Memorial Day, 4th of July
Arrests at K.C. Nuke Plant

by Jane Stover

In a rebrute to White House attempts to “make America nuclear again,” 17 peace activists were arrested for trespass during the eighth annual Memorial Day peace witness for a nuclear-weapons-free world.

Sponsored by PeaceWorks – Kansas City, the annual event surpassed previous years’ participation by turning out some 90 peace activists. Three who came from Europe and took direct action at the plant were arrested.

Demonstrators lined Washington Street with signs and banners to greet buses bringing guests into the shipyard. At about 9 a.m., a group walked into the street and stopped the police for their demonstration. People got behind the bus, preventing it from turning around. Police arrested eight people behind the bus, then blocked the street and stopped the bus. There were no arrests.

More demonstrators moved into the street and some then held a die-in to block the intersection at King and Washington. Police arrested 17 more, and took all 25 to the Bath Police Department. There where they were cited for obstructing a public way and released.

Two weeks later, the Sagadahoc County district attorney charged one of the protesters for their efforts and said she would not be prosecuting the group. Spending the necessary legal resources would only give the protesters “more undue publicity” and would be counterproductive.

So, on the occasion of the next christening on June

Manning

MASSAN

STILL IN PRISON, DAILY FINES MOUNT

Army whistleblower Chelsea Manning was released from custody after 63 days on May 9, at the end of the term of the grand jury she had steadfastly refused to testify before. One week later, she was summoned before a different grand jury and presented with the same questions to answer related to the government’s prosecution of Julian Assange and the leaks of classified documents Manning provided to Wikileaks. And she faced the same choice: deny her principles and testify or face imprisonment and fines intended to compel her testimony.

Judge Anthony Trenga ordered Manning fined $500 for every day in custody after 30 days, increasing to $1,000 per day after 60 days in custody. She was invited by the court to use her time in confinement to reflect on her principles with respect to the institution of grand juries in the United States. She responded on May 28 with a six-page, single-spaced letter to the judge, concluding: “For the first time in my life, I have a better and more nuanced understanding of my conscientious objection to the grand jury. I understand that the idea that as a civil condemned, I hold the key to my cell – that I can free myself by talking to the grand jury. While I may hold the key to my cell, it is held in the beating heart of all believe. To retrieve that key and do what you are asking of me, your honor, I would have to do the key out, which would mean killing everything that I hold dear, and the beliefs that have defined my path.

Each person must make the world we want to live in around us where we stand. I believe in due process, freedom of the press, and a transparent court system. I object to the institution of grand juries as tools to tear apart vulnerable communities. I object to this grand jury in particular as an effort to frighten journalists and publishers, who serve a crucial public good. I have had these values since I was a child, and I’ve had years of commitment to reflect on what I believe. I have decided, for survival on my values, my decisions, and my conscience, I will not abandon them now.

Two days later, her attorneys filed a motion for reconsideration of the nearly unprecedented combination of confinement and fines to compel an individual’s testimony, but the court had not yet set a date for hearing the motion. A supplemental brief filed on Manning’s behalf in June offered financial records to show she cannot pay the fines because she is not wealthy, and confinement has obviously compromised her earning capacity as a public speaker. At press time, the fines topped $30,000.

For more information and to contribute to her legal support fund, visit xychelsea.is.

Support Action

Letters of support should be sent to Chelsea Elizabeth Manning A0184126, William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center, 201 Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22314. She cannot receive postcards or any cards, but color drawings are okay. Do not decorate envelopes.

Illuminate the insanity of nuclear weapons from the past, present and future and expose misgoverned junto will:

“Follow Jesus and the Gospel, we must publicly and nonviolently resist evil,” he said. “May God have mercy on us for not doing so.” Of nuclear weapons, Kabat concludes, “They are dangerous and disregard future generations.”

The pair were detained on site for a few hours. With the legendary Carl Kabat present, many of the plant employees stopped by to say hello, even ones he had not previously met but who knew of him. Both men were charged with trespass, and Kabat also with destruction of property.

Kabat was one of the original Plowshares Eight in 1980 and has participated in subsequent Plowshares...
An Air Force veteran and former intelligence analyst for a private military contractor was arrested in May and charged with one count of felony theft of government property for sharing more than a dozen classified documents critical of the U.S. drone assassination program. Analysis of court documents and the public record quickly led to the conclusion that he leaked the mostly secret and top secret documents to journalist Jeremy Scahill and The Intercept, the investigative journalism platform co-founded by Scahill.

Oddly, the May 9 arrest of Daniel Hale came nearly six years after he first spoke out publicly against the U.S. drone warfare program at a CodePink Green Dress Day summit, and more five years after the FBI was first aware that he was the likely source for disclosures at the heart of The Intercept’s The Drone Papers series (2015), and his name is in the documentary film National Bird. In August 2014, two weeks after The Intercept first published an article based on his material and just days after he completed an assignment for the defense contractor Leidos with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency as a political geography analyst, FBI agents searched his home and seized thumb drives containing at least one classified document, software used for anonymous internet browsing and communication, and contact information for Scahill.

Hale is being represented pro bono by Abbe Lowell, an expert in defense of cases brought under the Espionage Act. Hale pled not guilty to the charge on May 17 and is free awaiting trial.

Mother’s Day Arrests at Bangor Trident Base
About thirty people took part in a spirited rally at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor on Saturday, May 11, proclaiming the original anti-war message of Mother’s Day while blocking the road to a Trident nuclear missile firing submarine. Earlier in the day, the nuclear disarmament activists had gathered just up the road at the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action for a keynote talk by Kathy Kelly of Voices for Creative Nonviolence titled: “Deploying for Nonviolent Action for a keynote talk by Kathy Kelly and the entrance to the Trident (main) Gate while holding up the signs, sidewalk and driveway of Lockheed Martin’s Advanced Technology Center, then emailing a local newspaper and the police to tell them. He was waiting patiently when police arrived.

As he was being arrested, he told the Palo Alto Weekly, “You know, it’s been going on for over 40 years, I’m still doing it.”

When a Saudi jet used a Lockheed Martin bomb on a Yemeni school bus, killing 40 children on August 9, 2018, “finally did it.”

He vandalized Lockheed Martin’s office in Palo Alto because of their weapons sales to Saudi Arabia for their war in Yemen and President Trump’s recent veto of bipartisan congressional legislation that would have ended U.S. arms sales.

When I went to visit my wife while she was incarcerated for an anti-nuclear weapons protest in MCI Framingham, I was made aware for more than half the time allowed for visits and then subjected to a strip search before being allowed 10 minutes with my wife seated more than six feet away from me, under the close scrutiny of two guards. This kind of mistreatment of the friends, family, and loved ones of prisoners, who have committed no crime, should set off alarm bells as to the dysfunctional and hostile posture prison authorities take toward inmates.

I believe Fyodor Dostoevsky had it exactly right when he said, “A civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons.” The capricious and malicious mistreatment of inmates being carried out in our name needs to stop.

Schroetter-Duffy is a Wyoming resident and Saint Francis & Thérèse Catholic Worker. On the rainy night of July 22, his 61st birthday, Schroetter-Duffy was hit by a car while out running. He suffered cuts and bruises, broken rib and scapula, some facial fractures and took a heavy blow to the head. Please keep Scott, his wife Charlotte and their family in your thoughts and prayers as he recovers.

Thanks
Thanks to David, Cindy, Luise, Faith, Kim, Jim, Charlotte, Paige and Gretchen for helping to mail the last issue, and to Ruth for proofreading assistance.

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

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ABOUT THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

Since 1981, the Nuclear Resister has provided comprehensive reporting in the mainstream and nonmainstream press on the nuclear and anti-war resistance movement in the United States, with an emphasis on providing support for the women and men jailed for these actions.

In 1984, the Nuclear Resister began reaching out to incarcerated activists, providing them with essential information about their support and their own resistance activity is limited. Broader readers are imprisoned behind bars, 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

By Scott Schroeter-Duffy
Reprinted from telegrame.com

May 15, 2019

After a panhandler I befriended during a weekly peace vigil in Lincoln Square stood up in front of County Jail, I sent him a letter, which was rejected because I used a beige rather than white envelope. The jail returned another letter because I wrote it “on plain white paper” when “only white lined paper is allowed.”

My friends Jesuit priest Steve Kelly, Elizabeth McAlister and Mark Colville have been in jail waiting for their trial for April 4, 2018 protest against nuclear weapons at Georgia's Kings Bay Naval Station. The Glynn County Detention Center only allows inmates to receive correspondence written on 3.5 by 5.5 inch, plain white paper. The idiosyncratic use of these at the post office, but had two of them returned to me because I put "Rev." in front of Father Steve’s name and "Mr." in front of other names.

As a Catholic Worker peace activist who has spent a total of one year in various jails for nonviolent civil disobedience, I’ve been disciplined for wearing underwear under my sángs against County Jail, where it was considered contraband, and for circulating a petition in Worcester County Jail, which was considered inciting a riot. I was denied visitors, phone calls, mail, medical attention, and access to religious services in six states, often without explanation. In every jail, I’ve been demeaned, brow-beaten, and mistreated by guards whom I can only describe as professional sadists. One guard in the Las Vegas County Jail, for example, had such a ferocious hairtrigger temper that I prayed he didn’t have a wife or children at home.

As a terrorist, my treatment was always better than the indignity heaped on inmates of color.

On April 30, 2019, The New York Times published a detailed account of extreme violence in Alabama’s prisons which they called a “Hellscape.” The Trump Justice Department concluded conditions were “cruel” and blamed the problems on “a fatal combination of indifference and incompetence.”

I believe all Americans, even those who believe incarceration should be torture, need to consider that humiliating and mistreating inmates returns them to society in a worse state than when they entered a “correctional” institution. If for no reason other than their self-interest, we need to make our jails and prisons more humane. Assuring prisoners have easy access to visitors, affordable phones, books, art, education, religious services, and lawyers who monitor human rights does not make jails country clubs, but can improve lives and reduce recidivism.

When I went to visit my wife while she was incarcerated for an anti-nuclear weapons protest in MCI Framingham, I was made aware for more than half the time allowed for visits and then subjected to a strip search before being allowed 10 minutes with my wife seated more than six feet away from me, under the close scrutiny of two guards. This kind of mistreatment of the friends, family, and loved ones of prisoners, who have committed no crime, should set off alarm bells as to the dysfunctional and hostile posture prison authorities take toward inmates.

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Barry Binks
A nuclear resister, peace activist, and author of the paper is currently serving 48 months in prison for injuring an employee of the government and violating the law.

Macy Morse
January 25, 1921 – July 18, 2019
Wife, mother, grandmother, peace, anti-nuclear & plowshares activist

Lu Montenay
May 11, 1949 – April 21, 2019
Wife, mother, grandmother, peace & anti-nuclear activist, minister, PeaceWorks Kansas City

¡Presente!

Barry Binks
April 25, 1940 - 30 May 2019
Partner, father, peace & justice activist, Veterans for Peace

Macy Morse
January 25, 1921 – July 18, 2019
Wife, mother, grandmother, peace, anti-nuclear & plowshares activist
Rafil Dhafir
Denied Early Release

A provision in the 2019 First Step Act opened the door slightly for Rafil Dhafir to seek “compassionate release” after serving more than 16 years of a 22-year sentence. An outspoken critic of the 1991 war against his native Iraq, Dhafir was the target of a slanderous and vindictive prosecution on the eve of the 2003 invasion, and convicted for sending charity to Iraq in violation of economic sanctions imposed by the United States between 1991 and 2003.

Under First Step, after the warden denied the 71-year-old’s petition last spring, he appealed to the court of jurisdiction, where his trial, sentencing and re-sentencing were handled, and within hours he was told that he had succeeded. Mordue denied the motion in a July 19 order, concluding that Dhafir’s multiple chronic and progressive ailments were “mostly unchanged” from a 2012 court filing and agreeing with the warden that “your current medical conditions do not diminish your ability to function in a correctional facility.” Chronic and acute pain have, however, diminished his ability to write letters as he has before, and he sometimes skips meals to avoid the long, painful walk to the cafeteria. Supporters are seeking an independent medical evaluation for Dhafir, a medical doctor himself who was a practicing oncologist at the time of his arrest.

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

More Prison for Turi Vaccaro

The Italian pacifist Turi Vaccaro has been sentenced to six more months in a Sicilian prison for one of his many protests at MUOS, the U.S.-run military satellite relay station on the island. Since August 2018, when he was re-arrested in the false belief that the annual No MUOS peace camp, Vaccaro has been serving an 11-month, 27-day sentence for a 2014 protest. In March, an appeals panel hearing in a separate case tossed out his conviction for resisting a public official but upheld the judgement of criminal damage, and a new sentence of six months and 20 days was added to his present term.

Vaccaro is now set to be released in January 2020, barring another conviction.

The first reports from August 2018 confirmed that Vaccaro was continuing his nonviolent protest in prison, at that time remaining naked on the floor of the prison infirmary and eating only fruits and vegetables. Known for his silent protests, Vaccaro has not corresponded from prison, and he has refused to speak to any attorney, or to the representative of a prisoner advocacy group or even to his family.

This year’s annual No MUOS peace camp is scheduled for August 2–5.

Inside & Out

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

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

Anti-War Related Actions

CHELSEA ELIZABETH MANNING
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 Circindariale Caldarelli, Piazza Pietro Cerulli #1, 90129 Palermo PA, Italy.
(18 months, 17 days – out 1/20) (Plowshares activist convicted for two acts of criminal damage to U.S. military satellite communications equipment in Sicily, 12/14)

RAFIL DHAFIR
11921-052
FBI 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)
HOLY WEEK ANTI-NUCLEAR ACTIONS

Nevada Test Site

The Nevada Desert Experience Sacred Peace Walk is an annual weeklong pilgrimage integrating nonviolent direct action for nuclear abolition and sovereignty of the Western Shoshone people. This year, more than 50 walkers set out from Las Vegas on April 13, bound for the historic peace camp at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS, formerly known as the Nevada Test Site). Among them was Western Shoshone Chief Johnny Bobb, who sang and led prayers each morning and evening.

Since 1951, the United States has occupied and conducted nuclear weapons tests above and below the vast landscape recognized as Shoshone territory by the Western Shoshone people. This year, more than 50 walkers set out from Las Vegas on April 13, bound for the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS, formerly known as the Nevada Test Site). Among them was Western Shoshone Chief Johnny Bobb, who sang and led prayers each morning and evening.

One of the most beautiful aspects of this year’s walk (among many) was the strong, integrated group of concerned citizens who attend. In 2019 we are representing the Syre family from Big Sky, Montana, Japanese, Hispanic, black and white, young and old, male and female, gay and straight, representing a variety of faith traditions from across the land. The largest contingent is from Las Vegas, the base for the Nevada Desert Experience. The second-largest group is a surprise from Iowa, consisting of mostly young Catholic Workers from the Des Moines area.

Big Sky country (aka Montana) has several representatives as does California. Some of us hail from upstate New York. Many of our group are long-time participants in the stations, and a number are first timers.

On Tuesday, the pilgrims passed by Creech Air Force Base in Indian Springs before arriving for the night at the Temple of Goddess Spirituality, an oasis a few miles further on in Crystal Springs. The next morning they lined the road approaching Creech with signs and banners commemorating the global drone warfare remembrance as “chair force” pilots working there around the clock.

Law enforcement on hand for the demonstration informed the group that anyone arrested for blocking the road would be cited and released on site. For years, arrested protesters have been taken to jail in Las Vegas and held for hours or days before their release. Afforded the luxury of discrete arrest for blockades that would not disrupt the walk, several people moved into the entry road and stopped traffic. After being warned to disperse or face arrest, Bracia Florian, Sady Lindberg, George Killingworth, and Mark Anger were arrested.

The four were handcuffed and led away, cited for unlawful assembly and released with a court date.

The walkers arrived Thursday evening at the site of the historic peace camp.

Amidon and Smith:

Early morning, Johnnie Bobb conducts a Sunrise Ceremony inside the willow circle, a much anticipated and treasured spiritual gathering that overlapped the calendar of the Sacred Sunrise Ceremony in the east brought light and warmth while the sun rose in the west – a fleeting moment of belonging to something so much larger and pure, something so vast and wondrous, bringing with it the humble realization that we are only the small piece of a much greater whole.

Breakfast followed, and it being Good Friday in the Christian tradition, fourteen Nuclear Stations of the Cross were then set out along the path to the Mercury gate.

Just outside the white line marking the test site boundary, the group stood in the road for about 45 minutes while Chief Bobb offered a blessing and spoke of the land he loves and its destruction. When a truck departing from the test site threatened to disrupt the Chief, Robert Majors blocked its passage by standing in its way. Police told him to move and Majors said he would when Bobb was doing speaking. Others did move to the side, and Majors dropped to his knee, again saying he only wished to hear what the elder had to say. Majors was arrested on a public nuisance charge and soon Tami Yaron was, as well.

A short time later the demonstrators moved up to the line. Officials of the Department of Energy and Nye County sheriff’s deputies were given copies of the Treaty of Ruby Valley, the 1972 Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and a People’s Indictment of the Nevada National Security Site [for] Crimes Against Peace and Crimes Against Humanity.

Thirty-one people then crossed the line, the first large group to test the legal waters since prosecution for the simple act of protest resumed last fall. For more than three decades deputies have issued trespass citations on site with little or no consequence. For the only identification presented was the permit issued by the Western Shoshone.

Sheriff’s deputies issued warnings and then released 25 of the protesters who carried official state or federal identification papers. Six men – John Amidon, Charlie Smith, Brian Terrell, Mark Kelso, Richard Bishop and Jakob Whitson – carried only their Shoshone permits for identification. They were taken to jail in Pahrump along with Majors and Yaron. Majors and Yaron were released on bail about 12 hours later. Amidon and Smith were released on bail the following night (Saturday). The other four were released on Monday afternoon, April 22, after an initial appearance via video link from jail with the judge. Subsequently, no charges were pursued against any of the eight, and eventually their bail was returned.

The four arrested at Creech had June court dates. Jakob Whitson did not qualify, but Killingsworth’s charges were dismissed before his July trial date, and Terrell expects his charge to be dismissed before a scheduled October trial. The other two defendants appeared before different judges, with charges dismissed in one case, and a sentence of community service in the other.

Nevada Desert Experience said that the demonstration was “part of the global #ExtinctionRebellion movement, whereby nonviolent acts of civil disobedience have become imperative in pulling humanity away from its current course of habitat destruction.” In Great Britain, where Extinction Rebellion began last year as a direct action response to the climate crisis, more than 1,100 people were arrested in 40 days of protest that overlapped the calendar of the Sacred Peace Walk.

For more information, visit nevadadesertexperience.org.

Lockheed Martin

On Good Friday, in the season of Passover, the Brandywine Peace Community invited friends to observe the occasion at Lockheed Martin in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

They shared the community’s commitment to observing the spirit and discipline of nonviolence, “remembering the Martyrs Who Died for the Crucifixion of a lawful order” and released within two hours. They were given a notice to appear in federal court, but the charges were dropped before that date.

We arrived at the White House by noon and, as hundreds of tourists looked on, we conducted a “contemporary crucifixion” on Pennsylvania Avenue, directly in front of the White House. Twelve of us, wearing black robes and a sign identifying each victim, took turns for several minutes in silence, standing on a crate, with arms outstretched on a cross as a short meditation was read aloud. After each victim came off the cross we sang: Were You There When They Crucified My Lord.

We ended our witness and retreat by singing Sacred the Land and offering a sign of peace to each other.

For more information, visit dccatholicworker.wordpress.com.

Pentagon

by Art Laffin, Dorothy Day Catholic Worker

About 20 people gathered in Washington, D.C. April 18-19 for a Faith and Resistance retreat. Holy Thursday was a time for bible reflection, action planning and liturgy.

On Good Friday, April 19, a nonviolent public witness was held at the Pentagon. At 7:00 a.m., the community processed to the police-designated protest zone. We carried signs and banners, including people with the names of different victims in our society and world.

A sizable Pentagon police presence awaited us. Sr. Ardeith Platte and Carol Gilbert began giving copies of the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to arriving walkers. By the rest of the community, gathered in the designated protest area. A huge banner that said “U.S. Empire Crucifies Humanity” was displayed on the grassy slope overlooking the sidewalk going into the Pentagon metro entrance. Our leaflet was read aloud.

One of us, dressed in a black robe representing victims of U.S. militarism stood against a small tree with arms outstretched. At the sound of a bell, we sang Were You There When They Crucified My Lord.

Steve Baggarly, Kathy Boylan, Joe Byrne and Joan Wages staged a die-in on the sidewalk outside the designated protest area. Police temporarily closed down the street “For the Protection of Our City.” When the noise went unheeded, all six were arrested. As they were placed in handcuffs we sang Vine and Fig Tree. They were taken to the Pentagon metro station for a “safety check,” before a lawful order” and released within two hours. They were given a notice to appear in federal court, but the charges were dropped before that date.

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For more information, visit dccatholicworker.wordpress.com.

A Livemore demonstrator crosses the line on Good Friday.

Good Friday for over 35 years to engage in nonviolent direct action against nuclear weapons. The witness was sponsored by Ecumenical Peace Institute/ CALC and the Livemore Conversion Project.

For more information, visit tnvillagecaves.org and www.episcopal.org.

Livemore Labs

On Good Friday, April 19, 70 people opposed to the continuing development of nuclear weapons gathered outside the Livemore Nuclear Weapons Laboratory in California. Rev. Will McGarvey, the pastor of Community Presbyterian Church in Merion, Pennsylvania, spoke on the subject “Keeping Faith in the Face of Empire” at the early morning interfaith prayer service. Afterwards, the group walked about one-third of a mile to the lab’s West Gate, passing along the way to meet numerous people who had previously represented at the Stations of the Cross of the Western Shoshone.

At the gate, there was a circle dance led by Danette Wunder in Front Porch Peace. Twenty-three activists were then arrested for blocking the gate. They were cited and released.

At Livemore Lab, where new nuclear weapons continue to be designed, the group’s nonviolent witness demonstrated their determination to protect the planet from the dangers of nuclear war and from the ongoing threat of climate disaster.

People of faith have gathered at Livemore Lab on
**Arrests at Embassy, cont.**

continued from page 3 when diplomatic relations have been severed. My issue is about the Maduro government, my issue is about my government," said Benjamin when asked about his decision to participate. We will likely to occur in Venezuela. "It is not our job as U.S. citizens to decide how people go about governing themselves. It is our job to stop our government from interfering in their affairs.

"We feel this is part of an orchestrated coup that can lead to a civil war and can lead to tremendous violence. We want to say stop." By late April, up to 30 activists were in the embassy, hosting nightly educational and cultural programs in opposition to war with Venezuela while police stood by.

On April 30, a group of Guaidó supporters – coleading the "Chair Force" – put up a shade canopy next to the building in unoccupied Venezuela – descended on the embassy, determined to out-stitch the activists and seize the building. They flaired shouts of "Down with fascism" and "Down with the U.S. occupation!" They then put the canopy up against the building next to the one where EPC supporters were gathered, forcing the EPC supporters out and then surrounding the building with tents, refusing to allow food, medicine, supplies or people to enter. Police and Secret Service agents, charged with embassy protection, did nothing to intervene.

The tension steeped for the next several days as police kept EPC supporters and Maduro opponents at bay while helping those opponents prevent food, water and medicine from reaching those inside. Law enforcement authorities stood by during multiple incidents when pro-opposition broke windows and doors into the building, defaced the building and assaulted people outside the building while threatening those inside the building.

On Thursday, May 2, when CodePink co-director Ariel Gold attempted to bring food into an occupied second-floor balcony, she was tackled to the ground by an opposition member and both were arrested. Ursula, another CodePink activist, also tried to pitch food into the building and was arrested, but then released without charge. Gold’s charge was later dismissed.

Gold explained that the EPC was there "to protect (the embassy) from a takeover by an untrusted group of Guaidó supporters, a takeover that would dangerously escalate the conflict. If the opposition takes over the D.C. Embassy, the Venezuelan government will most probably take over the U.S. Embassy. The U.S. could consider this an act of war and use it as an excuse to invade. We can’t allow this to happen."

On May 4, EPC and CodePink member Tiphie Barry tried to put up a shade canopy next to the building where the opposition had already erected ten canopies. He was maced by Guaidó supporters who pushed him into a Secret Service agent. Barry was arrested for assaulting the agent and then jailed until May 6.

In video shot on May 8 from a second-floor embassy window, members of the EPC are seen trying again to dole out food. They were met with police breaking the chains and putting the food on the balcony. After a couple hours we were transported by van to the downtown Syracuse "Justice Center." In booking we were ordered to strip, spread our backs, and pull back our hair in accordance with the "singing and chanting, held signs like: "Children Are Not ‘Collateral Damage.’"

Two rain-soaked hours later, the DeWitt town police and Onondaga County sheriffs, having converged in numerous vehicles, ordered the five remaining occupants to leave base property. Those eight who chose not to do so were arrested. Les Billips, Dan Burgevin, Tom Joyce, Ed Kinane, Rae Kramer, Juliette Oldfield, Mark Scibilia-Carver and Ann Tiffany.

We were handcuffed, separated and taken in two paddy wagons to the sheriffs’ north station where we were held for a while. After a couple hours we were transported by van to the downtown Syracuse “Justice Center.” In booking we were ordered to strip, spread our backs, and pull back our hair in accordance with the "singing and chanting, holding hands like: "Children Are Not ‘Collateral Damage.’"

That night, the local electric company assisted the Secret Service to cut off power to the building. To conserve resources inside, some of the EPC withdrew, leaving just four occupants.

The standoff continued through Monday evening, May 13, when police taping a vaguely worded “trespass notice” on the door, which lacked any seal, signature or identifying stationery.

When police arrived the next day to cut the chains on the door, the enter building and enforce the questionable notice, the chain was broken by the agents. Condon’s face was pushed into the sidewalk and bloodied in the brief moments before he was lifted back to his feet and then arrested after police who tried to throw an orange. The charges were all later dismissed.

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Ireland

U.S. Veterans for Peace Tarak Kauff and Ken Meyers must remain in Ireland until at least October, after the High Court of Ireland in June refused to modify their bail conditions so they could return to the United States until their trial.

The men argued that being forbidden to leave Ireland imposes an unfair and unjust burden given the nature of the charge facing them. While denying their motion, the court said that once a date for trial is set, perhaps as soon as October, they could appeal the bail conditions again. The court noted that to do so would usually entail the case has a full docket, and a trial date in mid-2021 is possible.

Kauff and Meyers were arrested and charged with trespass and criminal damage last March when they allegedly cut a fence at Shannon International Airport and walked towards the runway to inspect a transport plane contracted by the U.S. military. Since at least 2001, the Pentagons has ferried troops and munitions through Shannon in violation of Ireland’s official neutrality. Protests by Irish activists and legislators have been countered by fines and imprisonment. In the spirit of international solidarity the U.S. veterans took direct action. After 12 days in jail, the men were released after friends posted €2,500 bail for each. Also, their passports were seized so they cannot leave the country.

The men have made the most of this involuntary extension of their tour of peace duty. They’ve been back to court for a series of pre-trial hearings while seeking to have their case heard in Dublin, away from Shannon where an uninhabited Judy may be hard to find. The banner they carried for their action, “U.S. Veterans Say Respect Irish Neutrality – U.S. War Machine Out Of Shannon Airport,” has been brought out for demonstrations and displayed above the highway leading into the airport when U.S. warplanes are spotted on the tarmac.

Contributions towards legal and living expenses for the men while away from their homes in New York and New Mexico are requested, and can be made via the GoFundMe page at bit.ly/supportkenandtara

For more information, visit shannonwatch.org.

Lingen, Germany

In Germany, some forms of creative nonviolent protest do not warrant prosecution. Police may record the identity of, for example, banner-hangers or sit-in blockaders, but may not prosecute unless there is evidence of property damage or active resistance to law enforcement officials. But sometimes the authorities prosecute anyway, as in the case of two people who climbed up on the roof over the front doors of the Lingen town hall in January and held up an anti-nuclear banner for a few photographs. Later, when they both came down, police then aggressively confronted them for ID checks, and threatened their arrest for trespass.

When police put one of them in the squad car and suggested they take her to the station, supporters surrounded the police car to prevent it from leaving. Everyone was released at the scene.

Months later, the two banner-hangers were accused of resisting arrest, with the first one due in court on August 1. Also, a supporter in a wheelchair who helped block the police car has been accused of causing a dangerous intervention in traffic when she set the handbrake on her wheelchair, because they had to lift her out of the way when they could or would not simply release the brake and roll her to the side. No trial date has been set.

For more information, visit the legal support website nukewatchinfo.org (in German).

Kazakhstan

In April, Human Rights Watch reported that Bolatbek Balylov, a prominent activist in the capital city recently re-named Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, had been jailed for violating the Central Asian republic’s restrictive public assembly law. According to a broadcast by Radio Azattyk in neighboring Kyrgyzstan, Balylov served 15 days after announcing he had filed an application to protest against a proposed Russian-Kazakh nuclear power plant. The crime was announcing his intent to protest, which carries penalties for activities who were taken to various police stations in the Paris region. They were held for about four hours and released after their identity was checked and recorded. About 50 additional identity checks were carried out on the spot of the demonstrations.

For more information, including videos, visit Collectif des Désobéissants at desobeir.net.

IN THE COURT

Büchel, Germany

The Büchel is Everywhere 2019 Peace Camp will conclude in August, after 20 weeks of nonviolent actions demanding the withdrawal of the U.S. nuclear weapons deployed at Büchel air base in Germany. Social and peace action groups from across Germany and overseas have taken turns to install tents and a daily presence and periodic blockades at the gates. A peace encampment had been established nearby provides logistical support for each group of activists.

After high-profile fence-cutting and “go-in” actions coming from the peace camp, German cops, military and civil police told German organizers that this year would be different. New fences, a new security company and renewed cooperation among the authorities meant, “Nobody’s getting in.” Yet on April 30, 17 nuclear abolitionists from across Germany cut through the first of the new perimeter fences in several days to set up a black-topped plastic picnic between the barriers. They were all arrested and released for investigation for trespass.

In late June, German activist Gerd Büntzly turned himself in to groups that ten days in jail in lieu of paying part of a fine for cutting the fence and demonstrating inside Büchel with activists from the United States during the 2017 action camp. The Americans have not been prosecuted despite presenting themselves in court with Büntzly.

On June 28, more than 40 people representing the Stuttgart 21 Campaign, Stop Krieg (Stop War), and others who have taken part in the Büchel peace camp. Together with activists from England, Holland and Germany they formed an International Treaty Enforcement Team, meeting early in the morning of July 10 with copies of the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, banners in English and German declaring, “Nuclear weapons illegal. Büchel is a crime scene,” and a brief Treaty Enforcement Order. One person spraypainted “crime scene” on the guardhouse and tried to climb atop it but was stopped by guards. Eleven people – Richard Barnard, Richard Bishop, Margriet Bos, Susan Crane, Dietrich Gernert, Susan Jepsen, Pauline Proske, Ralph Hutchison, Birke Kleinwächter, Andrew Lanier, Brian Terrell and Dennis DeVall were arrested and given a warrant (also maintain) to stay away from the base boundary fence for 24 hours. That afternoon, four of the men who cut two fences to gain entry near the base runway, while on Monday, they were arrested for violating the fence hanging Crime Scene signs and painting on the road a white line path. Military and civilian police responded, arresting all eight for violating the platauverweis. They were taken to the Cochem police station and in front of a judge, who ordered them all to be jailed overnight until the order expired at 6 a.m. A few hours later, on Sunday, July 14, six of the enforcers in two groups planned to enter the base along with their U.S. counterparts, American veterans. The second group saw from afar what had happened, they cut the outer fence and entered behind the base, but pushed them back out the way they came in. Both groups were given platauverweis and sent on their way back to the camp.

Tuesday, July 16 was the 74th anniversary of the first atom bomb blast, the Trinity test in New Mexico. The police chief was among the delegation greeting five veterans at the gate. Bishop, Jepsen, and Terrell walked through the main gate with a commemorative banner, but soldiers and police quickly pushed them back out and closed the gate. Police then moved all five into the roundabout in front of the gate and ordered them to stay there. Crane and van der Hijden tried to block the gate again when it opened but were pushed back to the roundabout. No one was arrested for violation of the platauverweis.

That evening, four members of the team cut through the two fences before being stopped. Outside the fence, John LaForge was photographing the action when police came through the full gates and told the group that he repeatedly stated that, “you have no jurisdiction here!” All five were given platauverweis and told they were not even allowed at the camp for 24 hours, but this was not enforced.

Susan Crane remained at the camp after this conclusion of International Week. On July 22, she cut through the outer fence near a suspected nuclear weapons bunker and found that to get through the inner fence, she had to cut an electrified wire. This signaled the soldiers, and when they arrived Crane stood up and displayed her-anti-nuclear banner. She was taken into custody and moved to a farther gate where she was given a 6-day platauverweis and released. On July 27, the final day of the order, Crane again approached the base, and gave a copy of the Treaty to police at the gatehouse. She was told to leave because she had a platauverweis. But when she didn’t walk out, police escorted her to the finest. The next day, after she began to walk around the perimeter of the base, she was arrested and held overnight as a “danger” for violating the platauverweis.

Appearing before the judge via video link, Crane addressed the issues of international humanitarian law, the laws of combat, and the Nuremberg Principles. She was brushed off by the jurist, who said, “I’m totally confused about the platauverweis.”

“‘Yes,’ Crane replied. “And in my country, unfortunately, the judges are concerned about the minor crimes of burglary and killing police,” she added, “In the context of the state of using and producing nuclear weapons which could destroy the world. I thought judges in Germany would be different.”

Crane asked the judge about her opinion. She replied that Crane must spend the night in jail for violating the order. For more information, visit buchel-atombombenfrei.jimdo.com and nukewatchinfo.org.

Paris, France

The French nonviolent direct action Collectif des Désobéissants (Collective of Disobedients) coordinated a series of mobilizations this week, beginning on June 22 to disrupt the Paris Air Show, the world’s largest aerospace trade exhibition.

The air show at Le Bourget Airport serves as the showcase for France’s military and industrial might of the world. The actions of des Désobéissants denounced the responsibility of France in the deaths of civilians in Yemen, and demanded the immediate closure of this main exporter of death. According to the Discourse survey, French arms dealers at the Paris Air Show that are involved in the deaths of many civilians in Yemen include Thales (Aeronautics, Missiles, Intelligence), EADS (Dassault Aviation, MBDA Damocles pods), Airbus (Airplanes A330MRTT, Cougar Helicopters) and Dassault (Mirage 2000-9).

Several die-ins and other nonviolent actions, many of which were in the guise of arrests for activities who were taken to various police stations in the Paris region. They were held for about four hours and released after their identity was checked and recorded. About 50 additional identity checks were carried out on the spot of the demonstrations.

For more information, including videos, visit Collectif des Désobéissants at desobeir.net.

Photo by John Laforge

German police carry away a Büchel air base blockader on June 28, 2019

THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

July 31, 2019

Page 6
On July 18, opponents of the country’s planned underground nuclear dump and waste storage facility that they had routed a small police presence from the contested site in northeast France.

Many people moved into the place, on the ground as well as in the trees, to reaffirm their opposition to the Cigéo project for radioactive waste burial. In a forest, a colonial, military world that goes with it. The police forces that occupied this strategic location until then---were forced to leave. From now on, we call for people to come here in Leuc Forest, as well as in the Bar-sur-Aube, two villages located two kilometers from the forest.

Leuc Forest is in the area of the nuclear dumpstor project. ANDRA (government nuclear waste agency) plans to bring the waste to the place, clear the forest and drill to build ventilation shafts. The forest was already occupied twice before July 2019 and then from August 15, 2016 to February 22, 2018, when 500 cops evicted the forest. At the end of the day, barricades erected by dump opponents were breached. While two people were arrested on the ground, by nightfall several tree-sitters remained atop the forest.

This morning, July 19, police and firefighters arrived with equipment to begin the eviction of activists occupying at least four platforms in the trees. A third platform ordered the transport and sale of fireworks and other flammables in the region over the next two days.

By the morning of July 20, all of the occupants had been evicted from the trees. Between police actions in the past two days, eight people were briefly detained for identification checks, eight others were taken into custody and later released, after being questioned and charged with several crimes. One person previously barred from the territory was arrested and sent to jail for four months for violating this court order.

AUGUST 7 HEARING FOR KINGS BAY PLOWSHARES

Dozens of supporters of the Kings Bay Ploswarhes will be in Brunswick, Georgia during the first full week of August. A hearing is scheduled on August 7. A Texas lawyer has requested that seven Catholic peace activists be the focal point for four days of public vigils, evening fellowship and optional fasting. The seven were arrested and jailed, charged with misdemeanor trespass and three felony counts for conspiring to destruct government property. Four of the group -- Clare Grady, Martha Hennessy, Patrick O’Neill and Carmen Trotta -- later posted bond and accepted restricted conditions of release enforced by ankle monitors. The three remain in jail -- Mark Colville, Stephen Kelly, SJ, and Elizabeth McAlister.

The seven defendants met all together in November, during a pretrial hearing on their motion to dismiss the charges based on the protections of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). Magistrate Benjamin C. Shores, Jr., ruled that the defendants’ and experts’ testimony about the religious character of the disarmament witness, issued his response on April 22. He recommended that the trial judge reject the motion because, despite the evident sincerity of their religious beliefs, the government did not violate their rights as there are no less restrictive means than prosecution to address their concerns.

The August 7 hearing will be the defendants’ first time meeting trial judge Lisa Wood, who is reported to have taken an interest in the issues presented by the novel procedural motion. The trial judge should be active in tackling this crime instead of arresting and convicting protesters.

The group’s aim was to remind the public and those working in the base that most governments now agree that nuclear weapons are illegal and that they must be abolished and that the TPNW is already having that bar prohibited any nuclear sharing, testing and development as well as use.

For more information, visit tenetidplowshares.org and the Fastlane Peace Camp on Facebook.

Bure, France

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FUTURE ACTIONS

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

dsei arms fair

Join the Campaign against the Arms Trade in nonveto-lio...
BASEL BURGAN: Jordanian authorities have moved their case against the prominent environmental activist to civil court. There is a judge found fault with the original complaint against Burgan by the Jordanian Atomic Energy Commission and sent it back to the prosecutor for correction. Burgan is accused of spreading false information about a public institution after a Facebook post that drew attention to a report questioning the safety of a building holding the two-year-old Jordan Research and Training Reactor...

BURGHFIELD: Last October, three protest blockades of entry roads into the nuclear weapons factory in the south of England resulted in nine arrests for obstructing the highway. This spring, crown prosecutors substituted a charge of aggravated trespass for the four who blocked the Mearings, a private entry road owned by the Ministry of Defence. At the July trial for eight of the blockaders, the four who blocked another entrance, the Wingewood Gate, were acquitted of obstruction because the crown did not show that the “bell mouth” of the entry road where they erected their blockade is a public highway. The four charged with aggravated trespass were, however, convicted of trespass with intent to obstruct lawful activity. The judge accepted that weapons of mass destruction are made there, but said that under British law “Atomic Weapons Establishment Burghfield is still a lawful site.” Chris Bluemel, Awel Jones, Cat McNeil and Julia Mercer were each assessed £775 in court costs and given conditional discharge for two or three years depending on their record...

On June 20, the Ligue des Droits de l’Homme (League of Human Rights) published a report denouncing the repression and in particular the bias of the Bar-le-Duc court. The courtroom observer wrote that, in 30 years as a lawyer, “... apart from the trials involving terrorists or acts of organized crime, I did not ever feel, both in the neighborhood and in the courthouse and in the courtroom, such a feeling of oppression fueled by the oversized presence of the police, mostly in intervention gear. Such an oppressive police presence is incompatible with the openness of the proceedings and the serenity of the hearings.”

At press time, the activist jailed on July 20 had not been named nor a prison address made available. This information will be posted at nukeresister.org/inside-out when it is known.

For more information, visit burembure.org (in French with English background and legal briefing).