in Cook County Jail for nearly two years until their trial.

**Letters of support should be sent to Norman Edgar Lowry Jr., KY 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 who 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 Support Committee to Florida 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, most of which he has spent in solitary confinement. For more background about the case of Dr. Rafil Dhafir, visit dhafirtrial.net.

The more than two weeks’ worth of audio recordings that are presented in 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 going 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 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 get them. Later that evening, the home at which the NATO 3 were guests was raided, and the NATO 3 were incarcerated to the Chicago Police Department’s notorious and secretive Homan Square station. After being assessed exorbitant money for the repairs, they remained in Cook County Jail for nearly two years until their trial.

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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 mall to ask the court 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 violent jihad.

Attorney Shelby Sullivan-Bennis, who represents men currently held in Guantanamo, read statements from 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 watchful witness while dressed in orange jump suits 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 at Guantanamo who are still imprisoned on the island fortress – then crossed under the police tape and stepped onto Pennsylvania Avenue. Beth Adams, Ken Jones, Matthew Sabo, Helen Schettiger 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 protest, making it a watchful reminder that the site has been kept ready for a day of prayer, a week in retreat every time I go out. I believe that this is what the creator has in mind for me – a day in prayer, a week in retreat. I have been writing about it since 1978.

“God willing, the next will be on Good Friday,” wrote Martin Luther King Jr. at Lockheed Martin

For more information, visit brandywinepeace.com.

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 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 the 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 of El Centro, which hired 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.

NEVADA NUCLEAR TEST SITE PACIFIC LIFE COMMUNITY

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 to organize and participate in actions against nuclear war. Twenty-four of them were arrested 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-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 Jawoda, OFM. There were excellent presentations from Sr. Arched Platte and Sr. Carol Gilbert on the nuclear weapons ban treaty, and from Leona Morgan, Peter Clark, Eileen Shaughnessy, Denise Brown and Susan Schussman 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 to pray in the desert outside of the boundary fence of the Nevada National Security Site (NNS). Afterwards, they carried signs and banners the short distance to the road leading into the test site, where they joined hands in a circle 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. Arched Platte told the test site/NNSA employees and Nye County Sheriff’s Department 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. Arched’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 the Nevada Test Site and were arrested. The remaining 14 supported the citizen’s arrest by Nye County Sheriff and Leon Morgan, who held the beautiful White House of the Pacific Life Community.

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. The protesters were cited for trespass and were arrested. For more information, visit pacificlifecommunity.wordpress.com.

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 were 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 is what the creator has in mind for me – to witness and speak 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 as agents of violence.

For more information, visit brandywinepeace.com.

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

NEVADA NUCLEAR TEST SITE PACIFIC LIFE COMMUNITY

NEVADA DESERT EXPERIENCE

More than 50 members of the Pacific Life Community converged at the Las Vegas Catholic Worker house from 9-11 a.m. to pray and meditate until they were ticketed for trespass and released with explicit permission to return.

The rally speakers blasted the operation of the U.S. nuclear weapons test site, now known as the Nevada National Security Site (NNS). Their presence is a watchful reminder that the site has been kept ready for 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 – a day in prayer, a week in retreat. I have been writing about it since 1978.

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Holy Innocents Witness at the Pentagon

Braving bitter cold temperatures in the single digits, the community gathered 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 spiritual 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. Their efforts joined the United Nations to secure the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. In their concluding remarks, the presenters 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 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

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.


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. Protesters were also held the same day outside Saudis consulate 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 a plea deal and agreed to pay a fine or perform community service.

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 Iraq and 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 base in Des Moines, Iowa.

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 dmcatholicworker.org.
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 them and their community.

Janet Fenton, David Mackenzie and Jane Tallents safely halted the convoy on the north side of the M9 near the M90 motorway interchange. The activists were removed from the road by police, who gave them a verbal caution and a police report.

The activists are preparing to appeal against the police prosecution.

There have been numerous blockades of nuclear weapons convoys on public roads in Scotland over the past 37 years, with convictions ranging from caution to prison.

Opponents of the global arms tradelock their arms together for one of the blockades that disrupted set-up for London’s DSEI arms exhibition in September, 2018.

Photo by CAAT

William S. Adams

World Says No to Profits from War, cont.

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 EsCo Centre.

Police teams were so busy removing multiple heavy locking devices that the police found it necessary to take a break and recharge their battery-powered portable cutting tools. Another 25 arrests were made during the day, once the activists were removed from the road 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 movement.

Among the handful of arrestees was Cameroonian activist Bernadette Mappa Kouame Agyei, who performed to great acclaim the role of a judge in the All African Women’s Group’s 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 controlled and condemned weapons, but were stopped by police. (Inside the expo the following week, an undercover team of veterans documented a laser weapon on display at a different stand 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 War Merchants on earth. A few more arrests were made.

Jane Fenton, David Mackenzie and Jane Tallents safely halted the vehicles to a standstill as the convoy attempted to leave the base on its way from Atomic Weapons Establishment Faslane on the Firth of Clyde. The activists blocked the doorway and were arrested. The activists are preparing to appeal against the police prosecution.

There have been numerous blockades of nuclear weapons convoys on public roads in Scotland for the past 37 years, with convictions ranging from caution to prison.

Janet Fenton, David Mackenzie and Jane Tallents

Photograph by Carole Caroe

Coup Update

The truck blockade came one month after three people who blocked an arsenal 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 treaty 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 brushed aside police complaints as the “cha-ching” of a cash register, the arms dealers were accompanied by a soundtrack of gunshots and explosions mixed with the “cha-ching” of a cash register, the arms dealers were accompanied by a soundtrack of gunshots and explosions mixed with

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.

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“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 £100 fine, 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 sites, the judge told her she could not impose the £100 fine, 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 sites, the judge told her she could not impose

Sypon and Zelter were convicted of breaching 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 of Chris Maunder “descended into farce when the judge refused to enforce wrong. But slavery was not abolished by Parliament until 1833. The £100 fine, 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 sites, the judge told her she could not impose

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The activists are preparing to appeal against the police prosecution.

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, 2018.

As a ﬁnal, 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 blooded 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 government. How can Scotland plan for the safety of its population when the UK government shows such arrogant disregard for the safety of its citizens and the 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 innocently, that is, 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 the nuclear threat is not a thing of the past, but a present, and the threat to human rights, humanity, only terror and hideous suffering. Let’s all wake up and chase this vile thing from our roads, our lands, our hearts.”

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Police Smash Nuclear Dump Protest Camp

Amidst what one writer called “a quasi-colonial confrontation”, many 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 targeted 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 surrounded treehouse homes in nearby villages to search for and seize properties. 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 nationwide 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 who have lived in the neighboring Lejuc woods since the summer of 2016. Strategically occupying the site of the proposed dump’s ventilation shafts, they then, activists have planted crops and established residency in treehouses and watchtowers to protect the communal woods. While title to the properties remains in dispute, putting any controls at the site on hold, a court last month then evicted the new of the 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.

The five who entered Pine Gap together—Franz Tanter, his father Andy Tanter, Franz Dowling, his father Jim Dowling, and Andy Paine—were arrested after entering the Pine Gap facility in 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 20, 2017. 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 possibility that it provides an opportunity to stop the bombing of Yemen. He wasarraigned for a sentence in the coming weeks.

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

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The judge said that in his judgement, Daniel Woodhouse and Sam Walton stand outside the courthouse with their barriers, one NG Chrise’s, much of U.K. foreign policy. It is time for the government to stop putting arms companies 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 do more to prevent the bombing of Yemen.

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

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 airfield base in an attempt to disrupt the flight of 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 human life.

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, asking for no violence, for example, the destruction of the warplanes.

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. Thousand 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 much of U.K. foreign policy. It is time for the government to stop putting arms companies 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 do more to prevent the bombing of Yemen.”

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 Peacemakers, including a fourth added co-complainant, 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.

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, Colin Roddy and Dave Donellan, 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.
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 Assistance Association exhibition was held this year at the Westpac Stadium in Wellington. For the third year in a row, it was disrupted by protest.

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 organized 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 city, 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 across the ramp. The build-up continued from page 6

By 5 a.m., about 300 people were on hand, prepared for a day of active blockades. More gates were blocked as they spread out along a half-mile of public footpath behind the stadium around the car parks.

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 on the already 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 under-estimated: they regrouped, blockading the road around the bus. Police arrested six people who they claimed were blocking the 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 few people had broken bones and 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 exhibition, October 10, 2017.

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

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 safety leaving 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 did not 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 butchering 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 state violence. This 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 appeasing to the whole scale of the state to do the ‘right thing.’ Capitalism doesn’t work that way; rather, it rewards the greediest and most vicious war-mon- gers the most.”

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

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 caat.org.uk and www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk.

Seoul

World Without War in South Korea took several actions, in Seoul on October 6, against the Aerospace and Defense Show held mid-October at Seoul’s international airport. At the VIP opening reception, STOP ADEX banners were unfurled from a zeppelin, 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 mobile gate or bus load 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 sales and to avoid the legal restraints of policies of European Union member states.

During the year-long organizing leading up to the DSEI actions in London, Welsh anti-militarists demonstrated on or near its Every week of 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] is designed to support the vast range of suppliers to the U.K.’s defense procurement industry.”

Unconvincing, about 70 demonstrators were on the street early to greet the merchants and buyers as they arrived. Among them was an 80-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 held.

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 7 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, a police woman claimed 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 wanted 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 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, leafleting 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 aid 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 the 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 having any real effect.

“On that day, I acted in the only nonviolent way open to me. I acted out of a desire to do harm but precisely to PREVENT harm to innocent civilians in Yemen and by seeking to prevent peacefully and safely evacuated people from being driven out of the arena.

“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 all the more so that they find out not about my presence.

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/stopacardiffarmsfair.
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 impact 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 Ogala on the day of the fire-fight. A fabricated document used toextradite 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 have had 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 and in this through the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, that I will not argue it. But I will say again I DID NOT KILL THEM. 

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 research that will get me back into court or get me moved closer to home or a compassionate release based on my poor health. 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/201Spelterpetition. If you would like a paper petition please email contact@whoisleonardpeltier.info.

[Leonard Peltier is serving two life sentences, wrongly 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 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 entirely 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 to be 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 35321, 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 89657-132, USP Coleman L, P.OB 1033, Coleman, FL 35321.

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Finally, based on his experience with this and a protest coming up this at protest at BIW, Billings said that Bat’s city ordinances leave it vulnerable to legal challenges. 

“It’s clear to me at both of these trials that the City of Bat needs to consider the legal standards that applies to this kind of activity. The City of Bat has no ordinances, has no standards, that govern protests on city streets. That law enforcement is given unfettered discretion… There has to be standards if law enforcement is going to deny access to city streets.”

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Bath Judge Blasts City and Police, Throws Out Protest Case

Nine people arrested during a protest at the christening of a warship at Bath Iron Works (BIW) in Maine last April were declared not guilty by a superior court judge before the jury could hear their defense. Justine Daniel Billings granted the customary defense stay of arrest for acquittal after the prosecution rested its case. It would have been enough for Billings to simply state that the prosecution failed in their duty to present sufficient evidence of the alleged trespasses. But, as reported in the Court Journal, he took the city of Bath and its police to task, as well. 

“Ultimately, what it comes down to for the court, is that these defendants were denied access to BIW property, because immediately before approaching BIW property, they were engaged in lawful political expression across the street,” said Justice Billings. 

“They weren’t ordered to step aside and let others enter; they weren’t ordered to remove their signs; they were simply ordered to leave a property that – at that time – was open to the public.” 

Billings first singled out Bath Police Lt. Robert Savary for his behavior, particularly his arrest of Jason Rawn.

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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 Lafountain, Nukewatch

If you were thinking that civil resistance to the Bomb will ever be subject to any kind of fair treatment by federal courts, then you have not been paying attention to what the United States Supreme Court has been doing over the last several years. The Supreme Court has announced that it will not hear any case dealing with the constitutional right to present evidence about the facts of nuclear weapons. As Justice Lippman has written, in my rather extensive experience, the courts are so afraid of any expert identification of a nuclear fact that they transform routine criminal prosecutions … into an instrument to avert the words of the operative acts.

In 1981, the U.S. Supreme Court decided in United States v. Moore that “facts about the facts” that mentioned the effects of nuclear weapons use are “so-called "experts" say in testimony about the Bomb.” The Supreme Court ruled that it was a “fact” that nuclear weapons are defensive and legal and that the statute violated the First Amendment’s free speech guarantee.

The government tactic of excluding testimony in political cases is a version of a Kabuki dance, the formulaic Japanese stage learning the auction was illegal. See the documentary, “Bidder 70”

In the United States, federal juries never hear any expert testimony (so-called “experts”) say in testimony about the Bomb.

For many years, the federal courts have been excluding evidence about the facts of nuclear weapons.

In 1985, the Tenth Circuit, US v. Platte, Hudson, Gilbert, 401 F.3d 1176 (1985); and the Second Circuit, US v. Allen, 760 F.2d 447 (1985). Order of Preachers, were convicted of “sabotage” and of “deprivation against government property.” Before trial, by federal law, the pre-trial motions to exclude expert testimony about international law, the effects of nuclear weapons use and treaty violations; … Geneva Convenitions forbid indiscriminate attacks, on civilians, groups, property. Indicted on two federal felonies, the trial judge disallowed every motion

The most of the trial court orders forbidding “necessity” defenses rely on a Chicago-based 7th Circuit’s 1985 decision in U.S. v. Allen, which asserts, in error some would say, that the government can get away with excluding federal law, their action disobeyed the whole independent federal law protecting government property.”

In the late 1960s, a group of anti-war protesters by the name of the Peace Corps, who were organizing their own tactical awareness, started to question the war in Vietnam and the policies of the US government. They began to organize protests and to work with local communities to bring attention to the injustices of the war. One of the key issues they raised was the human cost of the war, including the thousands of civilian lives lost and the destruction of their homes and communities. The protesters also highlighted the role of the US government in funding and supporting the war, and they called for an end to US military involvement.

One of the inspirations for these protests was the idea of nonviolent resistance, which was rooted in the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and other peace activists. Nonviolent resistance involves using peaceful methods to bring about social and political change. The protesters believed that nonviolent resistance was the only way to effectively challenge the war and to achieve lasting peace.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Peace Corps became an important part of the anti-war movement. The protesters organized protests and demonstrations, worked with local communities to bring attention to the war, and engaged in civil disobedience to challenge military policies. They faced legal challenges, including charges of violating federal laws and being subject to civil restraining orders. However, they continued to organize and mobilize, and their efforts helped to raise awareness about the war and to bring about change.

In the 1970s, the anti-war movement continued to grow and to organize protests and demonstrations. They faced legal challenges, including charges of violating federal laws and being subject to civil restraining orders. However, they continued to organize and mobilize, and their efforts helped to raise awareness about the war and to bring about change.

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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 with rebellion against public order. Police cleared the raid on the Home of Resistance. Both will be back in court on March 19.

Several other court proceedings began this winter. At least two people took place in court 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 trial and the hypocrisy of the government. While Environment Minister Nicolas Hulot had declared that dialogue, not “force and brutality,” was necessary before a verdict, on the day of the verdict, he sent the groups an invitation just the day before to meet with his deputy, Sebastien Leccorn. Leccorn arrived with the police in the raid, 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 on the other? ... Who is left with the right to decide on the future of the forest and 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.

Jeju Island

Nude foreign worshippers have visited the new naval base on Jeju Island, South Korea. Peace activists who resisted construction of the base and now organize against further US base construction in the area called the nuclear-powered and cruise-missile-armed USS Mississippi as it arrived on November 22. It was a nuclear first for the island, and announced 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 joint press communique from nine of the groups for the cost of construction delays and five peace groups for the construction of the base and now organize against further US base construction in the area called the nuclear-powered and cruise-missile-armed USS Mississippi as it arrived on November 22. It was a nuclear first for the island, and announced by either the U.S. or South Korean government.

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As part of the events marking the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Vietnam War, Baltimore activists are planning nonviolent direct action on Sunday, May 6 at the headquarters of the National Security Agency, at the National Security Agency site, 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.

Jeju Island continued from page 8

The Belgium peace group Vredesactie 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 are invited and justice groups across the country are invited and encouraged to send at least one representative and to consider co-sponsoring the event.

For more information about either Creech event, contact Toby Blomé at ratherbenycycling@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 nonviolent witness at the White House and Pentagon pew. The gathering will start at 1 p.m. on March 29 at the St. Stephen and Incarnation Church auditorium, 1525 Newswall 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, arrlfr@gmail.com.

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euroatory arms expo

The French group Disobedience is planning a nonviolent blockade on June 12 among other protests at the biannual Eurosatory arms exhibition in Center 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).
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 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 Hamburg, a group of 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 seen three times for 17 hours.

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

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