BOMB FACTORY TIED TO DEATH OF YEMENI STUDENTS BLOCKADED BY SCHOOL BUS

Last August, news reports confirmed that a school bus in Yemen had been hit by the Saudi Arabian coalition, precision-guided bombs, killing 40 schoolboys and adults. It was the latest in a series of bombing raids that have created a fog of death in northern Yemen. In the weeks leading up to the war, hundreds of civilians, including children, have been killed in similar attacks.

In Yemen, the war has taken a heavy toll, with thousands of civilians, including children, killed. The conflict has led to a severe humanitarian crisis, with millions of people facing food shortages and disease.

As the conflict continues, there is growing concern about the use of precision-guided bombs in Yemen. These weapons are designed to target specific military targets, but they have also caused widespread civilian casualties. The United Nations has called for an immediate halt to the use of such weapons in Yemen.

The bombing of the school bus in Yemen is just one example of the devastating impact of the war on civilians. The United Nations has estimated that more than 20,000 civilians have been killed in the conflict, and millions more have been displaced from their homes.

Despite these estimates, there has been little international action to address the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. The United States, which has been a key player in the conflict, has continued to support the Saudi-led coalition, despite evidence that it has violated international law.

The bombing of the school bus in Yemen is a reminder of the devastating impact of the war on civilians. The United Nations and other international organizations must do more to address the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, and to hold the parties to the conflict accountable for their actions.
by Martha Hennessey
from The Catholic Worker

We hear that thirty thousand undocumented immigrants are now wearing an ankle monitor, today’s electronically protected person. People are being sent to jail on charges of monitoring their monitors, on charges of violating the many complex “rules” they live under while wearing a supposedly governmentally-imposed obedience training program given a clean bill of health with no further follow-up care. I am a member of the group of defendants of the Kings Bay Plowshares, part of a movement of nonviolent anti-nuclear and anti-war activists. Readers are encouraged to provide activism tips by writing to those behind bars and in other ways requested by the prisoners.

In my other workplace and residence, at Maryhouse, I go untethered in the heart of New York Sin City. Maryhouse, run by the CW (Catholic Worker) from the beginning, is available on microfilm as part of the Al-Though it is critical to note that the Nuclear Resister is published about every three months and not monthly as tradition may imply. Nevertheless, I cheerfully spend my Sunday mornings with my sprawling crowd of children, some of the groupDefinition of ankle monitor

A Washington D.C. based organization called “Equal Justice Under The Law” reports on the criminalization and exploitation of the poor in this latest round of using technology to profit from people’s pain. It is a multi-million dollar business bringing in revenues to a select few venture capitalists. Victims are charged daily fees “for enrollment” that add up to $1,000 a month. The question is now being asked whether these companies are violating federal racketeering laws. There is also a suit being brought in North Carolina considering whether in essence the ankle monitors violate the concept of conducting a legal search.

Mark Colville (Amistad Catholic Worker, Connecticut) writes about why he decided to recently return to the Glynn County Detention Center after three months at home with an ankle monitor for period of time. It is easy to be seduced by the sun “and ‘Nuclear power? No thanks”. Peace, Felice and Jack

Thanks

Thanks to Bill, Rosemary, Kim, Gretchen, Jim, Betty, Charlotte, Cindy, Richard, Paige and Faith for helping to mail the last issue and to Ruth for proofreading assistance. Thanks also to our Friend Dwight, owner of the Gloo Factory (Tucson’s community-minded union print shop), for donating the printing of the Nuclear Resister’s end-of-the-year fund appeal and reply cards. You should check the Gloo Factory out online. Your support is important!

We hear that thirty thousand undocumented immigrants are now wearing an ankle monitor, today’s electronically protected person. People are being sent to jail on charges of monitoring their monitors, on charges of violating the many complex “rules” they live under while wearing a supposedly governmentally-imposed obedience training program given a clean bill of health with no further follow-up care. I am a member of the group of defendants of the Kings Bay Plowshares, part of a movement of nonviolent anti-nuclear and anti-war activists. Readers are encouraged to provide activism tips by writing to those behind bars and in other ways requested by the prisoners.

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A trial date has still not been set in the case of the Kings Bay Plowshares, seven Roman Catholic nuclear disarmament activists facing federal felony charges for their religious act of entering the Kings Bay Trident submarine base in Georgia. The court in Brunswick, Georgia is expected to set a date until it rules on an motion that was the subject of a two-day hearing in pro se pre-trial hearings in November. That ruling may not come until the new year.

The court did rule against relaxing the conditions of release now compelling the four defendants out on bond to wear ankle monitors and observe curfew – Clare Grady, Martha Hennessey, Patrick O’Neill and Carmen Trotta. The judge told them that civil disobedience actions last spring under the banner of the Poor People’s Campaign include a few more accounts of civil disobedience actions last spring under the banner of the Poor People’s Campaign.

Jeanine Hill Fletcher, a Fordham University theology professor, reviewed Catholic teachings from the writings of Popes and bishops in the early 20th century. She shared her personal experience since participating in the 1983 Griffiss Plowshares action. She recounted her trial for the 1983 Griffiss Plowshares action, which resulted in a five-year prison sentence.

In Maryland, Ellen Bartfield, a member of Veterans for Peace, pleaded guilty in November and was sentenced to 24 hours of community service for her arrest during the Poor People’s Campaign. The judge told her that civil disobedience is a tragedy as the person who commits it would still be sitting on the back of the bus without it.

Letters of support should be sent to Leonard Peltier 8906 132, PO Box 1033, Coleman, 33521. A new mail policy was instituted at Coleman last spring. General correspondence must be on white paper. No colored paper can be accepted. No drawings or writings in crayon or marker. General correspondence with fragrance or with labels for either recipient or sender will be rejected. Postage stamps will be removed from all incoming mail. All “homemade” business and commercial greeting cards will be rejected.
More than a generation after his father presided over the last comparable case from the Nevada nuclear weapons test site, Nye County Justice of the Peace Gus Page-Collogne issued a guilty of trespass for crossing the boundary line in protest of the United States’ continuing commitment to nuclear weapons.

On October 8, Mark Kelso, Marcus Page-Collogne and Brian Terrell were arrested when they stepped across the weapons test site, Nye County Justice of the Peace Gus Page-Collogne was jailed for a few hours and released pending his December 3 trial. Terrell tells the full story of the October 8 action in the accompanying article below.

Testifying for the defense at the December 3 trial was the current chief of the Western Shoshone Nation, Johnny Bobb. He told the court that for decades his tribe has granted permission for demonstrators to “Come, and Brian Terrell were arrested when they stepped across the Nevada desert test site several times each year, usually with our claiming right to traverse the area, maintain existing telegraph lines and corral and issued a misdemeanor “Notice to Appear” citation with no appearance date filled in. They were informed that no charge would be filed. Detainees who had no identification, who refused to identify themselves or even offered frivolous names were also released, as were those who presented permits to enter Western Shoshone land issued by their National Council.

In August, 2018, a representative of the Sheriff’s Department informed the Nevada Desert Experience (NDE), of the change in policy. From now on, protesters who present permits from the Western Shoshone Nation however, is operating these crimes against humanity than harassing law-abiding protesters. This site is the place on the planet that has endured the most lethal atomic blasts than any other and so will be poisoned for countless centuries, even if Yucca Mountain (at the western edge of the NNSN) does not become the repository for nuclear waste. While there have been no actual detonations there since 1992, there are still “subcritical” tests done and that is how we determine the viability of the United States’ aging nuclear arsenal. Plans also still exist to resume testing at Area 5 of the NNSN, should any U.S. President order such. The NNSN is opposed not only to the Treaty of Nuclear Test Ban but against the United Nations Charter and other international agreements that according to the U.S. Constitution, protect the land. The treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons adopted by the United Nations last year makes it a crime to “develop, test, produce, or stockpile nuclear weapons.”

If on December 3, Judge Gus Sullivan of the Beatty Township Justice Court rules according to the law he is sworn to uphold, the District Attorney will be admonished never to file such obviously frivolous charges in that court again. But, however, is rarely seen in our courts and this reasonable outcome is not expected, to at least not the first time such a case is heard there in more than 50 years. But, what if in the coming months, dozens, hundreds, even thousands show up at the Test Site as in the past, packing the Beatty Township Justice Court, and the District Attorney then publicize or bank on it as we do when the Western Shoshone National Council take to court the government and the lab’s nuclear violence
called the “arrest” will no longer be the ritual no risk of arrest. Second, anyone entering the site with a Western Shoshone permit AND a photo ID such as a driver’s license or a state ID will no longer be the ritual of trespassing and the District Attorney will be admonished never to file such obviously frivolous charges in that court again. But, however, is rarely seen in our courts and this reasonable outcome is not expected, to at least not the first time such a case is heard there in more than 50 years. But, what if in the coming months, dozens, hundreds, even thousands show up at the Test Site as in the past, packing the Beatty Township Justice Court, and the District Attorney then publicize or bank on it as we do when the Western Shoshone National Council take to court the government and the lab’s nuclear violence? Not just in court but in the streets and in the desert for the week or join us on Good Friday and the Sacred Peace Walk embraces the witness and mark our plight. Our people are confused and hopeless. There are no promises of outcome beyond educated guesses in this proposal. It would be a step forward in the justice movement and a time of demands of at least some of us and the more who show up, the more fun it will be!

Long time protester and prophet Bill Berrigan has been speaking to our present dilemma when he offered that, “In this morally polluted atmosphere, we believe that imprisonment could hardly be more a waste. We should under the blows of a society permanently mobilized against peace. Duplicitly, propaganda, media indifference, institutional betrayal mark our plight, our protests have lived a life of repetition and are hopeless. Let us not give up. Let us continue to nourish each other by consistent and prayerful presence at military installations, in courts and lock ups. We are looking for a way to be free enough to go to jail. We need to fill up the jails. Nonviolent revolution will come out of the wilderness, as it always has. And be assured, dear friends, one form or another victory today is the American prison.”

Nevada Desert Experience is a faith based movement and the Sacred Peace Walk embraces the witness and worship of many traditions and of those who identify themselves with none. Walk and camp with us through the desert for the week or join us on Good Friday morning for a commital act of nonviolent resistance. For more information on how to join, please contact the Nevada Desert Experience photo

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**An Invitation from the Nevada Desert Experience,**

by Brian Terrell

November 1, 2018

On Indigenous People’s Day, formerly known as Columbus Day, 2018, Nye County, Nevada prosecutors and Sheriff’s deputies ended a three decades old policy concerning arrests of protesters at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSN), formerly known as the Nevada Test Site, 60 miles from Las Vegas.

From 1986 through 1994, two years after the United States put a hold on full-scale nuclear weapons testing, 536 anti-nuclear peace demonstrations were held at the Nevada Nuclear Test Site. Participants who accessed government records, 15,740 arrests were made, but starting in 1987, the Sheriff’s Department, motivated in part by the law enforcement officers, stopped counting. A few days later, on October 11, the Nye County District Attorney’s Office, they are the legal authority to enforce those laws.” The Nye County District Attorney did not respond to several inquiries for comment.

For more information, visit nevadadesertexperience.org.
Dhafir Back in Solitary Confinement

Just before Thanksgiving, Rafil Dhafir was unexpectedly moved to isolation in the Special Housing Unit (SHU) at the federal prison in Ayer, Massachusetts, where he has been held for more than six years. After more than a week of silence, concerned family members who work to hear from him almost daily by phone or email reached out to his support committee and attorney. Support committee members wrote and phoned the prison to express their concern, and his attorney was told by Dhafir’s caseworker that he was placed in isolation pending an investigation of a “serious” incident. In later conversation with the secretary of the support committee, the caseworker reported that Dhafir’s telephone access had been restored by December 12, and the investigation should be resolved within a week. A similar allegation a couple of years ago led to two months of isolation and proved to be groundless harassment.

Dr. Rafil Dhafir is an oncologist whose charity to his native Iraq in the 1990s ran afoul of U.S. sanctions imposed after the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He was arrested and denied bail on the eve of the 2003 invasion of Iraq, slandered as a funder of terrorists for his charity then convicted for violating the sanctions and additional Medicare fraud charges based on disputed claims that totaled a fraction of his acknowledged philanthropy. A summary of his case can be read at bit.ly/DhafirSummary.

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.

Beale, cont.

continued from page 1

Shirley Ogood were then released to face misdemeanor charges from a March 31, 2017 blockade at a notorious landfill holding Manhattan Project radioactive waste. Before dawn that morning, members of the Earth Defense Coalition and Soulfire Caravan blocked two entrances to the West Lake and Bridgeton landfills in Bridgeton, Missouri by locking themselves together through large filled barrels, and remaining there for more than 20 months. A group of Missouri activists are still awaiting trial on multiple criminal charges from a March 31, 2017 blockade at a notorious landfill holding Manhattan Project radioactive waste. Before dawn that morning, members of the Earth Defense Coalition and Soulfire Caravan blocked two entrances to the West Lake and Bridgeton landfills in Bridgeton, Missouri by locking themselves together through large filled barrels, and remaining there for more than 20 months.

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The West Lake landfill is managed by an Environmental Protection Agency Superfund site where uranium processing waste was illegally dumped in the 1970s by the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works. Neighbors have long demanded that it be removed from the site lest a long-smoldering fire only a quarter mile away at the neighboring Bridgeton landfill spread and risk more widespread contamination. Community groups contended the EPA process lacks teeth and have pressed for the investigation to be resolved within a week. A similar allegation a couple of years ago led to two months of isolation and proved to be groundless harassment.

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Palmerston North

Peace activists in New Zealand have their country’s arms industry on the run. A few years of solid community organizing and an agreement that a consistent nonviolent direct action drove the industry’s annual expo out of Auckland in 2016, and then out of Wellington’s Western Springs Park in 2017. Now a movement followed it this year to Palmerston North, between the two larger cities on the North Island.

When the move to Palmerston North was announced after Wellington’s government bowed to public pressure and pulled their 20 years of support, Peace Action Manawatu was organized in that area by local activists. They began building community alliances and organizing a Week of Peace activities that concluded with two days of direct action to shut down the New Zealand Defense Industry showcase event, which took place October 31 and November 1.

The group successfully challenged the city council to discuss its own ethical venue policy for city-owned properties. The planning committee was consistent with Palmerston North’s reputation as a Peace City. It was exposed that the mayor had agreed to host the event without any council input, and that he also sought to hide his communications with event organizers by directing them to contact him only by telephone.

From this and the Auckland and Wellington experiences, organizers knew that, “Peace is not just about saying we don’t like war and killing. It is about taking direct and effective action to stop those who profit from waging war. That is what our work to stop the Weapons Expo is about: we want a movement big enough and strong enough to shut this down Expo, because those in power are not doing to do it for us.”

The tactics of choice for countering the event were nonviolent direct action that sought to delay, disrupt and otherwise deny entry to delegates seeking to attend the conference. On day one, fences and gates of a temporary roadway that illegally closed access to nearby businesses were torn down by protesters and laid across the road.

This was followed by rolling blockades of delegate buses and occupying delegate entry gates. These blockades delayed the start of the conference by about three hours. Police arrested eight people on charges of obstruction or disorder, and rioting or assault. The eight were released with a warning, and one of those charged with assault took the option of diversion from prosecution when she came to court.

After the morning blockades, hundreds of people joined a vibrant march with giant puppets and painted faces from the city square to the venue. The march was arranged as a space for refugees, families and more vulnerable people to take the lead. Halloween, halloween, halloween, Witches and Warlocks party for kids included their own march around the venue.

Burghfield

Chris Bluegen, one of the last to be cut free, said, “Although it’s been very uncomfortable sitting in the same position with my arm in a drainpipe all day, it’s a small sacrifice when we hear that the entire planet is being put at risk by the abandoning of the INF treaty. Instead the weapons states should be signing up to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons. If we have disrupted business as usual on the U.K.’s nuclear warhead refurbishment program in even the smallest way, it’s been worth it.”

For more information, visit tridentploughshares.org.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

The Gangjeong Village Association opposed the fleet review, which was more of a warning, and one of those charged with assault took the option of diversion from prosecution when she came to court.

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Jeju Island

(adapted from Choi Sung-hee’s report in Gangojeong Village Story and Facebook posts) While mines were being removed in the Korean Demilitarized Zone to carry out the will of the September 19 Inter-Korean Summit meeting, Jeju, the World Peace and Renewal and the Treaty.

With that bus stopped, demonstrators moved in heavy rain before police crews came down when police finally reached them and were able to cut through the lock-down devices and re-open a way in. Supporters held banners and leafletted workers and others caught up in the traffic were informed about the nonviolent direct action.

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Bure

Photo surveillance, vehicle tracking, cell-phone taps, roadblocks, repeated document and DNA checks, home raids, harassment on the streets and arrests continue to affect not only opponents of France’s planned underground nuclear waste dump in the northern district of Meuse, but also the residents of nearby rural villages. Some lockdown opposition organizations and can no longer perform their duties without risking punishment.

On September 27, the old train station at Lumeville, now a resistance collective, was raided by police. Residents were handcuffed and identities checked before most were released. On October 8, the House of Resistance in Bure was raid again, the ninth time in a year. Police broke down the door, awakening and detaining residents for hours while checking identities in search of a banned “malfactor.”

On October 16, more than 100 police lined the hand and charred medieval house in Bar-le-Duc, where thirteen people were on trial. Seven cases were adjourned until February, 2019. Several supporters were ejected from the courtrooms for protesting against the police and some UK-based opposition organizations, including one that proceeded without the defendant because his lawyer had not been informed, and was also unprepared.

House raids continued in December, with two more occurring outside the village of Mandres-en-Barrios. Residents were interrogated about an “unauthorized gathering,” while computers and phones were seized for evidence of conspiracy.

Logan Schneider (AKA Logici Citation), a 23-year-old French national active in the nuclear dump opposition who was jailed for participating in demonstrations protesting the French weapons states’ renewal and the Treaty. Seventeen people were on trial, three cases were adjourned until February, 2019. Several supporters were ejected from the courtrooms for protesting against the police and some UK-based opposition organizations, including one that proceeded without the defendant because his lawyer had not been informed, and was also unprepared.

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Loïc Schneider (AKA Loïc Citation), a 23-year-old French national active in the nuclear dump opposition who was jailed for participating in demonstrations protesting the French weapons states’ renewal and the Treaty. Seventeen people were on trial, three cases were adjourned until February, 2019. Several supporters were ejected from the courtrooms for protesting against the police and some UK-based opposition organizations, including one that proceeded without the defendant because his lawyer had not been informed, and was also unprepared.

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feast of the holy innocents
washington, d.c.

Join members of the Atlantic and Southern Life Communities and other peacemaking friends December 25, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. to pray for the safety of the Holy Innocents. Peaceful witnesses to commemorate the Massacre of the Holy Innocents, past and present. Please arrive by 1:00 p.m. Thursday, December 27 at the Baptist Dimgan Catholic Witness Vigil, 333-2180, Iowa City. Retreat reflection and direct action planning continues at 9:00 a.m. Friday and concludes with direct action witness at the Iowa National Guard Armory, 3000 McKinley Ave. If you need a bed, call ahead. If you want floor space, bring a bed roll. For more information, contact Frank Cordaro, frank.cordaro@gmail.com, 515-490-2490, or Jakob Whitson, jakobwhitson@gmail.com, 783-340-2458.

Update Files, cont.

continued from page 8

HANCOCK FIELD II: Updating a five-year-old case, Mary Anne Grady Flores’ appeal of her conviction for violating a 2012 order of protection for the then-base commander resulted in the dismissal of the case by theAppeal court and may not be decided until 2020. In the spring of 2016, Grady Flores served 49 days of a six-month sentence before being released on appeal. Her appeal challenges the inappropriate use of an order of protection to further criminalize nonviolent protest at the base.

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY: Ellen Bartfield and Mary Anne Grady Flores were in court in Ft. Meade, Maryland on December 13, expecting to be arraigned on charges from their arrest last May, when they tried to deliver a letter of protest to a conference held by the top-secret spying agency’s director. During discussion with the prosecutor before her case was called, the defendants made it clear they were demanding extended discovery before trial. After stepping aside, presumably for a brief consultation with his office, the prosecutor suddenly dismissed the charges. Extended discovery during a National Security Agency protest trial a few years ago led to the disclosure of widespread surveillance of peace groups by the Maryland state police. post-9/11.

Paris

Three women from the notorious topless protest group FEMEN were on hand to greet the U.S. President’s motorcade as it passed the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, en route to ceremonies on November 10 marking the centenary of the end of World War I. On the same day, two more women at the French nuclear waste agency, ANDRA. Schneider attacked the agency’s director. During discussion with the prosecutor before her case was called, the defendants made it clear they were demanding extended discovery before trial. After stepping aside, presumably for a brief consultation with his office, the prosecutor suddenly dismissed the charges. Extended discovery during a National Security Agency protest trial a few years ago led to the disclosure of widespread surveillance of peace groups by the Maryland state police. post-9/11.

büchel air base

The German Nuclear Weapons Free Now campaign will host their annual 20-week presence outside the Büchel air base from March 26 – August 9. Nonviolent resistance actions including vigils, blockades, de-enclosings and go-ins will be conducted seven days a week, and twice a week in July, including the International Action Camp July 8-16. U.S. activists are invited to come and demand the bombs be sent back to the U.S. where they came from. A major action by religious abolitionists will take place on July 7, the anniversary of U.N. approval for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Plans to stay for several days for repeat go-ins and possible short-term detention. For more information and to sign an international Declaration of Solidarity (if you can’t attend), visit www.buechel-atombombenfrei.de

midwest catholic worker
faith and resistance

The Des Moines Catholic Worker and Veterans for Peace are hosting a 2019 retreat on St. Patrick’s Day weekend, March 15 – 17, focusing on the drone command center at the Iowa Air National Guard base in Des Moines. Kathy Kelly is confirmed as a speaker; others pending. For more information or updates, contact Frank Cordaro, frank.cordaro@gmail.com, 515-490-2490, or Jakob Whitson, jakobwhitson@gmail.com, 783-340-2458, or Gilbert Landoli, peace@tcom.net, 515-333-2180.

sacred peace walk

All friends and fellow travelers are invited to join the Nevada Desert Experience for all or part of their annual Sacred Peace Walk, April 13-19, walking 60 miles from Las Vegas, past the killer drone center at Creech Air Force Base to the historic Peace Camp, ending on Friday at the gates of the Nevada National Security Site (formerly known as the Nevada Test Site). Then, “with the largest number of resisters we can raise and with the permission of the Western Shoshone National Council, we enter their sacred land together!” For more information, see Brian Terrell’s invitation on page 4.

nato summit

A growing coalition of U.S. peace and justice organizations has begun to organize a Mass Mobilization to Oppose NATO, War & Racism when the NATO ministers meet in Washington, D.C. on April 4. Preliminary plans include a mass mobilization in the city on Saturday, March 30, a counter-summit April 2, peace festival April 3 and march and nonviolent direct actions on April 4. For more information, visit worldbeyondwar.org/natoandnato2019.org.

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SICILY: An Italian regional appeals court has confirmed the conviction of Turi Vaccaro for resisting arrest at a demonstration against a military parade over five years ago. He was alleged to have struck a police officer while climbing atop a police car, despite photographic evidence that he was holding his flail at the time. A sentence of seven months in prison was also confirmed for Vaccaro, who is currently serving a prison sentence of eleven months and 27 days for damaging a massive U.S. military satellite communications dish antenna in Sicily, part of a system known as MUOS.

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE: Fr. Jim Murphy has had no contact from federal prosecutors regarding his arrest for crossing the line at the nuclear command base last August 6, and the ban and bar letter he was issued at the time has now expired...

MENWITH HILL: The ink was hardly dry on the latest court order discontinuing a protest case against Lindis Percy when she was arrested again while vigilant at the entrance to the U.S.-run spy satellite ground station in North Yorkshire, England. Percy wrote on September 1, “This pattern by the MDP [Ministry of Defence police] and the [Crown Prosecution Service] (who have done very badly in court concerning cases brought against me) is typical. It is such a waste of court time, everyone’s time and also my liberty was again wrongly taken away (over the years, hours and hours?). The MDP is an unaccountable ‘police force’ and generally know very little about the law, abuse their power and act unprofessionally.” Sarah Swift had been arrested under similar circumstances two weeks after Percy, and her case was also discontinued. Then on November 15, Percy was again arrested by MDP for allegedly obstructing the highway at the gate. She was driven to the Harrogate police station and released about an hour later with no charge, “pending further inquiries.” Percy has prepared a “complex” legal defense based on her human rights and challenging Ministry of Defence jurisdiction over the area...

HANCOK FIELD: Five people facing disorderly conduct charges for blocking the gate of the armed drone operations base near Syracuse in a religious act following the national Catholic Worker gathering last summer were in court for a pre-trial motions hearing November 28. While experience suggests that the charge could be dismissed as wrong for the circumstances, the defendants chose not to seek dismissal. They were looking forward to hearing the oral argument of their co-defendant Harry Murray, a professor of sociology at Nazareth College, Murray’s pro-se motion shares an argument with the Kings Bay Plowshares defense, asking the court to rule that proper application of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act would require the government to prove why one person blocking the gate is such a compelling interest as to override his nonviolent religious actions and ritual. But the prosecuting attorney had not seen the motion, so the hearing was adjourned until February 13, 2019...

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