

# the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

No. 190

December 18, 2018

## 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 air force using a U.S.-made, precision-guided bomb, killing 40 schoolboys and 11 adults. It was the latest evidence that so-called “smart” bombs made by Lockheed-Martin, Boeing and Raytheon are fueling the war that has brought famine and epidemic disease to Yemen.

In Missouri, members of the radical activist Soulfire Caravan and friends had recently put thousands of dollars into fixing their own converted school bus, Soulphia, only to conclude that the aging hulk was beyond repair. Anticipating her eventual demise, they’d recently been thinking how to send her to salvage in style when news of the far-away tragedy brought their ideas into close focus.

Before dawn on August 27, they parked Soulphia across the entry road leading into the Boeing Corporation’s Defense Building 598 in St. Charles, Missouri, a factory producing some of the guided bombs for the Saudis. A final graffiti message painted on Soulphia’s side read, “Boeing Gains from Yemen’s Pain.”

Two members of the group, one beneath and one inside, locked themselves to the bus.

“We are here today in solidarity with our victims in Yemen,” said Phillip Flagg, one of the blockaders. “To the people of Yemen I’d like to say that we have heard your cries and that you are not alone. On the contrary, it seems clear to me that both the Yemeni and American people share a common enemy in the United States government and the corporations that control it. The same corporate state that is responsible for your suffering in Yemen is responsible for our suffering from Flint to Ferguson to the bayous of Louisiana.”

The activists did not present a list of demands to Boeing, recognizing the futility of such an action. Instead, they hoped their actions would “motivate other Americans to act boldly and nonviolently to force an end to the criminal actions of the United States and its allies.”

Police responded by shutting down the entrance entirely. Five hours later, they had finally cut the two



photo © Heather De Mian

**Police in St. Charles, Missouri, work to cut loose and arrest a man locked onto a converted school bus used to block a Boeing bomb factory linked to the bombing deaths of school children in Yemen.**

activists loose, arresting Flagg and Ashton Howell on misdemeanor charges of obstructing a public thoroughfare and resisting arrest. Soulphia was towed away and impounded as evidence.

Howell, in the process of gender transition, posted bond for personal safety. Flagg refused bail and fasted in jail for 24 hours until he saw a judge and was released on his own recognizance. Pre-trial hearings are in progress, with no trial date set.

Among the early messages of support on social media were two from Yemeni journalists. Ahmad Alghobary wrote, “As one of the Yemeni people, I express my deep gratitude for those activists for standing in solidarity with us and for blocking both entrances to Boeing Defense Building 598 in St. Charles facility today morning. The bus represents the school bus crime by #US bomb in #Yemen.”

“Thank you so much, from Yemen,” wrote another journalist, Nasser Morshid Arrabyee. “Yemen bus will remain spot of shame and disgrace on killers. Your bus will remain symbol of love in our debt.”

For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/soulfirecaravan](http://www.facebook.com/soulfirecaravan).

## NYC March Mourns Yemen War Victims

Kathy Kelly reports:

Over three days in November, members and friends of the New York Catholic Worker, New York City chapter of the War Resisters League, and Voices for Creative Nonviolence took a series of nonviolent actions around the United Nations in opposition to the Saudi-U.S. war in Yemen.

On the morning of November 9, Dorothy Day’s birthday, about 100 people gathered at the Isaiah Wall by the U.N. for a procession to the Saudi Consulate. The mourning women led our march, garbed in large masks and veils, holding limp grey dolls that represent the thousands of children facing death in Yemen. Jun Sun, a Buddhist monk of the Nipponzan Myohoji order at the New England Peace Pagoda and a companion followed, their drumbeats guiding us. Six people carried placards describing the terrible attack on a children’s schoolbus in northern Yemen.

The attack happened on August 9, 2018. This week in Yemen, children who had survived were going back for the first time to their classes, carrying their blue U.N. backpacks from the day of the attack, splattered with their classmates’ blood. So today in New York, people willing to risk arrest carried blue backpacks and signs naming the nearly 40 children who had been killed. Others followed with banners.

As they passed the U.S. Mission to the U.N., Felton Davis and Ed Kinane held a banner and blocked the entrance. They were arrested and later released without charge.

The procession continued on, past the Saudi Mission to the U.N. and over to the Saudi Consulate on Second Avenue. Those who would risk arrest swiftly set up a presence in front of three entrances to the building, urging people not to enter because it is too dangerous: criminal activities have been going on and all who have cause to be in the building should be aware of the crucial importance of ending the murderous, tortuous activities carried out by the Saudi government.

The names of children killed on August 9 were spoken and a lament raised for Yemeni families. For each name our response was “We Remember You.”

We sang and chanted for over two hours. At least two dozen police carrying plastic cuffs arrived, along with a New York police detective named Bogucki, who told us he recalled arresting some of us during the late ‘90s and in the years leading up to the Shock and Awe bombing in Iraq. From 1996 to 2003, we had protested the sacrifice and slaughter of Iraqi children. Detective Bogucki said we are preaching to the choir when we tell him about crimes happening inside the consulate, and other offices that prolong war in Yemen.

*continued on page 5*

## 17 Years Later, Afghanistan War Drones On

### Creech Air Force Base

Seventeen years after the U.S. invasion and occupation of Afghanistan, the longest war in American history continues there. It is waged largely from afar by growing numbers and kinds of remotely piloted surveillance, reconnaissance and attack aircraft. The din of U.S. drones over the countryside portends death and destruction at any moment – a lethal bolt from the blue.

To mark the tragic anniversary and condemn how the relative ease of remote warfare has led to waging such wars in many other countries, two dozen people from at least seven states took part in the 4th annual Shut Down Creech protest in Nevada from September 30 to October 6. Creech Air Force Base at Indian Springs, an hour northwest of Las Vegas, is the premier flight training and operations base for Air Force drone warfare and secret CIA drone assassination programs.

The activists camped together at the welcoming oasis of the Temple of Goddess Spirituality in nearby Cactus Springs. Each morning and afternoon they travelled to Indian Springs for two-hour themed vigils to greet thousands of military and civilian workers with large signs and banners. Daily themes included “War Is A Lie” and “The U.S. Military = #1 Polluter.”

On Tuesday, the vigilers wore black clothing and white masks for a funeral procession with small coffins to memorialize drone victims. They blocked the entry road temporarily, but left before police arrived to order them off.

On Thursday morning, October 4, several vigilers and supporters carried banners and signs onto the entry road to block traffic, loudly chanting “Stop the murder, Stop the war crimes! The people demand peace!” Law enforcement read a trespass warning through a bullhorn and then moved immediately to arrest the blockaders, for the first time leaving no time to disperse after the warning. A white male supporter, Chris Knudson, was pursued by police as he hastily left the roadway but was not arrested. Meanwhile Ruben Beltran, a Mexican immigrant and 16-year U.S. citizen, had already crossed the entry road and was arrested as he stood on the shoulder holding a sign that read “Would You Drone Your Child?” Beltran is the only resident of Indian Springs to regularly join the demonstrations at Creech, and has endured harassment and loss of friends as a result.

Also arrested were Fred Bialy, Toby Blome, Don Cuning, Michael Kerr, Eleanor Levine and Joseba Zulaika. They were taken into custody about 8:00 a.m. and transported to the Clark County Detention Center, a nationally notorious hellhole in downtown Las Vegas. The women were held about 12 hours for processing before being released, a typical length of time after arrest at Creech. Three of the men were released much later in the wee hours before dawn, while Bialy and Zulaika were not released from custody until 4:00 p.m. the next day, 32 hours after their arrest.

For more information, visit [shutdowncreech.blogspot.com](http://shutdowncreech.blogspot.com).

### Beale Air Force Base

Before the sun was up on October 30, four activists had stretched a large banner across the road that read “STOP DRONING AFGHANISTAN; 17 YEARS ENOUGH!”

The banner brought commuters streaming into Beale Air Force Base in California to a halt for nearly an hour, affecting traffic for miles on two approach roads. While traffic was stopped, Shirley Osgood distributed flyers to the drivers, outlining the responsibility of military personnel under the Nuremberg Principles.

Police, now familiar with the monthly campouts, vigils and occasional blockades carried out by the activists of Occupy Beale, arrested four blockaders who were held for more than two hours in military jail cells on the base. Toby Blomé, Michael Kerr, Mauro Oliveira and

*continued on page 5*

## Life On An Ankle Monitor

by Martha Hennessy  
from *The Catholic Worker*

We hear that thirty thousand undocumented immigrants are now wearing an ankle monitor, today’s electronic shackle. People are being forced to wear monitors on their bodies, without their consent. The devices use global positioning and radio frequency and people are stuck for months with them prior to trial. Everyday behavior can become criminalized in this manner and people are taken back into custody for violating the many complex “rules” they live under while wearing the monitors. I’ve worn an ankle monitor as a condition of my release since leaving jail on May 24, and have been cited twice for miscalculating the travel time for medical appointments.

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 oppress people and turn a profit. It is a multi-million dollar business bringing in revenues to a select few venture capitalists. Victims are charged daily fees and “enrollment” fees that can 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.

The government closely monitors my whereabouts in rural, backwoods Vermont, even as they allow me to walk to the mailbox between 3:00 and 3:15 p.m. six days a week. In my other workplace and residence, at Maryhouse, I go untethered in the heart of New York Sin City. It is the honor system that keeps me in the house but for attending Mass and going to St. Joe’s for food when cooking for the soup line. The technology of the ankle monitor is sophisticated and functions as a gag on the defendant and a hindrance to fair trial preparation. The State will go to great lengths to control radical peacemaking.

It feels trite to speak of my situation while contemplating the seriousness of so many other peoples’ conditions and electronic confinement. Ankle monitors add stress onto overburdened families, workers, and the vulnerable attempting to comply with unjust judicial arrangements.

## On Returning to the Glynn County Detention Center

by Mark Colville  
December 8, 2018

Greetings in the peace that the world cannot give, Please pardon my spottiness in terms of keeping in touch with all of you since getting out of jail in early September. It has never been my custom to allow the federal government to indulge the fantasy that supervising me is a legitimate use of their time or resources, and to be honest, it’s been a bit difficult to find my footing out here in minimum security for the past three months. In our case, magistrate judges Baker and Cheesbro have clearly seen fit to use bail, house arrest, curfews and ankle monitors as preemptive punishment for the accused. (This was made amply plain when in that same court, four persons arrested in October for allegedly stealing explosives and ammunition from Kings Bay Naval Base were released without restrictions, on a promise to return for court appearances!) Nevertheless I cheerfully opted to accept these bail conditions on an emergency basis, when it became clear that the Glynn County Jail was not terribly interested in allowing me access to adequate medical care after a diagnosis of skin cancer. As things turned out, this proved to be a good decision, because after two successful surgeries back home in New Haven, I’ve been given a clean bill of health with no further follow-up care required.

So it’s time to go back. It’s obvious that this governmentally-imposed obedience training program amounts to nothing but another form of imprisonment, one for which the accused do not receive any credit toward an actual post-conviction sentence. This has become a scandalously common abuse of the Bail Reform Act in courtrooms all across the country. Personally, the daily practice of voluntarily cooperating in my own captivity has also imposed a strange sort of existence, one in which I find it difficult to fully engage in life and relationships in the ways I’m accustomed to doing so. It’s an unhealthy dynamic that has only become worse since the reason for my decision to take bail no longer exists, and the court’s lack of integrity imposes the responsibility on me to make that dynamic change.

From the beginning, my participation in the Kings Bay Plowshares action was first of all an act of contrition for complicity in the sins of nuclearism and empire, and I’ve regarded any incarceration as penance for those sins. But the jail has also been for me a place of ministry,

There are now innumerable corporate industries using this and other technologies to control the population, unleashed from the militaristic surveillance state justified by the events of September 11, 2001.

The application of electronic incarceration is by nature inconsistent and arbitrary. Judges are supposed to exercise attention to and discretion over various “service” or parole officers in the field. It is easy to be seduced by the power ankle monitors and home detention allow over other people’s lives.

It was a sharp learning curve for me to understand that the conditions of jail are simply extended to one’s home. I was not to attend funerals, visit sick relatives, or pick up milk at the neighbor’s house. I was not to walk my grandsons up to the pond to splash in the water on a hot day. The question of whether the monitor was recording conversation haunted my mind. I acted, thought, and felt differently with the device on my ankle. My grandsons learned quickly to sound the alarm if I wandered “out of range” while playing in the yard with them. As my 9-month-old granddaughter plays at my feet, I wonder about the health affects of the radio frequency. We are all shackled in a sense.

The court hearing of August 2nd in Brunswick, Georgia did bring some relief. The four released defendants of the Kings Bay Plowshares are now moved from the status of house arrest to curfew. We can regulate our own daily schedules and must be in the house from 8:30 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

When reflecting on Catholic social teaching, the question becomes how to attain a more peaceful and just world order. Subsidiarity to protect the most vulnerable from State abuses and domination must be considered and the dignity of each person must be respected and protected. It is up to the laity to recognize that we are empowered to respond to the needs and suffering of the world. The grip of industrial warfare can be countered through the works of mercy. Wearing the ankle monitor certainly puts some of us in solidarity with those who are targeted on a daily basis. As with the use of weaponized drones, indefinite detention and torture, and the maintenance of a huge nuclear arsenal, we are called to oppose these unlawful tactics and to love one another. God give us the strength to practice that love.

personal faith-development and formation of conscience. It provides the incredible daily privilege of walking with Jesus in the person of the prisoner, and of seeing the world the way He did: from the perspective of the bottom. It’s a lot like being in an unusually noisy monastery where all the monks have tattoos and share a fondness for the F-word! Of course, Christmas can be a very lonely and desolate time for people in jail, especially those who don’t enjoy the constant support of family and friends on the outside as I do, so returning there before the holidays seems like a useful and appropriate sacrifice to make. With this in mind, there are no misgivings or mixed feelings about going back to Glynn County Detention Center, but rather a sense of rejoicing that, as Dan Berrigan liked to say, one has the freedom to go to jail.

A week ago, judge Cheesbro accepted a motion to return the bail money that was posted on my behalf and put me back in the jail on December 11th. This Tuesday, Luz and I will show up at the Glynn County Detention Center and part ways again, for another undetermined length of time. We will do this mindfully, reaching hands of solidarity toward our extended global family members who are now at this country’s border facing atrocities and uncertainties far beyond whatever hardships we might be obliged to bear. Anyone who wishes to join us, before my self-surrender, in a group hug and a prayer for refugees, would be most welcome to meet us there in the GCDC parking lot at 11:30 a.m. After that, I’ll look forward to your postcards, and delight in all news of your ongoing efforts to bring about the nonviolent collapse of the U.S. empire, in defense of all creation...

Love and Prayers,  
Mark

### ¡Presente!

**Karán Founds-Benton**  
September 1, 1955 – November 25, 2018  
Catholic Worker, nuclear and war resister, teacher, mother and grandmother



## where we’re at

First frost has arrived in Tucson and we bid farewell to the eggplants that were still coming in from the summer garden. Peas and beets and greens are coming up in the winter garden, and oranges are ripening on the tree.

And now when we look up from the garden we see the brand new photovoltaic panels on the roof!! A very big thank you to everyone who donated to help the Nuclear Resister office go solar! Worker-owned Technicians for Sustainability installed the panels in October and after inspection the system was up and running in November – so exciting! There are now two signs side-by-side in the front yard: “I get my power from the sun” and “Nuclear power? No thanks”.

In the face of troubling news in our country and the world on a daily basis, we remain deeply grateful for all of the good news, including everyone who is standing up, speaking out, pushing back against the darkness of violence and injustice.

Among those tirelessly working for peace and justice are Catholic Workers across the U.S. and around the world who since 1933 have comforted the afflicted and afflicted the comfortable. This issue includes reflections from several Catholic Worker activists. Tensie Hernandez (Guadalupe Catholic Worker, California) shares her experiences during a week at the Los Angeles Metropolitan Correction Center. 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 skin cancer surgery and recovery. Martha Hennessy (New York Catholic Worker and granddaughter of Catholic Worker co-founder Dorothy Day) explores some of the sobering realities of the widespread use of ankle monitors – she’s worn one for the past seven months. Brian Terrell (Strangers and Guests Catholic Worker Farm, Iowa) invites us all to join the Nevada Desert Experience during their annual Sacred Peace Walk this April, ending at the Nevada nuclear test site, to “Walk for Peace, Resist Nuclear Weapons, Stand for Indigenous People’s Rights and Fill the Jails!”

As we finish up this issue of *the Nuclear Resister* newsletter, Hanukkah is behind us and the winter solstice and Christmas are drawing near. Together let’s welcome the light, and meet the joys and challenges of the new year. Happy holidays!

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 at [thegloofactory.com](http://thegloofactory.com) when you need buttons, bumperstickers, signs and t-shirts made or for any other printing projects!

### the Nuclear Resister

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**YOU CAN HELP!**

Please send news, updates and donations! Mail us (or e-mail or phone) new action reports, updates, jail information, statements, graphics, photos & clippings about local actions. Thanks!

**SUBSCRIPTIONS and BULK ORDERS**

One-year subscriptions are US\$25 in the United States, US\$30 to Canada, and US\$35 overseas. Payment can only be accepted in US currency or checks drawn on US institutions. All subscriptions are sent via First Class or Airmail.

Please inquire about multiple copies of the current issue for free distribution at conferences, workshops, trainings, etc.

**THE NUCLEAR RESISTER ON MICROFILM**

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

**ABOUT THE NUCLEAR RESISTER**

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

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

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

Jack and Felice Cohen-Joppa, Editors



# Going to Jail for the Poor People’s Campaign

Court reports coming in after the series of civil disobedience actions last spring under the banner of the Poor People’s Campaign include a few more accounts of fines levied, community service performed and charges diverted or dismissed. Additionally, two Michigan men recently served 12 days each in jail rather than pay a \$300 fine. Tommy Tackett and Bill Wylie-Kellerman were part of the group of 16 people arrested on May 21, blocking the entrance of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services in Lansing. In court October 30, the men entered pleas of no contest and were given the choice of fine or jail. They turned themselves in on December 3. With credits, the men were released on December 12. Asked why he chose jail, Wylie-Kellerman replied:

Civil disobedience and nonviolent direct action involve using your body in one way or another. In this case, refusing to pay the fines puts it on the court to deal with our bodies. It is a continuation of the act. Direct action has a moral trajectory that goes through the courtroom, but can also get carried into jail time. As an act of moral conscience, it can generate political and spiritual energy in ourselves and in others.

The national action theme for that week linked systematic racism and poverty, and their impact on voting rights, immigration, and the treatment of immigrant and indigenous communities. Tackett said they took action:

To hold the Department of Health and Human Services accountable for their role in covering up the Flint Water poisoning and their role in Detroit with the water shut-offs. They play a role in the ways that Child Protective Services separates families if water is shut off.

In Washington, D.C., Art Laffin chose to stand trial for disorderly conduct rather than take a plea agreement as one of 39 people arrested on May 29 engaged in nonviolent action outside of Sen. McConnell’s office. That day’s theme was the war economy, militarism and the proliferation of gun violence. Laffin represented himself at his September 6 trial, and argued that his singing and prayer in the hallway actions amounted to lobbying for policy changes, and were not disruptive.

Laffin writes:

Before rendering her verdict, Magistrate Matini did something that most judges I’ve been before rarely do... She said that there was additional information she wanted to add to my closing. Regarding my reference to the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientist Doomsday Clock now set at two minutes before midnight, she remarkably stated that she recently learned that the world is now closer than two minutes before midnight. She then declared that while she may share views similar to those put forth in the defense case, she was bound by the statute of the law and that there was sufficient evidence to find me guilty. At sentencing I shared with her that I was a volunteer at the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker and that despite the fact that she found me guilty, I believe in my heart that I committed no crime. The government prosecutor recommended that I be fined \$500. She responded by saying that as a judge she has latitude sentencing. She said she did not believe in fines because it is unfair to the poor who cannot pay them while the rich can easily pay them. Thus, I was surprisingly sentenced to time served in police custody with a mandatory assessment of \$50 to be paid to the victims of violent crime fund. At the end of the hearing I thanked the judge for what she said.

In Maryland, Ellen Barfield, a member of Veterans for Peace, pled 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 important – that some people in her courtroom would still be sitting on the back of the bus without it.

## PELTIER UPDATE

Native lands protector Leonard Peltier has formally applied for transfer from the federal prison in Coleman, Florida to one in Oxford, Wisconsin, where he would be much closer to his family. Contributions for legal fees related to the transfer and to a First Amendment case in Washington State over display of Peltier’s artwork are welcome and can be made via [whoisleonardpeltier.info](mailto:whoisleonardpeltier.info).



Letters of support should be sent to Leonard Peltier 89637-132, USP Coleman I, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521. A new mail policy was instituted at Coleman last spring. All general correspondence must be on white paper (not cardstock) and envelopes, with 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” and commercial greeting cards will be rejected.

# Kings Bay Plowshares Assert Religious Freedom to Act

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 acts inside the Kings Bay Trident submarine base in Georgia.

The court in Brunswick, Georgia is not expected to set a date until it rules on an historic motion that was the subject of two day-long 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 Hennessy, Patrick O’Neill and Carmen Trotta. Co-defendant Mark Colville posted bond on September 4 to access medical care for skin cancer, and returned to the Glynn County Jail on December 11 after receiving a clean bill of health. Colville writes about his decision to return to jail on page 2. He rejoins defendants Steve Kelly and Liz McAlister, both jailed since the action on April 4, 2018.

All seven were allowed to meet together with their lawyers before the November 7 hearing, and were joined by more than 30 supporters in the courtroom. Nine and one-half hours later, only two defendants had testified so the hearing was adjourned until it could be completed on November 19.

The historic motion seeks to bring consideration of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) into their defense. The Plowshares contend that the one misdemeanor and three felony charges they face for their entry onto and actions within the Trident nuclear submarine base on April 4 pose an excessive burden on their religious practice. They ask that the charges be dismissed or reduced.

In the first session, two expert witnesses testified on Catholic social teaching about nuclear weapons.

Jeannine Hill Fletcher, a Fordham University theology professor, reviewed Catholic teachings from the writings of Popes and the Second Vatican Council. After referring to *Pacem in Terris* and *Gaudium et Spes*, which condemn the use of nuclear weapons, she pointed to Pope Francis’ statement in 2017 that “The threat of their use, as well as their very possession, is to be firmly condemned.” She also spoke about the primacy of conscience going back to the 13th century teachings of Thomas Aquinas. She noted that *Pacem in Terris* affirms that, “laws and decrees passed in contravention to the moral order, and hence of the divine will, can have no binding force in conscience”.

Bishop Joseph Kopacz, from Jackson, Mississippi, also spoke to the primacy of conscience having led the activists to extraordinary action fully consistent with Catholic teaching.

The U.S. Bishop’s 1983 Peace Pastoral allowed for the possession of nuclear weapons for only a short time as a temporary step toward disarmament, but after more than 30 years nothing has happened. Actions, like the Plowshares “spiritual special ops team” have a chance of making change.

Jesuit priest Steve Kelly, his jailhouse shackles clanking as he crossed to the witness stand, testified that their action was religious, and constituted preaching the word of God that nuclear weapons are sinful. “This is very, very much a crisis, not only of existence,” he said of their message to base personnel, “but your souls are in danger.” He noted he will have spent 100 months in prison for this and earlier such actions, half in solitary confinement, by the time of his 70th birthday in January. He explained that criminal prosecution and punishment had no deterrent effect on their duty to act faithfully.

Clare Grady emphasized that her action was “nonviolent symbolic disarmament.” She movingly told of her upbringing in a faithful and activist family informed by Catholic social teaching. “My parents raised us with a sense of a loving, caring, compassionate God.” She believes that the plowshares action was prophetic and sacramental with the potential to change themselves, the naval base and the world. This belief is built on her own experience since participating in the 1983 Griffiss Plowshares action.

Captain Brian Lepine, Commander of Naval Station Kings Bay, testified for over two hours and repeatedly refused to acknowledge the existence of nuclear weapons on the Trident submarines at their homeport at Kings Bay.

At the hearing’s continuation on November 19, Liz McAlister, who turned 79 years old a few days earlier, recounted her trial for the 1983 Griffiss Plowshares action. She quoted her testimony then, “The government has set up a religion of nuclearism. It is terrifying and dead, dead wrong. It is a form of idolatry in this culture, spoken about with a sense of awe. It’s a total contradiction to our faith. It puts trust in weapons, not trust in God.”

“God is our strength,” McAlister said, now quoting scripture: “Be still and know that I am God.”

Carmen Trotta said that the government’s possession of nuclear weapons imposes a burden on all religious faith. He quoted the Catholic Church’s Vatican II documents: “The arms race is a treacherous trap for humanity. Nations should mature to take care of one another. Nuclear weapons prevent us from having mutual cooperation with each other rather than mutual destruction.”

Patrick O’Neill said everyone in the courtroom had

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## Inside & Out



### NUCLEAR RESISTERS

**Elizabeth McAlister** 015633  
**Stephen Kelly** 015634  
**Mark Colville** 015635  
Glynn County Detention Center, 100 Sulphur Springs Road, Brunswick, GA 31520.  
*Please note:* This jail will accept only plain white pre-stamped postcards available at some Post Offices and online at [usps.gov](https://usps.gov). Blue or black ink only. No labels. Hand-write your full name and return address and the prisoner’s full name, ID# and address. No letters or packages accepted.  
*(Kings Bay Plowshares activists awaiting trial following arrest at Kings Bay nuclear submarine base in Georgia, 4/5/18)*  
**Leonard Peltier** 89637-132 (life)  
USP Coleman I, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521.  
*(Framed for murder while defending traditional indigenous from threats including uranium mining on sacred lands, 6/75)*

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

**Please refer to [nukeresister.org/inside-out](http://nukeresister.org/inside-out) for current addresses before writing.**

### ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS

**Salvatore Vaccaro**  
Casa Circondariale Caldarelli, Piazza Pietro Cerulli #1, 90129 Palermo PA, Italy.  
(11 months, 27 days – in 8/5/18)  
*(Plowshares activist convicted of criminal damage to U.S. military satellite communications equipment in Sicily, 12/14)*  
**Rafil Dhafir** 11921-052  
FMC Devens Unit GB, Federal Medical Center, P.O. Box 879, Ayer, MA 01432.  
(22 years – out 4/26/22)  
*(Convictions resulting from providing humanitarian and financial aid to Iraqis in violation of U.S. sanctions, 2/05)*  
**Jared Chase** M44710  
Dixon Correctional Center, 2600 North Brinton Avenue, Dixon, Illinois 61021.  
(8 years – out 7/5/19)  
*(Convicted of possession of incendiary devices with intent to commit arson during protests at NATO summit in Chicago, 5/12)*  
**PREVIOUSLY LISTED/RECENTLY RELEASED: Willemein H., Loïc Citation (see update, pages 6-7)**

# After 31 Years, Trespass Prosecutions Resume At Nevada Test Site

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 Sullivan found Marcus Page-Collogne 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 line at the Mercury gate. 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, Johnnie Bobb. He told the court that for decades his tribe has granted permission for demonstrators to “Come,

Gather and Go” for peace and justice activities within the southern zone of the Western Shoshone nation, an area described in the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley that encompasses nearly 700 square miles now known as the Nevada National Security Site.

In closing arguments, Page-Collogne emphasized that the State had completely failed to provide any evidence of legal title to the land in question. Nevertheless, Sullivan quickly announced a guilty verdict and fined Page-Collogne \$200, payable within 30 days, plus a \$105 court fee.

On their way back to Las Vegas, the defendant and supporters stopped at the test site gate to vigil for a short time. In conversation with a sheriff’s officer there, the officer said that “the DOE [Department of Energy] ordered a change [in the prosecution policy] in mid-2018 to make

results for Nevada activists more similar to those for other nuclear sites.”

Asked by *the Nuclear Resister* to confirm the account, a DOE/NNSA Nevada Field Office Public Affairs officer, Darwin Morgan, responded, “It is the expectation of the National Nuclear Security Administration that law enforcement enforce the rules/regulations/laws established. As such, as the Nevada National Security Site falls within the jurisdiction of the Nye County Sheriff’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](http://nevadadesertexperience.org).

## An Invitation from the Nevada Desert Experience, April 13-19, 2019

by Brian Terrell  
November 1, 2018

On Indigenous People’s Day, formerly known as Columbus Day, October 8, 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 (NNSS), 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 site. Many thousands participated and according to government records, 15,740 arrests were made, but starting in 1987, the Sheriff’s Department, motivated in part by the expense of so many prosecutions on a rural county, stopped charging protestors who entered the site with criminal trespass. Activists who crossed the cattleguard at the fence-line three miles from the secured zone, now represented by an arbitrary white line closer to US Highway 95, were detained briefly in an open air 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 enter the site and can present government issued ID will be given a warning ticket the first time and issued real citations if they repeat. Those who are apprehended without ID will be arrested, transported to jail in Pahrump and charged as trespassers. Permits issued by the National Council of the Western Shoshone will no longer be honored. This crackdown is due, according to the deputy who spoke to NDE members, to pressure from the National Nuclear Security Administration of the U.S. Department of Energy that operates the site.

With diminished numbers but with faithful regularity, NDE has continued its vigils, prayers and protests at the Test Site several times each year, usually with some of us detained by the deputies and released after presenting permits from the Western Shoshone. Our annual fall event, “Justice for Our Desert”, includes a prayerful procession into the site and this time, three members of the NDE governing council were taken into custody. Two of us, Mark Kelso of Las Vegas and me, from Maloy, Iowa, were released with warnings after we presented our driver’s licenses. Marcus Page-Collonge of Calaveras County, California, was taken to jail in Pahrump and was bailed out that evening.

A few days later, on October 11, the Nye County District Attorney filed a complaint against Marcus in Beatty Township Justice Court that charges that “The Defendant did willfully and unlawfully go on to the property of the Nevada National Security Site after being warned not to do so” and trial for his alleged crime is set for December 3.

At trial, the State of Nevada will need to prove that the property Marcus went on to is that “of Nevada National Security Site,” an allegation that will not be verified easily. In 1950, the Test Site was established on land legally recognized by the Treaty of Ruby Valley in 1863 as belonging to the Western Shoshone indigenous nation. This agreement allows the U.S. government the “right to traverse the area, maintain existing telegraph and stage lines, construct one railroad and engage in

specified economic activities. The agreement allows the U.S. president to designate reservations, but does not tie this to land cessions.” The NNSS posts billboard sized “NO TRESPASSING” signs claiming the land as theirs, but the Western Shoshone have never ceded their sacred land to the government. By any measure, the land is theirs and it is the NNSS who is the trespasser, not Marcus nor any of the thousands of activists arrested there in the past.

The NNSS is not only occupying land that is not theirs, it is operating a criminal enterprise there. Nye County authorities could use their time more productively addressing these crimes against humanity than harassing law abiding protesters. This site is the place on the planet that has suffered more atomic blasts than any other and so will be poisoned for countless centuries, even if Yucca Mountain (at the western edge of the NNSS) does not finally become the repository for all nuclear reactor waste. While there have been no actual detonations there since 1992, there are still “subcritical” tests done and there is still testing done to determine the viability of the United States’ aging nuclear arsenal. Plans also still exist to resume testing at Area 5 of the NNSS, should any U.S. President order such. The NNSS is operated not only in violation of the Treaty of Ruby Valley but against the United Nations Charter and other international agreements that according to the U.S. Constitution are supreme law of 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, acquire, possess, stockpile, use or threaten to use 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, Marcus will be found not guilty of trespassing and the District Attorney will be admonished never to file such obviously frivolous charges in that court again. Justice, however, is rarely seen in our courts and this reasonable outcome is not expected, at least not the first time such a case is heard there in more than 30 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 Nye County Jail while we are at it? As Marcus tells us, “All humans in Nevada and Shoshone territory who care about the future of life on earth are responsible to reverse the momentum of nuclear weapons, waste, mining and milling, to end the nuclear violence represented here at the NNSS!”

A modest proposal: We invite all friends and fellow travellers to join all or part of NDE’s annual Sacred Peace Walk, April 13-19, this coming year, walking 60 miles from Las Vegas, past the killer drone center at Creech Air Force Base to the historic Peace Camp, ending on Good Friday at the gates of the Nevada National Security 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!

While this “arrest” will no longer be the ritual without consequences that it has been, even in the new regime each one should be able to calculate the risk each is ready and able to take. First, anyone can participate in a meaningful way without crossing the line, each person adding to the strength of the whole action with



Nevada Desert Experience photo

**Brian Terrell, Mark Kelso and Marcus Page-Collogne are led to the arrestee holding pen just inside the Mercury gate of the Nevada National Security Site, October 8, 2018. The holding pens were constructed in 1988, when more than 2,800 people crossed the line to demand an end to nuclear weapons testing.**

no risk of arrest. Second, anyone entering the site with a Western Shoshone permit AND a photo ID such as a driver’s license, who has not already been issued a warning (that’s only me and Mark Kelso so far) will likely be processed quickly and released with a warning. Third, anyone entering with the Western Shoshone permit as their only ID should expect a ride to Pahrump and booked into the jail there. Marcus was held on \$500 bond, but who knows what they will do if there is a crowd of us? Going bail or not may be another option for each to consider. If we are held over, it is likely that a judge will let us out on Monday, either with time served or with a trial in the near future.

“Filling the Jails” is a time honored American tradition that has been an integral part of every successful movement for social progress and the stakes have never been higher. Thirty years ago, overwhelming numbers helped end prosecutions of protesters at the Test Site and contributed to implementing the global ban on full-scale testing of nuclear weapons. What we demand now is so much more than this. There are no promises of outcome beyond educated guesses in this proposal. It would be a step in faith, but one that these dangerous times demand of at least some of us and the more who show up, the more fun it will be!

Long time protester and prophet Phil Berrigan could have been speaking to our present dilemma when he offered that, “In this morally polluted atmosphere, we believe that imprisonment could hardly be more to the point. We shudder under the blows of a society permanently mobilized against peace. Duplicity, propaganda, media indifference, institutional betrayal mark our plight. Our people are confused and 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. Indeed, we need 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 formidable wilderness 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 communal act of nonviolent resistance. For those who can, come prepared for a joyous weekend together in jail and a strong rebuke to oppressive power in court, if that’s how it goes. Contact us at [info@nevadadesertexperience.org](mailto:info@nevadadesertexperience.org), or phone (702)646-4814, the same number you might need to call from inside the Nye County Jail, where only collect calls are allowed!



# SEVEN DAYS FOR VANDENBERG LINE-CROSSING

On October 18, Tensie Hernandez appeared in federal court in Santa Barbara, California to answer the charge of trespass following her arrest at Vandenberg Air Force Base on August 6 during the annual protest in commemoration of the 1945 U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Hernandez pled no contest and was sentenced to seven days in federal custody at the Los Angeles Metropolitan Detention Center.

Accompanied by her husband and friends from the Los Angeles Catholic Worker community, Hernandez surrendered to federal marshals in Los Angeles on Monday morning, November 5. Hernandez and her family are part of the Guadalupe Catholic Worker, a community on California’s central coast serving farmworkers in the areas adjacent to Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Because the following Monday was the federal Veterans Day holiday, she was released on Friday, November 9. See her essay on this page about her time in jail.

For more information, visit [vandenbergwitness.org](http://vandenbergwitness.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 expect 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](http://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 Osgood were then released to face misdemeanor trespassing charges in federal court. They’ve been summoned to appear on January 8, but it’s questionable the hearing will take place. Four Occupy Beale members arrested last summer were summoned to federal court in Sacramento on October 9, but like all federal charges over the last several years, they were dismissed before that date.

Beale Air Force Base is intimately involved in the U.S. drone assassination program. A covert Air Force unit at Beale controls the U.S. Global Hawk surveillance drones helping drone operators elsewhere to surveil, target and execute drone strikes remotely in foreign countries.

“To whose benefit?” asks Blomé. “What world is being created? The relatives of the dead, the sons, fathers, cousins and even friends of the killed, could easily become the next recruits for any militant organization. This is no solution, and only further destabilizes any community,”

For more information, visit [facebook.com/pg/OccupyBealeAirForceBase](https://facebook.com/pg/OccupyBealeAirForceBase).

# Finding Hope in Prison

by Tensie Hernandez  
from the *Beatitude House Newsletter*

The marshal took one look at me and asked, “What is this you’re wearing?”

“It’s my prayer shawl,” I said sheepishly, thinking he’d ask me to remove it.

“Well, I guess it’s okay since you have a right to keep a religious article of clothing while we’re processing you,” he said while handcuffing me. I couldn’t have been any more surprised but grateful to have this shawl with me for the next six hours as I was transferred from holding cell to holding cell, waiting to be led to the Metropolitan Detention Center where I would be for the next seven days.

The shawl was given to me by my community the day before at a liturgy where I received their blessing and sending forth. It was the same community that also stood alongside me at the gates of Vandenberg Air Force Base on the 73rd anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, when we cried out for an end to the madness of nuclear weapons and their testing, and I crossed the green line. With the shawl around me, I felt the love and prayers from them and many others who affirmed the decision. The holding cells are, if nothing else, a place to wait. In the cold concrete cells, one enters into a certain space where the anticipation of what is to come along with the fresh memories of what was just lived come together in a kind of vortex that leaves one feeling hollow inside. It is an invitation to pray. And that is exactly what I did.

Arriving on the prison floor, I was greeted with the barking orders of the guard telling me to carry my mattress to the cell assigned to me. Immediately, a young woman prisoner ran over and offered her assistance in carrying the mattress. Having made it to the cell, another woman offered pants and a shirt as gifts so that I could remove the oversized jump suit that had replaced my street clothes and shawl taken from me minutes before. After initial exchanges and welcome from the three women in the cell, food was then offered. Within the first 15 minutes of being in federal prison, I

was greeted with kindness, clothing and food; all offered by the ones this society says are despicable enough to cage like animals.

In a country where so much lip service is given assuring us of our collective freedom, those imprisoned are often considered pariahs. Incarceration is the trump card held by authorities wanting us to comply or else. But the prisons that cage our bodies can often be more secure than the ones that cage our spirits. The women in my cell had a certain freedom that could not and would not be confined. Many of the women, for example, had no one to give them extra money to put on their books and so they shared with one another. Elaborate meals were created with each putting in something from their commissary. I learned that you can even make Pozole (a traditional Mexican soup that’s usually made with hominy) using corn-nuts soaked in water! The letters that arrived for the few would be shared among the many and all would celebrate the pictures of the babies or other family members being passed around.

As I observed all of this, the richness of humanity overwhelmed me and inevitably I would start crying at the sense of wonder and awe in observing the Kingdom of God created among the women at M.D.C! Often they would gather around me wanting to console me as they thought I was crying because I missed home. I hadn’t anticipated finding renewed hope in humanity in prison and yet there it was together with the noise, sensory deprivation and confinement.

It is no accident that Jesus was born in a stable; that our Savior shared space with the cows and farm animals and that he had only his parents and the shepherds to celebrate his arrival into this world. God’s genius of incarnated love in the place you least expect it – incarcerated! Unexpectedly, Advent arrived early for me. I’m sure Judge LaMothe who imposed this “punishment” had no idea she was gifting me with a window into the mystery of God; One who wants to be born in a stable, in prison, in soup kitchens, in refugee camps, in the fields with the farm-workers. The radiant star that guides us is suffering humanity. The bad news, it’s everywhere. The Good News, it’s everywhere!

# BEFORE TRIAL, COURT BARS MORE PROTEST AT NUCLEAR DUMP



photo © Lauri Skrivan, Post-Dispatch.com

After 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 barrels filled with concrete.

The West Lake landfill is managed as 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 contend the EPA process lacks teeth and have pressed for the clean-up to come under a stricter U.S. Army Corps of Engineers protocol called FUSRAP, for the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program. The Corps does

# Yemen War, cont.

*continued from page 1*

Word arrived from one of the blockade groups that the police had decided not to arrest anyone in our group. We eventually formed a circle, confirmed our collective determination to continue outreach, witness and resistance, expressed many thank yous, and dispersed.

For more information, visit [vcnv.org](http://vcnv.org).

not want the job.

The blockade highlighted this demand by shutting down business for the day at Republic Services, the owner of both landfills. Writing on the blockade barrels named federal lawmakers from the area, with the added words “FUSRAP Now.”

Police called to the scene moved carefully and deliberately to break up the barrels and dismantle the blockades, removing the last of ten blockaders about 4:30 that afternoon. Each was arrested and taken into custody on charges of trespass, resisting arrest and property damage. Two supporters were also charged with interfering with the arrests. All were soon released.

In August, 2017, with these charges pending, Republic Services asked the court to enjoin the ten blockaders from “engaging in further trespass” at the site, citing various social media posts by the defendants asserting that protests would continue. Testimony from two of the defendants at the hearing on the injunction was deemed “contradictory and self-serving”, and the court found that despite the pending criminal charges, plaintiffs “have no adequate remedy at law” because “testimony established that defendants are judgement-proof, so that an action at law would at best result in judgement money damages that could not be collected...” The injunction was granted, prohibiting the ten named defendants and all others acting in concert with them from entering the plaintiff’s property or participating in blockades of any entrance.

For more information, visit [facebook.com/EarthDefenseCoalition](https://facebook.com/EarthDefenseCoalition).

# INTERNATIONAL NOTES

## Palmerston North Burghfield

Peace activists in New Zealand have their country's arms industry on the run. A few years of solid community organizing, public education, skill-building and persistent nonviolent direct action drove the industry's annual expo out of Auckland in 2016, and then out of Wellington's Westpac Stadium last year. The 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 the Wellington city government bowed to public pressure and pulled their 20 years of support, Peace Action Manawātū 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 Association 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, and to consider if arms expos are 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 all about: we want a movement big enough and strong enough to shut down this Expo, because those in power are not going to do it for us."

The tactics of choice for countering the event were nonviolent direct actions 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 roadblock 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 occupations at 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 two for 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 a few days later.

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 safe for refugees, families and more vulnerable protesters. That Halloween afternoon, a Witches and Warlocks party for kids included their own march around the venue.

## Jeju Island

(adapted from Choi Sung-hee's report in *Gangjeong Village Story* and Facebook posts)

While mines were being removed in the Korean De-Militarized Zone to carry out the will of the September 19 Inter-Korean Summit meeting, Jeju, the World Peace Island and its sea suffered from the visits of more than 40 warships. It included 19 warships from 13 foreign countries and even the USS Ronald Reagan, the first nuclear aircraft carrier to enter the Jeju navy base and first ship to officially use the civilian cruise terminal.

From October 10 to 14, the so-called Civilian-Military Complex Port for Tour Beauty hosted the 2018 International Fleet Review joined by representatives of 40 countries. The fleet review's title, "Jeju, Where Peace Starts," evoked people's fierce protest with anger, frustration and sadness.

The Gangjeong Village Association opposed the fleet review in a vote last spring, but President Moon Jae-in pushed back. His government would apologize for forcing the naval base against the will of the people only if the village would host the fleet review. The current compromised association agreed to the deal in July.

President Moon was known to be eager to meet with leaders of the anti-base committee, including former mayors Kang Dong-kyun and Cho Kyung-chul, and committee chairman Go Gwon-il. But the three representatives were forcefully stopped by the police on their way to the new luxurious community hall where President Moon was making his deceptive apology.

During two weeks of day and night protests against the fleet review, the people's legal gathering and picketing was interrupted many times by police as well as by the navy, who mobilized soldiers and thugs to stop people's legal activities and even illegally collected photos of

Before work began on United Nations Day, October 24, nine members of Trident Ploughshares locked down and blocked the construction gate and both ends of a private road providing entry to the British nuclear weapons factory at Burghfield. Two of the lockdowns included the use of a car to block the narrow lanes. Their protest condemned Britain's Trident nuclear submarine renewal plan, which would violate the new U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons with a new generation of ballistic missile submarines, missiles and warheads to replace the four aging vessels of the British arsenal.

The action also drew attention to a recent damning report on safety at the old factory in the Berkshire countryside that concluded it "can only be allowed to continue for a limited period."

It was five hours before police crews 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 idle traffic with information about Trident renewal and the Treaty. Six hours later, the last of the nine activists were cut free and arrested. All nine were charged with obstructing the highway and released.



Trident Ploughshares photo  
**Police contemplate the removal of nuclear disarmament activists locked-down in front of the gate of the nuclear weapons factory at Burghfield, England, October 24, 2018.**

## Bure

Photo surveillance, vehicle tracking, cell-phone taps, road blocks, 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 northeast district of Meuse, but daily life for all the residents of nearby rural villages.

Prosecutors are investigating a July, 2017 incident of vandalism and alleged arson at the nuclear waste research center outside the village of Bure, the heart of the resistance, and other demonstrations that resulted in property damage. This fall, a leading French newspaper published details from the investigation files, detailing how Bure is not only a laboratory for nuclear waste disposal, but has become a laboratory for social control through militarization of the territory, recruitment of elected officials and criminalization of the opponents.

Despite massive expenditure and extreme methods, only seven people have been indicted for the 2017 events. Yet as the investigation has grown, more than thirty people have also been placed under judicial controls, criminalizing their presence in part or all of the region. Ten people are forbidden any communication with each other as the investigation proceeds. Some lead dump 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 raided 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 "malefactor."

On October 16, more than 100 police lined the halls and chambers of the courthouse in Bar-de-Luc, where thirteen people were on trial. Seven cases were adjourned until February, 2019. Several supporters were ejected from the courtrooms for protesting the egregious prosecutions, 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.

Loïc Schneider (AKA Loïc Citation), a 23-year-old French national active in the nuclear dump opposition who was jailed last summer on a warrant from Germany, was extradited in late September. Jailed in Hamburg, he faces charges alongside four other young people identified for prosecution among hundreds of black-garbed protesters accused of rioting at the July, 2017 G20 meeting. Their trial began on December 18 and will last until at

*continued on page 7*

Sunny October gave way to rainy November, but the spirit of resistance was not diluted on day two of the event. Early in the morning, groups of blockaders again deployed to delegate hotels around the city. When the first bus was spotted, an impromptu blockade jumped into place; and an agile climber hopped on the roof of the bus. With that bus stopped, demonstrators moved in heavy rain to the next bus, and another roof was occupied. Empty buses spotted down the road were blocked with rolling trash bins that conveniently lined the road that morning. Attendees were again delayed for three hours. One woman's arm was broken when police pushed her to the ground while clearing a blockade. The rooftop activists came down when police finally reached them and were arrested for disorderly behavior. They were later released with a pre-charge warning.

For more information, visit [aucklandpeaceaction.wordpress.com](http://aucklandpeaceaction.wordpress.com).

people while the police overlooked it.

The fraudulence of the Civilian-Military Complex Port was clear this time. The U.S. soldiers who made up more than 60% of the total 10,000 international soldiers at the fleet review were especially rude. One of them even called us "slaves."

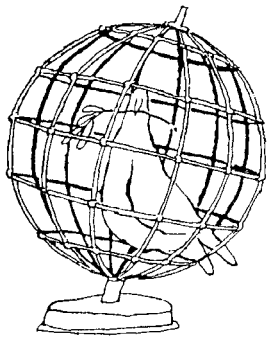
During the protest against them, one male villager was arrested then released the next day, while a female villager was carried out by ambulance twice and the finger of a female activist was broken. But we were not alone. Four hundred and thirty-five internationals signed our petition against the fleet review, which was more of a declaration of the South Korean Jeju navy base as a de-facto U.S. base. Our task to close the Jeju navy base and to demilitarize Jeju and its seas is more urgent than ever.

On October 17, a few days after the fleet review, the Jeju court ruled on twelve people's cases. Most had joined the Catholic mass at the gate in 2012 and were charged with obstruction. The judge dismissed most charges because the navy lost original documents and submitted only digital versions. Others received suspended prison sentences and probation. Two people who resisted the demolition of the villagers' sit-in tent in May 2013 were sentenced to one year in prison, suspended for two years of probation for obstruction of justice. Even as the court announced not guilty verdicts, some supporters were angered it took six years to resolve.

On November 1, Fr. Mun Jeong-hyeon was fined two million KRW on several charges of obstruction of business and obstruction of justice for stopping the passage of base construction vehicles during the period from August 2, 2012 to April 7, 2014.

For more information, visit [savejejunow.org](http://savejejunow.org)





*continued from page 6*  
least May, 2019. French prosecutors then want Schneider back for a new trial for an alleged 2015 computer hack into institutional computer systems, including those of the French nuclear waste agency, ANDRA. Schneider appealed that conviction but prosecutors want another shot.



Cards and letters of support can be sent to Loïc Schneider, UHA Hamburg, Holstenglacis 3, 20355 Hamburg, Germany. He reads and speaks French and English. For more information, email [soutienloic@riseup.net](mailto:soutienloic@riseup.net). When Schneider is returned to French custody to face the anti-nuclear charges, he will return to the list on page 3 of those imprisoned for anti-nuclear actions.

## Brussels

The European Defence Agency’s 2018 Annual Conference in Brussels was devoted to unmanned and autonomous systems, a subject high on the European decision makers’ agendas.

As part of the ongoing I Stop the Arms Trade campaign, the Belgian group Vredesactie (Peace Action) organized nonviolent direct actions at the conference. While dozens demonstrated outside on opening day, November 29, nineteen European citizens entered the conference hall with the delegates. When they continued to protest, police roughly evicted and arrested them. They were held for seven hours and had their identities registered before being released.

“The arms industry is received with open arms today, while the doors remain closed to European citizens. Whose security are they talking about then?”, one of the protesters asked.

One week later, two activists entered an arms lobby event and took the stage, preempting the scheduled event. While one held a banner proclaiming “No EU money for arms dealers”, the other addressed the assembled war merchants, bureaucrats and politicians. She reminded them of the thousands already killed by war and 85,000 children dead from starvation in Yemen, a war and famine fueled by weapons made by Raytheon, one of the conference underwriters. As the man with the banner was led away into custody, she persisted, condemning the influence of war suppliers on defense policy before she, too, was led away from the podium and escorted out of the building. Both were briefly held for identity checks and told not to come back.

For more information, visit [www.vredesactie.be](http://www.vredesactie.be).

## 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 their bare fronts were the boldly painted words “Fake Peacemakers, Real Dictators”, and they held signs reading “Welcome War Criminals” and, quoting Orwell, “War is Peace, Freedom is Slavery, Ignorance is Strength.” Their demonstration brought the motorcade briefly to a halt, and first two, and then the third woman crossed over police barricades, approaching the limousines. They were each quickly wrestled to the ground, arrested and carried away.

## Plowshares, cont.

*continued from page 3*  
much in common, that the defendants and the prosecution truly shared a compelling interest to prevent nuclear war. “It is our universal burden,” he said. “We can’t separate our religion and our faith from our lives, they are the same thing. Our Catholic faith calls us to uphold the sanctity of life and to preserve creation.”

Martha Hennessy spoke of the formation of her faith. Hennessy said that early on she learned that nuclear weapons threaten all of God’s creation, and are directly opposed to her beliefs.

“I’m a grandmother, as a few of us are here,” Hennessy said. “I don’t care just for my children, but all the children in the world.”

Mark Colville testified that his faith forms the foundation of his conscience. “It’s the rudder of the ship of my life,” he said. “The sins of omission interfere with my faith in God.”

# FUTURE ACTIONS

*More future actions and event details can be found at [nukeresister.org/future-actions](http://nukeresister.org/future-actions)*

## feast of the holy innocents washington, d.c.

Join members of the Atlantic and Southern Life Communities and other peacemaking friends December 27-28 for a time of prayer, reflection and nonviolent witness to commemorate the Massacre of the Holy Innocents, past and present. Please arrive by 1:00 p.m. Thursday at St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church, 1525 Newton St. NW, Washington, D.C. Please bring sleeping bag/bedding for sleeping in the church sanctuary and food for potluck breakfast Friday before nonviolent action at the Pentagon. For more information, contact Art Laffin, Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, [artlaffin@hotmail.com](mailto:artlaffin@hotmail.com)

## des moines

The Second Annual retreat and witness at the Des Moines Drone Command Center begins at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 27 at the Bishop Dingman Catholic Worker, 1310 7th St., Des Moines, IA. Retreat reflection and direct action planning continues at 9:00 a.m. Friday and concludes with direct action witness at the Iowa National Guard drone command center, 3100 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](mailto:frank.cordaro@gmail.com), 515-490-2490, or Jakob Whitson, [jakobwhitson@gmail.com](mailto:jakobwhitson@gmail.com), 785-340-2458.

## 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 had to be re-filed with the state appeals 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 pending this appeal. Her appeal challenges the inappropriate use of an order of protection to further criminalize nonviolent protest at the base...

**NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY:** Ellen Barfield and Max Obuszewski 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 and request for a meeting to the spy agency’s director. During discussion with the prosecutor before their 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...

**SHANNON:** At their first hearing in Dublin, Ireland Circuit Court, Ed Horgan and Dan Dowling learned that a jury trial for allegedly writing graffiti on a U.S. warplane at the international airport in September, 2017 will begin on May 18, 2020. The ShannonWatch activists are engaged in a long campaign to stop complicity by officially neutral Ireland with U.S. war crimes through the regular use of the airport by American military transports and CIA rendition flights. At the group’s monthly peace vigil on December 9, Irish police did not take action to search the two U.S. warplanes then on the tarmac for contraband arms, so 82-year-old Margaretta D’Arcy laid down in the middle of the gate entry road where they vigil. Twice, police gently carried her off to the grassy verge. In the winter of 2014, D’Arcy served nine weeks in prison for trying to stop the flights...

“What I’m charged with just seems so very petty compared to nuclear annihilation,” Colville said. “Yes, we went in the night and cut through the fence. We’re called to go into the darkness, to bring in light, to expose what is hidden.”

At the conclusion of the hearing, defense counsel Bill Quigley was given 20 days after receiving the hearing transcripts to prepare a written summation of the arguments presented in support of the defense motion.

For more information, visit [kingsbayplowshares7.org](http://kingsbayplowshares7.org) and Kings Bay Plowshares on Facebook.



Individually addressed pre-stamped white postcards should be sent to Elizabeth McAlister 015633, Stephen Kelly 015634, and Mark Colville 015635; all at Glynn County Detention Facility, 100 Sulphur Springs Road, Brunswick, GA 31520. See complete mail restrictions on page 3, Inside & Out.

## 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-fencings and go-ins will be concentrated during several weeks 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. Plan 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](http://www.buechel-atombombenfrei.de).

## midwest catholic worker faith and resistance

The Des Moines Catholic Worker and Veterans for Peace are hosting the 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 and updates, contact Frank Cordaro, [frank.cordaro@gmail.com](mailto:frank.cordaro@gmail.com), 515-490-2490, or Jakob Whitson, [jakobwhitson@gmail.com](mailto:jakobwhitson@gmail.com), 785-340-2458, or Gilbert Landolt, [peacevet@hotmail.com](mailto:peacevet@hotmail.com), 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, 2019, walking 60 miles from Las Vegas, past the killer drone center at Creech Air Force Base to the historic Peace Camp, ending on Good 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/notonato](http://worldbeyondwar.org/notonato) and [www.no2nato2019.org](http://www.no2nato2019.org).

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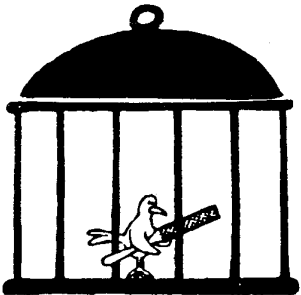
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# Update Files

**KOODANKULAM:** A prominent opponent of the Koodankulam nuclear power project on the southern tip of India, R.S. Mukilan, was released from prison on conditional bail on September 26. He had served 374 days behind bars. Addressing the media after his release, Mr. Mukilan called for better treatment of prisoners. NGOs in India are under state scrutiny for any sign of tangible support from non-Indian NGOs, a situation that has deterred nonviolent campaigners opposed to the Koodankulam project even from asking overseas for letters of support for prisoners. Another prominent and previously jailed activist in the struggle, Sundari Raj, recently asked the Madurai bench of Madras High Court to set up a special court in either the village of Koodankulam or of Idinthakarai, to hear scores of remaining protest cases. Idinthakarai was the epicenter of several years of mass nonviolent protest as the plant was coming online six years ago. First Information Reports (FIRs) of alleged criminal activity were registered by the police against hundreds of unnamed villagers, including some children, during the years of resistance. Many villagers still have no idea how many cases are pending against them or when they will be resolved. While most of the FIRs appear to have been withdrawn following several court interventions, many still remain despite a Supreme Court order in 2013 to withdraw all remaining criminal cases against the nuclear power opponents. The State claims the remaining reports concern violent protests...

**KITSAP-BANGOR NAVAL BASE:** Twelve people were in court in Port Orchard, Washington on October 25. They were cited by state police as pedestrians wrongly in the road for their Hiroshima Day blockade of the Pacific home port for Trident nuclear ballistic missile submarines. Each presented testimony in mitigation of their alleged offense, referencing the omniscidal mission of the base that they want to stop. Their fines were reduced to the minimum \$25 each...



**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 flute 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...

**OFFICE OF REP. STENY HOYER:** It took the arrest of seven people in his Washington, D.C. office last January to secure two meetings with the Maryland representative’s foreign policy staff to lobby for action to end U.S. support for the Saudi Arabian war in Yemen. Two of the seven pled guilty in June and were sentenced to time served. Less than a week before the October trial of the other five, their charges were dismissed. That same day, Hoyer signed on as a co-sponsor of a House resolution invoking the War Powers Act regarding the war in Yemen...

**DES MOINES:** After a mistrial because one juror held out for acquittal, Eddie Bloomer, Greg Boertje-Obed and Bryan Hynes were in court again on September 13, defending themselves for crossing the line at the Iowa Air National Guard base, home of the 124th Attack Squadron piloting armed Reaper drones. Despite their arguments about the immoral, undemocratic and illicit nature of warfare from afar by drone, the men were convicted by the six-person jury. They were ordered to pay fines and court costs. As they were leaving the courtroom, the prosecuting attorney, a Marine veteran, turned to the defendants and said, “We’re not too far from agreement”...

**KANSAS CITY:** When the witness for the prosecution failed to appear on time and the charges were dismissed, the courtroom for a much-anticipated trial for trespass on the city-owned property of the factory producing 85% of the non-nuclear parts for U.S. nuclear weapons was transformed into a seminar on nuclear disarmament. The five defendants included Catholic Worker Brian Terrell (representing himself) and attorney Henry Stoeber, representing himself as well as National Catholic Reporter publisher Tom Fox, Church of Christ minister Lu Montenay and Sunny Hamrick of Jerusalem Farm...

**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 vigiling 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 Defense 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...

**HANCOCK FIELD I:** 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 piloting armed drones from the base 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...

*continued on page 7*

Going to Jail for the Poor  
People’s Campaign

Plowshares Group Asserts  
Religious Freedom to Act

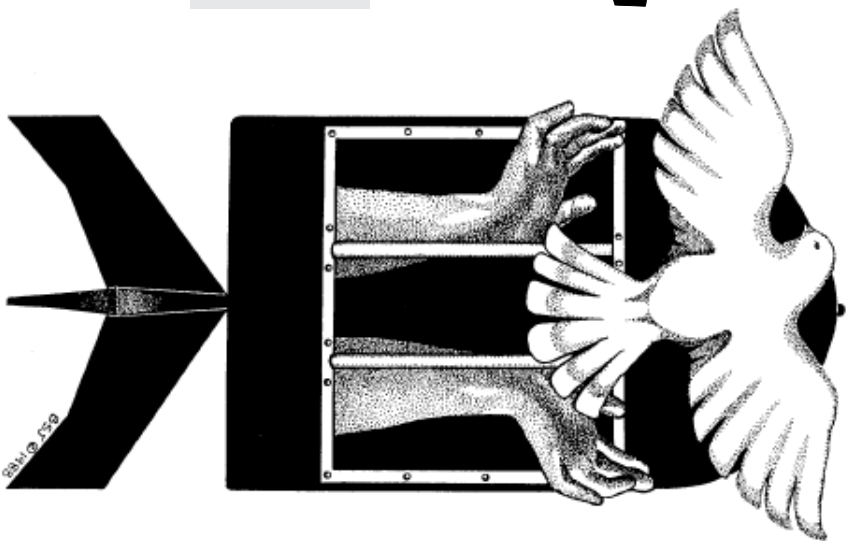
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