

the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

No. 191

April 17, 2019

Chelsea Manning Jailed for Grand Jury Resistance

Whistleblower Chelsea Manning is back behind bars. Manning, whose actions while working as a U.S. Army intelligence analyst in Iraq revealed U.S. global political manipulations and war crimes to public scrutiny, was originally jailed following her arrest in 2010 until her 35-year sentence was commuted by President Obama and she was freed in May, 2017.

Manning was subpoenaed to testify in secret on March 6 before a grand jury understood to be investigating Wikileaks founder Julian Assange. She reported that,

I responded to each question with the following statement: “I object to the question and refuse to answer on the grounds that the question is in violation of my First, Fourth and Sixth Amendment, and other statutory rights.” In solidarity with many activists facing the odds, I will stand by my principles.

On March 8, Manning returned to court for a hearing where the judge found her in contempt and remanded her into federal custody “until she purges or the end of the life of the grand jury.”

In a defiant statement, Manning said,

I will not comply with this, or any other grand jury. Imprisoning me for my refusal to answer questions only subjects me to additional punishment for my repeatedly-stated ethical objections to the grand jury system.

The grand jury’s questions pertained to disclosures from nine years ago, and took place six years after an in-depth computer forensics case, in which I testified for almost a full day about these events. I stand by my previous public testimony.

I will not participate in a secret process that I morally object to, particularly one that has been historically used to entrap and persecute activists for protected political speech.

Manning was held in solitary confinement for more than three weeks before being moved into general population. In early April, she filed a motion for immediate release pending appeal of her sentence because bail was not considered by the court. Furthermore, imprisonment is permitted only to compel testimony, but because she has made clear to all that she will not be testifying, her continued imprisonment serves no purpose other than to punish her.

For more information, contact ChelseaResists@protonmail.com and visit xychelsea.is.



Letters of support should be sent to Chelsea Elizabeth Manning A0181426, William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center, 2001 Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22314. She cannot receive postcards or any cards, but color drawings are okay.

U.S. VETERANS JAILED, BAILED AND HELD IN IRELAND FOR AIRPORT PEACE ACTION

Two U.S. military veterans are staying in Ireland longer than they anticipated. In March, Tarak Kauff and Ken Mayers joined five other U.S. Veterans for Peace and associates on a six-day tour. They spoke to media and at a public meeting against the proliferation of U.S. wars and U.S. disrespect for Ireland’s neutrality by regular shipments of soldiers and arms through Shannon Airport. Their group included two recent combat veterans who described their experience of having been transported with their weapons through Shannon.

On St. Patrick’s Day, March 17, the American veterans joined the activists of Shannon Watch for a demonstration outside the airport. Shannon Watch logs U.S. military aircraft through Shannon as part of an international network of plane spotters who track such aircraft from bases in the United States, through Shannon and on to U.S. wars in the Middle East and beyond. The plane spotters observed a transport plane contracted by the U.S. military landing at Shannon about 8:30 that morning, arriving from an air force base in Alaska and believed to be carrying up to 300 armed soldiers en route to a war zone. Given that the Gardaí (Irish police) have long not been allowed to search such aircraft for evidence of breaches of Irish neutrality, Kauff, a 77-year-old former Army paratrooper, and Mayers, an 82-year-old former Marine Corps Major, tried to inspect the plane themselves before the scheduled protest. At about 10 a.m. they entered the air field carrying a large banner that read:

**U.S. Veterans say
Respect Irish Neutrality
U.S. War Machine out of Shannon Airport
Veterans For Peace**

The two walked across the air field but were apprehended before reaching the plane by airport security and Gardaí. They were detained and interviewed at the Shannon Garda station, then held overnight for arraignment on charges of trespass and criminal damage.

Appearing the next morning at Ennis District Court, the men were alleged to have caused substantial damage to the perimeter fence, where police found a wire cutter and pair of gloves. Due to the “serious charges” the men faced, they were denied bail and remanded to Limerick Prison.

The bail denial was affirmed in a brief hearing two days later, and a hearing now set for May 8 at Ennis



photo by Ed Horgan

Ken Mayers and Tarak Kauff leaving Limerick Prison on March 29 after being granted bail.

District Court will take up the issue of moving their cases up to the circuit court in Dublin.

An appeal of the bail denial was filed with the High Court in Dublin and heard on March 28. The court granted the men bail and they were released the next day after €2,500 each was posted. Their passports were taken to ensure they would remain in Ireland through trial and they agreed not to go near or protest at Shannon Airport. They were released to the home of a supporter in Limerick.

Concern is great that the men will be compelled to remain in Ireland until trial, which may be up to three years away. Shannon Watch activists Edward Horgan and Dan Dowling were arrested on similar charges at Shannon in April, 2017, and in their 16th pre-trial hearing on April 10, the two charges were consolidated at the circuit court in Dublin. Their jury trial in Dublin is now set for May 18, 2020.

Tarak and Mayers are both committed to return to Ireland for trial as a means of raising awareness of U.S. wars trumping Irish neutrality. Supporters are encouraged to raise awareness of their situation with calls to the Irish embassy and consulates in the United States, letters to the editor, and contact with senators and representatives, especially those living in New Mexico (where Mayers lives) or New York state (where Kauff lives).

For more information, visit stopthesewars.org/kenandtarak or contact ellen.davidson@verizon.net.

Jordanian Anti-Nuclear Activist Detained Over Facebook Post

Leading Jordanian environmental activist Basel Burgan has been released on bail after seven days in detention by state authorities. Burgan was taken into administrative detention on March 19, sparking immediate concern in the country. He was detained and then arrested during a meeting where he and his lawyer had voluntarily answered a summons for questioning by the state prosecutor.

The case against him is rooted in Jordan’s Cyber Crimes Law. Burgan is alleged to have “spread false information that leads to concern and affects a public institution,” according to Article 75 of the Communications Law, and Article 15 of the Cyber Crimes Law. The state has not yet determined whether to take the prosecution to regular court or to the State Security Court, an institution condemned by human rights advocates for its lack of independence and fairness.

Burgan posted a statement on Facebook in January 2019 that called into question the safety of the building housing the nuclear research reactor at the Jordan University of Science and Technology. He referenced a report that had recently been leaked and published by a former employee and expert of the Jordanian Atomic Energy Commission now living and working in the United States. It is believed that Jordanian authorities would also like to question the former employee.

Burgan is a pharmacist and businessman in Jordan, also known widely as an activist for environmental causes. He has published articles about nuclear power, environmental preservation, sustainable energy and other topics in Arabic and in English in Jordan’s press. He has appeared many times on Jordanian television as an expert on environmental issues. Burgan is the president of Jordanian Friends of the Environment (JFoE) and

led the National Committee Against the Nuclear Project (NCANP), an anti-nuclear activist group.

Many environmental, civil society and grassroots groups and organizations issued statements expressing concern about his detention and calling for his immediate release. A petition demanding his release launched by activists and his friends and family was quickly signed by 34 such groups including the Pharmacists Professional Association, of which Burgan is a member, and the NCANP. Around 2,000 people have since signed the online petition.

The NCANP issued a statement affirming its respect for the Jordanian judiciary but also expressing astonishment at the arrest of Burgan and the initial refusal to grant bail. The Committee acknowledged that

continued on page 7

Loudmouths Against Nuclear Lawlessness

by John LaForge, Nukewatch
(from *counterpunch.org*)

Hamburg, January 15, 2019
You have to wonder if the Department of Homeland Security is insecure or just lame.

On New Year’s Eve, I was about to board a flight to Hamburg, when a pair of its officers stopped me to ask a few questions. My mistake was not to demand to know their names, their jobs, and if I was under arrest. Instead, I calmly answered their irrelevant queries. Nothing they asked related to anybody’s homeland.

The three pieces of paper that one officer handed to me did not concern me or my travel plans. They were sections of the United States Code regarding “subversive activities” at U.S. military sites. I was headed here to Germany to attend the appeal court hearing of a nuclear weapons abolitionist, Gerd Büntzly, whom I joined in 2017, along with three other U.S. citizens, in a protest at the German Air Base Büchel. There are 20 U.S. nuclear weapons at the base (so-called B61-3s or B61-4s) but it’s a German base. The U.S. Air Force just works there under the name “702nd Munitions Support Squadron” to cynically guard, support and train German pilots in use of the U.S. H-bombs upon order of the president. A U.S. flag flies over the base’s entrance next to its German counterpart.

Gerd, 68, a music teacher, violinist, and orchestral arranger from Herford, Germany, intends to testify at his own appeal that nonviolent resistance at the Büchel base is a lawful act of crime prevention, because Germany and the United States deploy U.S. nuclear bombs in violation of the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and other treaties both countries have ratified.

The NPT prohibits any transfer of nuclear weapons to or from other states that have signed it. To rationalize its nuclear lawlessness, the United States claims: (1) Its hydrogen bombs in Germany are under USAF control at the base until war starts; and (2) The NPT doesn’t apply in wartime (Ha!) when the bombs would be transferred to German Tornado fighter jets flown by Germany’s Tactical Air Force Wing 33 in Büchel. Talk about subversive activities at a military base.

One officer wanted a look inside my cornet case even

though it had already passed two sets of airport security. (You never know about cornet players!) The other officer asked if I knew it was unlawful to enter a military installation without permission. Having done so in two dozen protests, I said yes.

After quickly skimming the web-site-generated sections of the U.S. Code, I asked an officer why he was giving them to me. He said, “So you can’t say you haven’t been warned.” But none of the text involved warnings, just federal statutory facts. The U.S. Code is addressed to the U.S. population as a whole. This material I had was not addressed to me, had no date, nor the name of an issuing officer. Two pages had a D.H.S. seal shabbily stamped in red and came complete with comical errors: One elaborately defined federal misdemeanor was said to have a penalty upon conviction of “a fine not to exceed 000.” Wow, some warning.

The airport interruption was perhaps a sort of “proof of surveillance” demonstration by the cops — a useless and absurd one. One officer then felt the need to inform me that “‘No trespassing’ signs at military bases are written in English.” I thought, what would become of the nation without the stern Department of Homeland Security?! I walked down the causeway to my seat.

Perhaps the attempted scare tactic was actually a message meant for everyone else but me. By reporting to others about the Minneapolis airport delay, maybe I only help the D.H.S. put on notice those readers who may for the first time be considering opposition to U.S. militarism.

What the D.H.S. hasn’t figured out is that hokey theatrics used to shoo people away from political dissent only succeed against those few activists who were born yesterday. There are just too many time-honored, practical, hard-headed, ethical and strategic reasons for nonviolent political action to ever intimidate committed loudmouths.

[At Gerd Büntzly’s trial on January 16, the three-person bench apologized for the value of nuclear deterrence and found Büntzly guilty but reduced his fine from €1,200 to €750.]

Please let the Nuclear Resister know if you are aware of activists who have had a run-in with security at the airport or hassles when crossing a border.

WITNESS AGAINST TORTURE

About 40 people returned to Washington, D.C. in January to fast and participate in several days of public witness in opposition to U.S. torture practices and to call for closure of the Guantánamo prison camp on its 17th anniversary, January 11.

The organizers, Witness Against Torture (WAT), formed in 2005 when 25 Americans went to Guantánamo Bay and attempted to visit the detention facility. In 2007, the group began the now annual fast and demonstrations, honoring a commitment to keep the men held there in the public eye until the camp is closed.

This year, the fast began on January 7, when WAT joined the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker community for their weekly Monday morning peace vigil at the Pentagon. This year, with Congress debating U.S. military aid to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in their war against Yemen, the WAT activists added the demand to stop supporting that war to their perennial call to close Guantánamo.

Supreme Court

Security was high when the group brought their witness to Capitol Hill on January 9, in advance of a visit from the President. WAT demonstrators, many dressed in orange jump suits and black hoods representing the Guantánamo detainees, took their protest across the street, in front of the Supreme Court. “Bloodied” sheets were placed on the sidewalk, and nine of the orange-suited demonstrators, representing nine detainees who died in custody at Guantánamo, laid down on them. Alongside were 36 blue children’s book bags, each bearing the name of a Yemeni child killed by U.S.-made bombs while on



photo by Steve Peavy

This banner being held on the U.S. Supreme Court plaza on January 9 is not a protest, said a judge, acquitting Manijeh Saba (second from left).

peaceful demonstration. Charley Bowman, Ellen Graves, Sherrill Hogen, JoAnne Lingle and Manijeh Saba were held overnight before being released.

Lingle later pled guilty, and charges against Bowman, Graves and Hogen were dropped. Saba defended herself at trial in U.S. District Court on March 9, but fell ill after delivering her opening statement. Her trial was continued to March 27, at which time Judge Deborah Robinson granted Saba’s motion for a judgement of acquittal. Robinson agreed that the government failed to show that the 72-year-old Iranian immigrant had violated the statute that forbids demonstrations on the Supreme Court steps and plaza. It is illegal to assemble on the Supreme Court steps and plaza for the purpose of bringing into public notice a party, organization or movement. It is also illegal to display a flag, banner or device designed or adapted to bring into public notice a party, organization or movement. In her ruling, Robinson explained that although Saba was one of five people holding the banner, the banner did not refer to “a party, organization

a school outing last summer. Five other WAT activists held a banner with this reproachful riddle: “We Target. We Torture. We Terrify. Who are we?”

From this tableau, they carried the banner up the first steps into the plaza of the Supreme Court. There they stood, gently singing “Know where you stand – No More War; Know where you stand and stand there!”

Security guards gave three warnings to disperse and then arrested the five when they continued their

continued on page 5

The Nuclear Resister has once again added U.S. Army whistleblower Chelsea Manning to the Inside & Out list of imprisoned anti-nuclear and anti-war activists on page 3. After spending seven years in military prison until President Obama commuted her 35-year sentence in 2017, her conscientious refusal in early March to cooperate with a grand jury investigation into Julian Assange and Wikileaks led to a contempt citation that has landed her back behind bars for an indefinite period of time (see story on front page).

About a month later, on April 11, Julian Assange was dragged out of Ecuador’s Embassy in London by Metropolitan Police, where he had been holed up for seven years after being granted political asylum. He was arrested on an extradition warrant from the U.S. Justice Department, charged with conspiracy to attempt to hack a computer in connection with the 2010 release of classified military information obtained from Chelsea Manning. Assange faces the possibility of extradition to the U.S.

Before Swedish prosecutors issued an arrest warrant for Assange based on allegations of sexual assault back in 2010, he had stated that the people involved with Wikileaks don’t have anti-war motives but are rather “transparency activists who understand that transparent government tends to produce just government.” So the Nuclear Resister has not – then or now – included him as an anti-war prisoner.

• • •

A significant gift for us throughout 39 years of the Nuclear Resister has been the people we’ve met and relationships that have developed along the way, whether it’s through notes in the mail or being at a demonstration or in a courtroom or jail visiting room together. We are always glad to hear about what’s happening in people’s lives, such as the arrival of new children and grandchildren or a move to a new home. Sometimes we receive the news of someone’s death, and recently we’ve been saddened to learn that several long time Nuclear Resister subscribers have passed away - Tom Shea from Washington, Blase Bonpane from California, Joffre Stewart from Illinois, and Henry Hall and “Walking Mary” Adams, both from Arizona. Our heartfelt condolences to their family and friends. Tom, Blase, Joffre, Henry and Walking Mary - Presente!

Peace,
Felice and Jack Cohen-Joppa

Thanks

Thanks to Steve, Paige, Gretchen, Luise, Faith, Cindy, Bill, Betty, Rosemary and Kathleen for helping to mail the last issue, and to Ruth for proofreading this issue.

the Nuclear Resister

POB 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733
520-323-8697 nukeresister@igc.org ISSN #0883-9875

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.

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

Dhafir Transferred to Pennsylvania via Freezing Brooklyn Prison

After 52 days, Rafil Dhafir was finally released from solitary confinement at the federal medical center in Ayers, Massachusetts on January 11, once again with no finding of any rules violation. Then, within days of his last contact with supporters on January 29, the federal Bureau of Prisons moved the 70-year-old physician and philanthropist from the medical center for federal prisoners in Massachusetts, into the Metropolitan Detention Center [MDC] in Brooklyn, New York.

The move came just after a fire at MDC Brooklyn cut off electricity and heat to the facility as temperatures plunged below freezing to record lows, leaving prisoners and staff freezing in dark cells and corridors only dimly lit by emergency lights. Demonstrators braved the cold overnight on Saturday, February 2, in front of the 14-story prison, where officials refused outside support. New York Mayor Bill de Blasio tweeted that “New York City is sending trucks with hundreds of blankets and hand warmers to the Metropolitan Detention Center NOW, and generators are being readied for transport. We’ve told the federal Bureau of Prisons the supplies are coming – whether they like it or not.”

Dhafir was later able to communicate that he was locked down in the darkness for three days, but knew of the demonstrations outside. Power was finally restored by the morning of February 4. Two weeks later, Dhafir was transferred again to his designated institution closer to home, the Allenwood federal prison in White Deer, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Rafil Dhafir is an Iraqi emigre and oncologist. His case is emblematic of the malicious prosecutions of Muslim philanthropists and charities in the post-9/11 era. Dhafir was an outspoken opponent of the 1991–2003 U.S. sanctions against his native country. As a respected physician and leader among upstate New York Muslims, he established a charity for the beleaguered Iraqis, and donated well over \$1 million of his own money to their needs.

Dr. Dhafir has been imprisoned since his surprise arrest on the eve of the 2003 invasion of Iraq, when he was repeatedly denied bail and accused by state and federal officials of funding terrorists. His home and office were raided, and within hours, at least 150 donors to the charity had been visited in their homes and interrogated by the FBI. When Dhafir refused a plea bargain on the original 14 charges related to the Iraq sanctions, the government responded with a 59-count indictment, expanding the prosecution to include 25 counts of Medicare fraud for receiving improper reimbursements totaling much less than the charity he gave. No evidence of his funding of terrorism came into the trial, so the defense was not permitted to mention or refute the widely-publicized accusations, which were insinuated again at sentencing and continue to be while he serves his sentence.

As a federal prisoner in 2006, Dhafir was among the first small group of federal prisoners picked for placement in a so-called “Communications Management

PELTIER TRANSFER DENIED

On Monday, March 4, Leonard Peltier was advised that his request for a transfer had been unceremoniously denied by the federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP).

The International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee (ILPDC) is grateful to the large number of his supporters who took the time to write, call, email or fax the BOP in support of Leonard’s request for a transfer. The ILPDC plans to appeal this denial of his transfer to be closer to his family. They plan to demand he receive appropriate medical care, and to continue to uncover and utilize every legal mechanism to secure his release. Financial support for this legal work is always needed.

For more information, contact the ILPDC, 116 W. Osborne Ave., Tampa, FL 33603, 813-488-7851, contact@whoisleonardpeltier.info. or visitwhoisleonardpeltier.info.



Letters of support should be sent to Leonard Peltier 89637-132, USP Coleman I, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521. Please note restrictions on correspondence, Inside & Out, on this page.

Unit”, a repressive innovation that targeted Muslims with strict limits on and surveillance of all written, phone and personal communications with the outside world. In recent years at the Devens Federal Medical Center in Ayers, Massachusetts, he was subjected to repeated harassment during the month of Ramadan and placed in isolation while alleged disciplinary infractions were investigated and then dismissed without explanation.

According to a 2012 court filing, Dhafir “suffers from inguinal hernia, diabetes, limited mobility in his shoulder that has not been definitively diagnosed, fasciitis of the left foot, hypertension and elevated cholesterol, significant back pain, prostatic hypertrophy and neuropathy, incipient cataracts and chronic gout – all of which have developed since his incarceration.”

At Allenwood, Dhafir continues to experience severe pain from a herniated spinal disc. Following recently revised procedures, Dhafir applied to the Warden at Allenwood for compassionate medical release, only to be summarily refused. Any appeal of this decision must go through Dhafir’s trial judge.

A summary of Dhafir’s case can be found at bit.ly/DhafirSummary.



Letters of support should be sent to Rafil Dhafir 11921-052, FCI Allenwood Low, Federal Correctional Institution, P.O. Box 1000, White Deer, PA 17887. Please see Inside & Out, below, for mail restrictions.

IN JAIL AFTER FASLANE BLOCKADE

On Saturday, April 6, two residents of the Faslane Peace Camp made use of a single lock-on tube and large yellow roadblocks already in place to help them cut off vehicle access to the south entrance of the British Trident nuclear submarine base on the Gare Loch on Scotland’s west coast. The base’s expert cutting team was not on site, and a cutting team had to be brought in from Scotland’s east coast. Four hours later, after the team had cut through the locking device, Willemein Hoogendoorn and Magnus Pettersson were arrested and held in jail until their initial court appearance on April 8.

Both pled not guilty to two charges: breach of peace and a second count under Scotland’s Civil Government Act of 1982. Pettersson was released on bail, but Hoogendoorn disagreed with the bail conditions and was remanded to custody. Trial is scheduled for May 17.

On March 21, a trial judge had agreed that Hoogendoorn, Andrew Simpson and Jamie Watson had no case to answer against the charge of breach of peace for a similar action last August. Their actions were peaceful, he said, and no evidence of the alarming or disturbing behavior required to uphold the breach of peace charge had been presented. It was the second such acquittal on these grounds since 2017, leading to the additional charges being filed now.

For more information, contact faslanepeacecamp@protonmail.com or visit the Faslane Peace Camp page on Facebook.com.



Letters of support should be sent to Willemein Hoogendoorn 149440, HMP Edinburgh, 33 Stenhouse Rd., Edinburgh EH11 3LN, United Kingdom.

Inside & Out



It’s Getting Harder to Write to Prisoners

Depending on the jail or prison, the rules are ever-changing and inconsistent, restricting and prohibiting some kinds of basic communication with prisoners. Noted below each prisoner’s name are the restrictions we know about affecting their mail.

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

NUCLEAR RESISTERS

Willemein Hoogendoorn 149440
HMP Edinburgh, 33 Stenhouse Rd.,
Edinburgh EH11 3LN, United Kingdom.
(Disagreed with conditions of release; awaiting trial 5/17/19 for blocking road into Faslane nuclear submarine base, 4/6/19)

Pierre Robert n°ecrou: 15816
Centre pénitentiaire Nancy-Maxéville,
300 rue de l’Abbé Haltebourg,
54320 Maxéville, France.
(3 months for contempt and ID refusal related to police harassment of nuclear dump foes - in 2/4/19)

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. 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
USP Coleman I, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521. (life)
Please note: This prison will not accept any cards or drawings, only white paper letters and envelopes using no crayon or markers. (Framed for murder while defending traditional indigenous from threats including uranium mining on sacred lands, 6/75)

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

ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS

Chelsea Elizabeth Manning A0181426
William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center,
2001 Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22314.
Please note: This prison will not accept postcards or any cards, but color drawings on white paper are okay. (Remanded into federal custody 3/8/19 for contempt of court for refusing to testify before a grand jury)

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
FCI Allenwood Low, Federal Correctional Institution, P.O. Box 1000, White Deer, PA 17887.
(22 years – out 5/20/22)
Please note: This prison will not accept any cards or drawings, only white paper letters and envelopes using no crayon or markers. (Convictions resulting from providing humanitarian and financial aid to Iraqis in violation of U.S. sanctions, 2/05)

Jared Chase M44710
Pontiac Correctional Center, P.O. Box 99, Pontiac, IL 61764.
(8 years – out 11/6/19)
(Convicted of possession of incendiary devices with intent to commit arson during protests at NATO summit in Chicago, 5/12)

Fast and Blockade for Yemen

On January 2, eleven people from New York, New Jersey, Maine, Illinois and Iowa protested the Saudi-led, U.S.-supported bombardment and siege of Yemen with a nonviolent blockade of the doors of the United States Mission to the United Nations in New York. Far outnumbered by New York City police officers, the protesters were arrested and later released pending a court appearance on February 25. In court, the judge adjourned their cases and admonished them to “stay out of trouble.”

The protest was a part of the “Fast for Yemen,” a week-long fast from solid food in solidarity with the people of Yemen who suffer from the world’s worst famine in over a century. Fasters took part in daily marches and protests in New York City and in Washington, D.C., including at the missions or consulates of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and France, and the offices of Lockheed Martin.

For more information visit vcnv.org.

ARREST AT VENEZUELA PEACE DEMO

About 30 people demonstrated for peace with Venezuela outside the Washington, D.C. office of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the afternoon of April 1. The OAS was preparing to vote on new sanctions against the Maduro government, and the modest opposition proved too much to bear, at least for the U.S. Secret Service protecting the building.

Around 5:00 p.m., they ordered demonstrators to move away from the entrance and out to the sidewalk under threat of arrest. Dick Ochs, 81, who stood holding a banner on a low wall by the sidewalk over 50 yards away from the door, didn’t move fast enough and was quickly handcuffed along with Mary Eliesar. Eliesar was released from custody after explaining that she was Ochs’ legal advisor. Ochs was taken to the precinct station and charged with unlawful entry. He is due back in court on May 6.

Couple Arrested at Drone Base Action

from Toby Blomé’s report

As the President, his advisors and Congressional leadership from both parties openly threatened Venezuela with illegal U.S. regime change and military intervention, Occupy Beale Air Force Base activists fashioned their monthly two-day vigil outside of Marysville, California into a “Pre-emptive Peace Strike” to say “U.S. Bloody Hands Off Venezuela!”

On Thursday afternoon, February 28, the activists vigiled at two gates. Dozens of U.S. military personnel took their leaflets with information about the real situation in Venezuela as a counter to government and media drumbeats for war.



Occupy Beale photo

Fred Bialy and Toby Blomé walk into Beale Air Force Base with their anti-war message on March 1. They were arrested after sitting in the incoming lane near the gate.

Friday morning, March 1, a series of messages greeted the morning commute at the main Wheatland gate. First, a banner implored: “Venezuela? Hell No, Don’t Go!” A bit further on, another read “War Is A Lie,” explained at intervals by each of these signs: “Presidents Lie,” “Congress Lies,” “Generals Lie,” “Media Lies” and “CIA Lies.” The last sign to be read simply concluded: “People Die.”

Later in the morning, traffic subsided and military police drove away from the white line marking the base boundary. Fred Bialy and Toby Blomé picked up the sign “Let Venezuela Live” and crossed over the line. With no military in sight, the married couple began walking

PACIFIC LIFE COMMUNITY RETURNS TO LOCKHEED MARTIN

For the third time in nine years, the Pacific Life Community (PLC) met in Menlo Park, California for their annual gathering. Each retreat has ended with a blockade of the main gate at the nearby Lockheed Martin factory in Sunnyvale that produces the intercontinental ballistic missiles for launching nuclear weapons from both U.S. and British Trident submarines.

On Monday, March 18, about 50 PLC members were joined outside the Lockheed Martin gate by members of Code Pink and the Musicians Action Group, a marching ensemble of percussion and horns who enlivened the crowd of activists with rollicking renditions of Down by the Riverside and other peace and labor rights songs. A large banner made for the last PLC blockade at Lockheed Martin – four feet tall and long enough to block four lanes of traffic – was rolled out and carried around the intersection with a bold-lettered message for the auto and rail commuters passing by: Lockheed Weapons Terrorize the World.

At the head of the procession, the chants and drumming of two Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist monks set the tone as the group carried the banner a hundred yards down the sidewalk to the main entrance, which is crowned by an arch declaring it the “Gateway to Space.”

Lockheed security forces pulled a low fence across the road while Sunnyvale police stopped traffic at the intersection from approaching the entrance. As the banner was carried into a blocking position from one side of the road, a line of police marched in from the other, positioning themselves between the blockaders and the gate. The protesters carried with them copies of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to inform Lockheed workers and management that when the treaty is ratified, building nuclear weapons and their delivery systems will be in violation of international humanitarian law.

After awhile, formal warnings of trespass and imminent arrest were given, along with the opportunity to leave. But none of the blockaders did. One by one, eleven people were arrested, the large banner slowly dropping to the ground as each in turn was handcuffed and taken into custody.

Near the end of the banner, a sign held in front of it read “The Pacific Life Community Supports The Kings



photo by Lynda Williams

Calia Kammer at the March 18 blockade of Lockheed Martin in Sunnyvale, California.

Bay Plowshares – Resist Trident!”, a reference to the April 4, 2018 nuclear disarmament action at the Kings Bay base in Georgia. That base is home to the United States’ Atlantic Ocean Trident submarine fleet, and it’s where the British Trident fleet picks up Lockheed’s missiles to load with their own nuclear weapons.

Arrested for trespass were Dennis Apel, Susan Crane, Clancy Dunigan, Calia Kammer, Andrew Lanier, Elizabeth Murray, Larry Purcell, Rush Rehm, George Rodkey, Charlie Smith and Sam Yergler. Susan Crane, a member of the Musicians Action Group, handed her saxophone to a supporter just before being arrested. They were taken to the Sunnyvale police station for processing, and all were released before noon with an initial court date in May.

The Pacific Life Community is a network of spiritually motivated activists from the U.S. Pacific coast and other western states who are committed to nonviolent action for a nuclear-free future. In addition to demonstrations and blockades at Lockheed-Martin, the PLC has come together each year since 2007 for actions at the Kitsap-Bangor submarine base in Washington State, homeport of the Pacific Trident fleet; Vandenberg Air Force Base, where the Trident missile is test-launched; the Los Alamos nuclear weapons factory in New Mexico and at the Nevada nuclear weapons test site.

For more information, visit pacificlifecommunity.wordpress.com.

Resisting Drones on St. Patrick’s Day

Catholic Workers from across the midwest United States were joined by some Veterans for Peace for their annual “Faith and Resistance Retreat,” held this year on March 15-17 in Des Moines, Iowa. Midwest Catholic Workers are a loose collection of dozens of autonomous communities spread out in urban shelters, soup kitchens and rural farmsteads across the region.

They held a peace rally at Des Moines’ Iowa Air National Guard Drone Command Center on March 17, St. Patrick’s Day. The rally concluded with many protesters walking onto the base in a nonviolent direct action witness, led by eight Catholic Workers and Veterans for Peace. The eight blocked the main entrance gate, risking arrest while holding a banner with their message from St. Patrick: “‘In Christ there is no killing’ – Shut Down the DM Drone Command Center!” They were soon arrested for trespass.

Ed Bloomer, Al Burney, Frank Cordaro, Ruth Hart, Steve Jacobs, Gabe McMahan, Mike Miles and Jakob Whitson were all taken to the Polk County Jail. Al Burney posted bail and the other seven stayed in jail overnight. The next morning they were released after arraignment. Six pled guilty and were fined between \$100 and \$1,000. Burney and Hart pled not guilty and await trial.

In January, Frank Cordaro pled guilty in Polk County to trespassing last December 28 at the drone command center. He was fined the maximum \$1,000.

For more information, contact Cordaro at frank.cordaro@gmail.com.

Ruling Due on Religious Freedom Motion

The seven Kings Bay Plowshares defendants are still waiting for the U.S. District Court in Brunswick, Georgia to rule on their pre-trial motions, including one based on the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). Unless the court rules entirely in their favor, a date for their trial may then be set.

Just over one year ago, on April 4, 2018, the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the group of Catholic peace activists set out late at night to practice their faith and witness for peace among the people working with nuclear weapons inside the U.S. Navy Kings Bay nuclear submarine base on the south Georgia coast. Once inside, they split into three groups to hang banners, pour blood, spraypaint religious sayings, block off an administrative building with crime

WITNESS, cont,

continued from page 2

or movement.” Additionally, there was no mention of Guantanamo Bay on her clothing or on the sign or in the words to the song they were singing.

Sen. McConnell’s office

Two days after the Supreme Court demonstration, about 25 WAT activists, many in their orange jumpsuits, entered the office of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell with two urgent demands. First, that he schedule a vote invoking the War Powers Act to end U.S. military involvement with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and second, that he assert his influence to shut down Guantanamo. Arriving mid-afternoon, they were prepared to wait for the Senator while two aides listened to their concerns for an hour. At the end of the work day, police were called and most of the activists left the office. Four who remained in the conference room were accused of breaking and entering, then given the choice of lighter charges if they moved into the hall. Janice Sevre-Duszynska, Don Cuning, Pamela Stoner and Alice Sutter did, and they were arrested, cited and released later that evening. The government later informed their attorney that they would not be prosecuted.

For more information, visit witnessagainstattorture.com.

scene tape and hammer on monumental replicas of the nuclear missiles deployed on the Trident submarines based at Kings Bay.

They acted on the anniversary to confront “the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism and militarism” that King spoke of. One banner read, “The Ultimate Logic of Trident is Omnicide,” echoing King’s observation that the ultimate logic of racism is genocide.

The seven – Mark Colville, Clare Grady, Martha Hennessy, Fr. Stephen Kelly, SJ, Elizabeth McAlister, Patrick O’Neill and Carmen Trotta – acted in the tradition of biblically inspired nonviolent direct actions to “beat swords into plowshares” that began in 1980 with the Plowshares 8 action at a Pennsylvania nuclear missile warhead production plant.

In the wee hours of April 5, they were arrested by military police and initially faced Georgia state charges. Those were soon tabled in favor of federal charges of misdemeanor trespass and three felonies: conspiracy, destruction of property on naval installation and depredation of government property.

Kelly and McAlister have been jailed since the action. Hennessy, O’Neill and Trotta posted bond in late May and accepted terms of release that include ankle monitors. For health reasons, Grady joined them outside on bond with an ankle monitor in June. Colville posted bond in order to leave the jail for 14 weeks last fall for skin cancer surgery, then returned to the Glynn County Detention Center.

Arguments to dismiss the case against the seven under the provisions of RFRA were heard by two different magistrates last year. Magistrate Benjamin Cheesbro replaced Stan Baker, who heard the initial argument for the motion but was then promoted. The seven contend that the government overreached its authority by lodging such serious charges over an established religious practice.

In January, the court transcript of these hearings was released to the defendants. With the assistance of counsel, a summary memo was prepared for the court, highlighting the testimony each gave that demonstrates the practice of essential elements of their religious faith in their action at Kings Bay.

Cheesbro must now make a recommendation on the

motion to U.S. District Court Judge Lisa Godbey for her decision. When she decides, the Kings Bay Plowshares and the government will then be given one more opportunity to respond in writing and likely have oral arguments on the pretrial motions to dismiss at that time.

While the three activists in jail are limited by regulations that make it difficult to communicate with each other and the outside world, the four defendants wearing ankle monitors since last summer have continued to spread the news of their action through media interviews, public appearances and solidarity statements.

In February, Clare Grady, Martha Hennessy, Patrick O’Neill and Carmen Trotta were on a panel at Fordham University in New York City, a program that included the screening of Helen Young’s documentary, “The Nuns, the Priests and The Bombs” (see Announcements, page 8). They each spoke along with McAlister’s daughter Frida Berrigan and Fordham religion professor Jeannine Hill Fletcher, who testified at their pretrial hearing as an expert on Catholic teaching about war and nuclear weapons. The program can be found on youtube via <http://bit.ly/KBPatFordham>.

On April 8, the four were interviewed by Amy Goodman on *Democracy Now!*, available to view or listen to at democracynow.org.

In March, a petition calling on the U.S. Attorney General to dismiss the charges and calling for a renewal of the movement to abolish nuclear weapons was launched by the Kings Bay Plowshares 7 Support Committee with initial signatures from five Nobel peace laureates and other notables. To sign the petition and for more information, visit kingsbayplowshares7.org.



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.

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from the Glynn County
Detention Center

March, 2019

Dear Friends,

Greetings and hugs all around! With a grateful heart I commend all who continue to make the sacrifices necessary to keep our doors at the Amistad Catholic Worker open, the kitchen warm, and the table set, especially during these harsh months and under the added strain of my extended absence. For some time now, I’ve hesitated to check in from here in Georgia before being able to offer a bit of clarity with regard to the legal situation of the Kings Bay Plowshares in Brunswick Federal Court. But with delays encroaching now into Spring, and still no action being taken by the magistrate judge on our pretrial motions, a brief update has become increasingly overdue.

Actually, what has been most on my heart these past three months is a deep sense of responsibility to speak about this jail where I’ve been warehoused now for the better part of a year. It is labeled a “detention center,” so-called because the people being kept here have been arrested but have not yet had their cases adjudicated. Considered a temporary holding facility, its conditions and amenities are suited to accommodate the accused for a few weeks or a month at most, irrespective of the reality that – for reasons I’ll explain in a moment – half a year or more is closer to the average length of stay. This means that all the detained, most of who are suspected of low-level or nonviolent offenses, are held in maximum security conditions for months, and in some cases, years on end. We are locked down on crowded cellblocks, essentially for 24 hours a day. The diet is heavy on starch, sugar and sodium, which rapidly foster obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes and heart disease when combined with a sedentary lifestyle. (I’ve witnessed three people having strokes, and one man I knew died of heart failure in his cell late last summer.) There is no access to the outdoors nor to physical recreation of any kind; no exercise permitted outside of one’s cell; no visits with loved ones except by video monitor; no use of a library, computer or internet. It also seems to

THE INSIDE LINE



be common knowledge that we are sitting on top of a toxic waste dump, but I have neither the means nor the fortitude to investigate that particular report.

As for the 400 to 500 detainees here, most are in the same predicament as Liz, Steve and I, being held indefinitely with their cases pending. Several systemic factors conspire to make this so. Bail is generally set extremely high, unaffordably so for many, although this can sometimes be remedied at a bail reduction hearing after at least six weeks have passed. The bigger issue, though, is what’s referred to as the “probation hold.” In Glynn County, persons arrested for any reason while on probation can be jailed for renewable terms of up to 60 days, and simply forced to wait until a probation violation hearing is scheduled. As anyone who’s had the experience knows, virtually any encounter with a police officer on probation can result in an arrest, regardless of probable cause or the likelihood of an infraction being provable in court . Merely being on probation is reason enough.

Practically speaking, lengthy probation terms usually have little to do with supervision, rehabilitation or public safety. They have plenty to do with funneling people back through the criminal justice industrial complex, which seems to be a significant source of revenue and employment in municipalities like this one. Convictions in the Brunswick court, 90 percent of which are obtained by plea bargain, commonly bring sentences which include probation terms of between 3 and 20 years! The prisoners here call it being “on paper.” Once they are on a probation hold, an investigation of the newly-alleged crime can proceed, or not, at the leisure of the D.A.’s office. Of course, whether or not they find evidence, the living conditions at the detention center will usually

provide ample coercive power to secure another conviction. Obviously, after 60 or 120 or 180 days of 24-hour lockdown, almost anyone is well-disposed to accept whatever plea will result in an immediate release, even if it means being on paper for another decade. Thus, there is ensured an endless supply of indefinite detainees at the Glynn County Detention Center, and their demographic won’t surprise anyone - at present, I am one of three white people in a cell block of thirty-four.

From the inside, I find the real horror of all this in its utter normalcy. Sometimes it takes a rigorous act of the will to maintain a personal relationship with reality. I’m living in a place where hundreds of people accused of low-level and/or nonviolent crimes are being held indefinitely, under maximum security conditions, having neither been granted due process, nor convicted nor sentenced. The presumption of innocence is, quite literally, a punchline. The totalitarian culture of coercion that dictates every aspect of life in a maximum security jail has essentially chewed up and swallowed the “justice system” here, such that it is not honestly possible to even use that term without the disclaimer of quotation marks. Broken families bear a terrible burden, some driven from poverty into destitution. The racial bias could hardly be more obvious. Yet it all seems to function well beyond significant public notice, much less any questions of morality, necessity or service to the public good.

Of late, I’ve grown convinced that it couldn’t be more fitting for the Kings Bay Plowshares to have been swept up and tossed into a human dumpster such as this. The racket they run here gives real substance, on the neighborhood level, to what U.S. nuclear policy – our national religion – has been preaching to every child born on the planet for the last seventy-five years: No Lives Matter. However long it might draw out, I hope that my incarceration here will in some way speak this truth. The idols we named at Kings Bay are not sleeping. They demand sacrifice. The god of the national security state feasts on the blood of the poor.

“The ultimate logic of racism is genocide.” – Martin Luther King, Jr., March, 1968

Yes, indeed.

– Mark Colville

[Mark Colville is one of the seven Kings Bay Plowshares activists awaiting a decision from the federal court on pre-trial motions for their April 4, 2018 disarmament action at the Kings Bay Trident nuclear submarine base in Georgia.]

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Bure

In the course of high-profile surveillance, frequent identity checks, derisory arrests and malicious prosecution of nuclear dump opponents in northeast France, another person has been jailed. Pierre Robert was picked up on an outstanding warrant on February 4, but refused to present identification and was held overnight before appearing in court in Bar-le-Duc.

As the session began, the prosecutor usurped the role of the clerk and called on all to rise for the arrival of the judges. The room full of supporters refused, and all were summarily cleared from the courtroom and the trial continued without spectators.

Robert was convicted and sentenced to three months in prison for not cooperating with arrest and also for “contempt of meeting”, accused in another recent incident where about 20 people had surrounded and shaken a police vehicle, although police in the car testified they did not feel particularly outraged by the behavior.

On February 6, seven more dump opponents facing various charges from different incidents were due in the same court. About 30 supporters arrived to find six police posted at the door, and inside dozens more lined the lobby, halls and stairs of the courthouse. Officers in blue were posted at intervals among the courtroom benches. The cases were presented amid mounting tension, and by mid-afternoon, before the last case was heard, the president of the court again ordered it emptied of supporters who were vocally objecting to some defendants being vilified and insulted by the prosecutor

Farnborough

Four years of protest and nonviolent resistance drove the annual Defence Procurement, Research, Technology and Exportability (DPRTE) Arms Fair out of Cardiff, Wales. Last November, the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre (NEC) in England was booked for the spring, 2019 event, expected to draw all the big names and wannabes in the international weapons trade. Rapid organizing by Birmingham Stop the Arms Fair and the promise of mass civil disobedience to disrupt the fair then forced the DPRTE to retreat to “a more self-contained venue” at the Farnborough International Airport, which hosts an annual international airshow of military and civilian aircraft.

The national Campaign Against the Arms Trade proceeded to “Follow the Fair” to Farnborough. During their April 3 protest, Fr. Martin Newell from Birmingham used red paint to represent the blood of innocent victims and wrote “Yemeni blood on your hands” on a sign at the entrance gate. He put paint on his own hands as a sign of his complicity in the arms trade by silence, and knelt in prayer. He was arrested on a charge of criminal damage and released. In court a week later, Newell pled not guilty. He’ll be back in court on June 21.

Kleine Brogel

Moved to action by the U.S. withdrawal in February from the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, members of the European Parliament from the Green parties of four nations and more than a dozen Belgian peace activists took direct action on February 20 to demand the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear forces from Europe.

The three women Parliamentarians – Molly Scott Cato of the U.K., Michele Rivasi of France and Tilly Metz of Luxembourg – used ladders to scale the 11-foot fence around the Kleine Brogel air base in Belgium. An estimated twenty U.S. nuclear weapons are bunkered there, ever ready for loading onto Belgian F-16s as part of NATO’s “nuclear sharing” strategy. Four activists from the Belgian peace group Agir pour la Paix (Act for Peace) joined the Parliamentarians going over the fence, and together they trekked through the woods into the base. They emerged to briefly block the runway used by the U.S.-made warplanes with a banner demanding “Europe Free of Nuclear Weapons.” Military police arrived quickly on the scene to arrest the group. Outside the base, nine more activists were arrested, including a fourth Green MEP, Austria’s Thomas Waitz.

for creating a life outside of the mainstream culture. Suspended sentences and probation were imposed along with an obligation to work in some cases.

Better news came in late March from the Nancy Court of Appeal, upon hearing the appeal of two activists in their 70s. The pair had somehow come into the focus of prosecutors following the August, 2016 collective action that toppled concrete barriers illegally erected by the nuclear waste agency in the Lejuc woods outside the village of Bure. While the elders were present and had expressed solidarity with the action, neither had participated in toppling the wall and the Court of Appeal agreed, vacating their sentences of four months, suspended, and €3,000 fines.

Opponents of France’s planned permanent underground nuclear waste dump have faced close to fifty trials and 16 home searches. Seven leaders accused of a criminal conspiracy have been prohibited from contact with each other while nearly 30 people have been barred from places where they live in the village of Bure and the wider Meuse and Haute-Marne regions. For more information, visit bureburebure.info.



Letters of support in English and/or French should be sent through the end of April to Pierre Robert, n°ecrou: 15816, Centre pénitentiaire Nancy-Maxéville, 300 rue de l’Abbé Haltebourg, 54320 Maxéville, France.

Fr. Newell said,

The arms trade fuels war around the world in the same way as the sale of guns and knives fuels death on our streets. We in the U.K. and other arms companies are still selling missiles and other military equipment to Saudi Arabia, which is being used to bomb Yemen, resulting in the death of innocent men, women and children. I appeal to all in government and in companies producing and supplying arms to hear the cries of the victims of war and the arms trade, and to repent – to turn away – from the spiral of violence, and instead to work for peace.

My action at the DPRTE arms fair was an act of conscientious objection to the arms trade, which is a trade in death. My Catholic faith tells me to live by my conscience, to obey God’s laws, even where this clashes with human authority. And Jesus came to be a prince of peace, not war, and his mission led him into conflict with the powers that be of his time and place. He wept because his people did not know “the things that make for peace” (Luke 19:42).

For more information, visit passionists-uk.org and caat.org.uk.

Rivasi, the vice-chair of the Green Party in the European Parliament, said that: “We are demanding the withdrawal of nuclear bombs at Kleine Brogel and also from Italy, Germany and the Netherlands. We urge all EU member states to sign and ratify the treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons. Our first objective is a Europe without nuclear arms... A secret bilateral agreement between an EU Member State and the U.S. is an imposed choice, imposed on the Belgian and European people. These

bilateral agreements leave no room for democratic debate and genuine consideration of citizens. That is why we join activists today in civil disobedience, because we believe the public interest is under threat.”

The group was taken into custody and held for processing before being released.

Cato-Scott later told reporters, “Nuclear weapons are obsolete in an

era of asymmetric warfare and cyber warfare and have no place in European defense policy for the 21st century. Britain and France have ignored their obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons for far too long.”

India

A prominent environmental activist and human rights defender, who last autumn completed a year in prison for his role in protest against the Koodankulam nuclear power project, has gone missing.

Shanmugam Thankasamy, better known as R.S. Mugilan (or Mukilan) was last seen on February 15 at a railway station in Chennai, preparing to travel to Madurai. He had just come from organizing a press conference to condemn the violence at a May, 2018 demonstration when police shot and killed 13 people opposing a Sterlite corporation copper plant in Thoothukudi. At the press conference, Mugilan named high-level police officials as complicit with Sterlite in orchestrating the incident.

Afterwards, Mugilan called a friend to say he had received threats and was worried about police action against him as a result of his allegations. That evening, he texted a friend from the railway station to say he was catching the express to Madurai where they would meet the next morning. Surveillance cameras show Mugilan briefly left the station but returned shortly before the train departed. It has not been confirmed that he boarded the train, but it is known that he preferred to ride in the economy section, believing that the common people would defend him if he were confronted by police or vigilantes. Police say his cell phone was last used just after midnight, and then shut off.

A missing persons report was filed three days later. The police status report issued a month later indicated they had interviewed 250 people and distributed flyers and posters, to no avail.

It is not the first time Mugilan has gone missing. In 2012, at the height of the Koodankulam nuclear power protests, he disappeared while traveling by train from Madurai to Koodankulam. After three days, he managed to borrow a cell phone and call his wife from the police station where he had been detained, leading to his release in court.

For more information, visit www.frontlinedefenders.org.

Germany

A December fire that shut down the nuclear fuel assembly plant in Lingen, Germany has only stoked local concern and nonviolent resistance. Hundreds demonstrated outside the factory in January, demanding that the plant stay closed. Two days later, before dawn on January 21, two people were suspended from tripods erected to block the main plant entrance. Supporters on the ground placed mock nuclear waste barrels across the road and lit a fire in one to ward off the cold.

The first police on the scene began removing banners, blankets and a hot tea service. Three hours later a unit of riot police far outnumbering the demonstrators arrived with a forklift to disassemble the blockade and pluck the activists from their tripod perches. The job was complete within an hour, including mandatory identity checks and reporting of all the activists present.

Trials of anti-nuclear activists in Germany often involve several days of testimony spanning many months. In March, a Hamburg court fined one person €450 for disturbing a public enterprise and coercive protest during a 2014 uranium transportation protest.

On April 12, climbing activist Cécile Lecomte represented herself for a swimming action against nuclear waste transport in 2017. A dispute with the judge over recording her motions and objections for possible appeal quickly escalated, and she was ordered to jail for three days for contempt of court. Lecomte has severe rheumatoid arthritis, using leg braces and a cane to walk. In jail, she was denied the use of TENS therapy as well as her prescribed medical cannabis for pain management and sleep aid. When she was released on the afternoon of April 14, she found that four medical cannabis cookies were missing from the personal property she had when arrested in court.

For more information, visit nirgendwo.info and blog. eichhoernchen.fr (both in German).

Menwith Hill

For the third and fourth time in less than seven months, Lindis Percy has been arrested for allegedly obstructing the highway outside the Menwith Hill spy base near Harrogate, North Yorkshire, England. Percy pops in to demonstrate about once a week, walking with an upside-down American flag lately printed with the words “EMPIRES COME... AND... GO.” In January and again in April she was taken to Harrogate police station, not charged, and released. Percy has campaigned for decades against American-run military bases across Britain, and particularly this one in her neighborhood.



image via ZINTV.org

Three members of the European Parliament and a Belgian peace activist block the runway at Belgium’s Kleine Brogel base, where U.S. nuclear weapons are stockpiled.

Six Arrested at Creech “Drone Base Central” Blockade



Their hands painted red, six people risk arrest by blocking the entry road at Creech Air Force Base in Indian Springs, Nevada, April 3, 2019.

from Toby Blomé’s report

Activists from 12 different states, with organizations including CODEPINK, Veterans for Peace and Nevada Desert Experience, gathered at the Temple of Goddess Spirituality in Cactus Springs, Nevada from March 30 – April 5 for the Spring Action to Shut Down Creech. We came together to let the U.S. government, C.I.A.,

Holy Innocents Remembered at the Pentagon

About 20 people joined the annual two-day retreat and nonviolent witness at the Pentagon to commemorate the biblical Massacre of the Holy Innocents, past and present. Following the program, dinner and evening liturgy on December 27, they rose early in the morning on December 28.

Braving a heavy steady rain, they gathered at the Pentagon’s southeast entrance with signs and banners. A Pentagon police detail met the group to escort them to the designated protest area.

As the Pentagon workers walked by, the Gospel passage about the slaughter of the Holy Innocents was proclaimed. A public litany, interspersed with the refrain: “War Hurts Children—Help Us End War,” was offered, along with prayer and a blessing.

Carrying copies of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons with the intention of delivering them to a Pentagon official and requesting that the U.S. ratify it, four activists made their way to a check point where they encountered Pentagon police. They were told by the officers that they must leave or face arrest. While the first several paragraphs of the Treaty were read aloud, a Pentagon worker passed by and said “Thank you for keeping us honest.” After police read the customary warnings, the four were arrested and taken away for processing. They were charged with “disobeying a lawful order,” and notified later that the charges were dismissed.

For more information, visit dccatholicworker.wordpress.com.

Jordan, cont.

continued from page 1

current laws give the public prosecutor the power to order arrests, and said it stands by all those who work to amend legislation that restricts public freedoms, including the Cyber Crimes Law. The Committee also announced the formation of a legal committee to defend Burgan.

The JFoE similarly deplored the unjust actions against environmental activists that contravene the national Constitution and international agreements guaranteeing certain rights to Jordanian citizens and freedom of expression. In a statement JFoE wrote, “We believe that it is essential and our national duty as patriotic Jordanians to deal with any threat to our future and the security of our country. Basel is a true patriot and stands up for fighting against injustice and corruption. Because we trust in his just cause, we believe that Basel Burgan will be acquitted of the accusations against him and be restored to freedom. The actions taken against Basel have not only jeopardized his business but have also a tremendous impact on all of his employees and their families. We strongly condemn this unjust incarceration and call upon the responsible authority to free Basel Burgan.”

Pentagon, local police and military and civilian employees know that remote-controlled drone killing is intolerable, illegal, abominable, racist and MUST STOP NOW! We were also there to demand an end to “endless wars” and to all war.

Each morning and afternoon, we brought our message to the gates of nearby “Drone Base Central,” Creech Air Force Base for two hours during the rush hour commutes. Our large banners and signs read: “Drones Kill Innocent People,” “Drones Fly, Children Die,” “Drones Make Enemies,” “Black and Muslim Lives Matter,” “No to NATO, Yes to Peace,” “Disarm NATO, Defund War.” “U.S. Drone War is Terrorism,” “Murdering with Drones is Not a Game,” “U.S. Bloody Hands Off Venezuela” and most importantly, “Drone Pilots: Refuse to Fly!”

Our drone resistance culminated in a very successful nonviolent direct action on Wednesday, April 3 to “Shut Down Creech.” To demonstrate the barbarism of drone killing, we painted our hands with fake blood and held a long banner reading “Drones = Blood on Our Hands” at the entrance to the gate. Hundreds of cars passed us in the early morning commute, as we shouted out, “No More Blood on Our Hands, Stop the Terror, Stop the Drone Wars” for nearly an hour. Ultimately, with our bloody hands held high, we carried the banner out into the entrance road to stop Creech drone murder for as long as we could. Many who were not able to risk arrest still joined some of the blockade until the two minute warning was given.

The six activists arrested included: Jade Takushi from Oregon; Michael Kerr, a member of Veterans for Peace from California; Ray Cage, a member of Veterans for Peace from New Mexico; Don Cunning from New Jersey; Chris Chase-Dunn from California; and Toby Blomé, a member of CODEPINK from California.

Arrestees were taken to the Las Vegas jail for a short detention, where they were cited and later released at the exact same time in the early afternoon, in enough time to participate in the afternoon peace vigil at Creech the same day! We were all given a May 16 court date to appear before a judge.

Interestingly, this spring’s entire arrest and processing experience was entirely different, and much easier, than last fall’s action. During our October, 2018 direct action at Creech, there was absolutely no warning given (a first in our 10 years of actions at Creech). Last fall, after the Las Vegas police read aloud the usual, long “riot act”, warning us to disperse and that we may experience “bodily harm,” etc., the police then rushed quickly into the street, and even arrested one man who had no intent to risk arrest. The seven arrestees were then taken to the Las Vegas jail and released at completely different times, between 9 and 33 hours after their arrest! This was the longest detention that we had ever experienced. One thing is certain: There are no certainties when risking arrest at Creech Air Force Base!

Other actions during the week included: A solemn Funeral Procession with black clothing, white masks and coffins to mourn the dead; a visit to the Nevada nuclear test site, a short distance from Creech Air Force Base; broadcasting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Beyond Vietnam speech over a loudspeaker on the 52nd anniversary of the date he gave the speech and 51st anniversary of his assassination; and on the last day of our vigil, flying five beautiful kites overhead with the message “Fly a Kite, Not a Drone.”

The next mobilization to Shut Down Creech will be held September 29 – October 5, 2019. Please join us!

For more information, visit www.ShutDownCreech.Blogspot.com or email Toby Blomé at ratherbenyckeling@comcast.net.

FUTURE ACTIONS

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

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 on July 8–16. U.S. activists are invited to come and demand the nuclear 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.

bath iron works

Activists in Maine are organizing to protest the April 27 christening of the third Zumwalt-class destroyer, the Lyndon B. Johnson, at the Bath Iron Works. For more information about the legal rally and planned civil resistance action, please contact Lisa Savage at lsavage3@gmail.com or Dud Hendrick at dudhe@myfairpoint.net.

bangor

Join the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action on Saturday, May 11, to honor the true meaning of Mother’s Day (May 12) with a keynote address by Kathy Kelly and nonviolent direct action at the Trident nuclear submarine base at Kitsap/Bangor, Washington. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m., and the day concludes with a closing circle at 4:45 p.m., at the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Rd. NW, Poulsbo, WA. More information at gzcenter.org, or email info@gzcenter.org.

kansas city plant

Join PeaceWorks for their annual Memorial Day walk from the former Bannister Federal Complex to the new National Security Campus where most of the non-nuclear components of U.S. nuclear weapons are manufactured. Join the pedestrian/car procession at 500 Bannister Rd, Kansas City, Missouri at 8:00 a.m., or meet at noon at the new plant, 14520 Botts Road, just north of Missouri Highway 150, to support or join a die-in at the entry gate. For more information, contact PeaceWorksKC@gmail.com.

SUBSCRIBE!

— Please enter/renew (circle one)
my subscription for one year.

— \$25 Regular — \$15 Low Income
— \$50 Contributing — US\$30 Canada
— \$100 Sustaining — US\$35 Foreign

— I can keep *the Nuclear Resister* informed of local actions.

\$_____ DONATION ENCLOSED

Make checks payable to: **the Nuclear Resister** and send to P.O. Box 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733

We are unable to accept checks drawn on Canadian or other foreign banks. Payment must be made in US\$ by cash, money order, or check drawn on a U.S. bank, OR secure online payment via Paypal at www.nukeresister.org. Contributions of \$50 or more are always welcome and may be tax-deductible by check or money order made payable to: The Progressive Foundation.

**ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS MAILED FIRST CLASS.
FREE TO PRISONERS, OF COURSE!**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP/POSTAL CODE _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Your information will not be shared.

#191

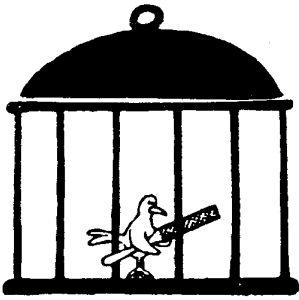
Update Files

BÜCHEL AIR BASE: In late March, Clara Tempel spent a week in jail for her part in the occupation of the U.S./German nuclear base runway in 2016. Supporters paid most of her fine of 30 “daily wages” but Tempel chose to serve time instead for the rest.

Upon release, she observed that “If prisons are no longer places that scare us, we can freely decide what action we think is right in the fight for a nuclear-weapons-free and equitable world.” In contrast to the typical jail or prison in the United States, Tempel wrote that, “In my cell I have many of the things that are very useful in a week of captivity: a kettle, television, writing paper, crayons, stamps, a songbook (the same thing I have at the vigil), a notebook, my own clothes, own linen, sweets and by request I even got three of my own books.”...

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND: Months after their September trial, Gary Chiles and Adi Leason were acquitted on March 18 of obstructing a public way during their protest at an October, 2017 arms trade expo at Westpac Stadium. Although it was reported that 150 of the 500 delegates opted not to attend because buses were delayed reaching the venue, the judge hearing their case declared, “I do not think the activities of Mr. Chiles and Leason constituted an unreasonable impediment... On the evidence, the actions of the protesters impeded, in the sense of slowing down, the delegates’ access to the stadium but they did not prevent their access.” Police had already closed the road and adjacent footpath when they were arrested, and besides, he concluded, “The impediments were not long lasting... no more than 10 minutes”...

HANCOCK FIELD: Nine people arrested for their Good Friday, 2017 blockade of the drone warfare base outside Syracuse, New York, finally had their charges dismissed in March. Their motion to dismiss due to lack of a speedy trial had been argued last September...



LONDON: The Director of Public Prosecutions successfully appealed the not guilty verdicts a district judge gave four No Faith in War activists who took part in a September, 2017 blockade of the DSEI arms exhibition. They were re-sentenced to 12 months conditional discharge and £120 court costs...

BOEING: Two people who used an old school bus last August to block entry into the St. Charles, Missouri factory where bombs that have killed scores of Yemeni civilians are made have been ordered to pay a fine for their protest of the Saudi-led, American-supplied war...

WASHINGTON, D.C.: David Barrows entered a passionate guilty plea on March 8 to disrupting Congress last year. He had shouted warning from the gallery for Senators about war crime complicity during their confirmation hearing of torture supervisor Gina Haspel as the Director of Central Intelligence. “Today with the increased threats of nuclear wars and ever increasing climate disasters the whole human race is virtually floating on a life raft. When we entrust our fate to torturers and criminals, we sink our own ship,” he told the court. “I admit that I broke the Senate’s rules of etiquette and its criminal statute, but I did so because I believed that it was my duty as an American citizen to nonviolently stand up and speak out for justice itself.” Prosecutors asked for a six-month bar from Congressional buildings and five years probation for the alleged “career protester,” but Judge Solerno disagreed, saying, “...there’s nothing particularly dangerous or violent about it. There’s no reason to prevent civil disobedience. I don’t think a five-year stay-away or probation would be useful.” He sentenced Barrows to 30 days, suspended with nine months unsupervised probation, 30 hours of community service and \$50 to the Crime Victims Fund. During that time he is allowed on Congressional grounds but is not to enter 11 of the 14 congressional buildings...

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE: Former Los Angeles Catholic Worker David Omondi’s six month prison sentence for trespass at the nuclear missile test base in California in August, 2016 has been upheld at the federal district court level, and is being appealed to the 9th Circuit...

JEJU ISLAND: The Korean Supreme Court last December accepted the appeal of six Gangjeong

villagers, including a former mayor, and found them not guilty of Special Obstruction of Government Affairs and other charges dating back to February, 2012. They’d been charged after police roughly prevented them from taking kayaks to sea to protest the imminent destruction of sacred Gureombi Rock for the navy base. The court said that the police blockade of the port at that time was “not a lawful execution of their duties.” More good news came in January, when a Seoul court made a decision of Reconciliation and Recommendation to essentially dismiss the navy’s civil claims for some \$3 million in compensation for the protests against the base from 116 individuals and five civic groups. In February, the Jeju local court sentenced Dr. Song Kang-ho to one year imprisonment, suspended with two years probation. He interrupted construction three times on July 1, 2013, entering the area by kayak to monitor and document illegal construction. The court rejected this defense of justification, but found insufficient evidence on two other charges dating to 2012...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

...The **2019 International Anti-Nuclear Summer Camp** will be held in Döbeln, Germany, August 12-18, 2019. Previous camps in 2017 and 2018 have provided a great opportunity for people from different countries and continents to come together and network, learn and share information. The program and main focus are in planning, with lecture and workshop proposals invited. Families welcome but dedicated children’s activities are not yet certain. For more information, visit camp2019.nuclearheritage.net or email camp2019@nuclear-heritage.net.

...**The Nuns, the Priests, and The Bombs** is a feature-length documentary by Emmy award-winning broadcast journalist Helen Young, telling the story of the 2009 Disarm Now Plowshares action at the Kitsap-Bangor nuclear submarine base in Washington, and how it led to the 2012 Transform Now Plowshares action that breached high security at the Y-12 nuclear complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. See the trailer at nunspriestsbombsthefilm.com, and contact the filmmaker directly at hyoungnyc@gmail.com to enquire about organizing a private group or public screening.

the Nuclear

Resister

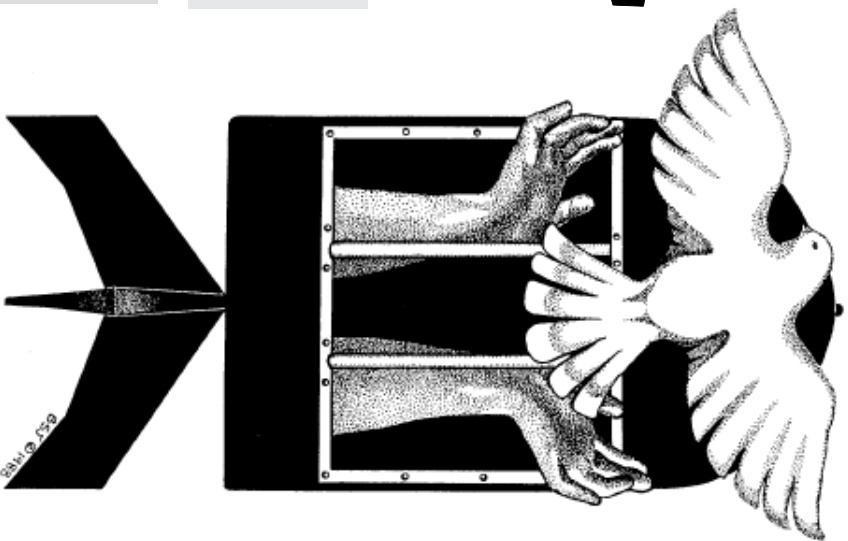
“A Chronicle of Hope”

U.S. Vets Can’t Leave
Ireland After Peace Action

Chelsea Manning Jailed
for Grand Jury Resistance

Jordanian Anti-Nuclear
Activist Detained

Drone Protest Arrests at
Beale AFB, Creech AFB,
& Des Moines ANG



#191 April 17, 2019

INFORMATION
ABOUT AND
SUPPORT FOR
IMPRISONED
ANTI-NUCLEAR
& ANTI-WAR
ACTIVISTS

inside this issue...

Prisoner Addresses, p.3
International Notes
Future Actions
...and more

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

nukeresister@igc.org
520-323-8697
Tucson, AZ 85733
P.O. Box 43383
the Nuclear Resister