

the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

No. 193

December 1, 2019

HIROSHIMA/ NAGASAKI ACTIONS

LOCKHEED MARTIN

The Brandywine Peace Community held its 43rd annual remembrance of the bombing of Hiroshima on August 6. The annual event takes place right behind the biggest shopping mall east of the Mississippi in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, and in front of the corporate campus of the world’s largest war profiteer and the U.S.A.’s #1 nuclear weapons contractor, Lockheed Martin.

Every year, the remembrance has included nonviolent resistance to nuclear weapons and the threat of nuclear war that began in Hiroshima.

The group gathered quietly in sadness, conscious of the recent mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton, trying to pull some hope into the sorrow. They hung peace banners and held posters while a bell tolled. Tom Mullian, a local musician, sang a song to begin the remembrance. Information about the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was shared.

Six elder peace activists then walked up the Lockheed Martin driveway entrance, intending to deliver this Notice of U.N. Treaty Prohibition:

This Lockheed Martin Corp. complex and Lockheed Martin facilities across the world does nuclear weapons contracting

PROHIBITED

by the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The intended delivery was thwarted by corporate security and the arrest by Upper Merion police of the six delivery people: Tom Mullian, Theresa Camerota, Paul Sheldon, Sylvia Metzler, Fr. Patrick Sieber and Robert M. Smith. All were cited and released.

For more information, visit brandywinepeace.com.

DES MOINES

The Des Moines Catholic Worker and local Veterans for Peace held their third annual 72-hour vigil at the Des Moines Cathedral, appealing to the Bishop. The Hiroshima Day to Nagasaki Day vigil concluded with a small rally and direct action where the Iowa Air National Guard wages drone warfare abroad.

Frank Cordaro writes:

This year’s three day, three night 24/7 vigil at the St. Ambrose Cathedral was low key and personal. We did not have an opening or closing ceremony for the vigil. The reason? We are in-between Catholic Bishops in Des Moines. The Pope named Father William Joensen, a priest from the Diocese of Dubuque, to be installed as our new Bishop in September. Bishop Pates is retiring and moving back to Minnesota.

This was our last chance to reach Bishop Pates with our message before he leaves. We sighted Bishop Pates walking from his residence to the chancery across the street one morning, but no acknowledgement from the Bishop of our vigil was given.

We have a year to reach our new Bishop with our message about the Armed Drone Command Center. We are hoping and praying to be on better terms with Bishop Joensen than we are with Bishop Pates.

The rally ended with two arrests. Ed Bloomer and Frank Cordaro walked down the main entrance drive and blocked it for twenty minutes before the Des Moines police arrived. Both men were booked at the Polk County Jail and spent the night in a holding cell with 12 other inmates. They pled guilty to trespass charges before the Jail Court Judge on Saturday morning, were fined \$200 plus jail and court costs and set free at 2 p.m.

For more information, visit dmcatholicworker.org.

BANGOR

By 6:30 a.m. on August 5, more than 60 nuclear
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Kings Bay Plowshares Convicted

by Jack Cohen-Joppa

“...You are the hope you have arrived to find.”

So ended a brief message that Fr. Steve Kelly wrote from jail last month to be read to more than 100 friends and supporters. We had travelled from across the United States for a Festival of Hope on the eve of the trial of the Kings Bay Plowshares in coastal Brunswick, Georgia.

While many of us hoped for their acquittal, Steve reminded us that hope in the nuclear age comes first from building community, and hope is sustained every time we act together for a nuclear-free future.

The 70-year-old Jesuit knows something about sustaining hope in hard places. For this action, he’s already been in jail for over a year and a half. He was arrested with six other Catholic nuclear abolitionists – Mark Colville, Clare Grady, Martha Hennessy, Elizabeth McAlister, Patrick O’Neill and Carmen Trotta – in the wee hours of April 5, 2018, inside the United States’ Submarine Base Kings Bay. There they cut fences and used hand tools, paint and human blood to condemn nuclear weapons and carry out symbolic acts of disarmament.

After weeks in the county jail following their arrest, four of the seven had agreed last year to conditions of pre-trial release that included curfews and ankle monitors. Then, to the complete surprise of all concerned, including prosecutors and defense attorneys, Liz McAlister was walked to the door and let out of jail on September 13. After several days in Brunswick, she was eventually given permission to travel and visit her family without an ankle monitor. Mark Colville posted bond and was released with curfew and travel restrictions on October 1 to help prepare for trial.

The Kings Bay Plowshares joined a nearly 40-year tradition of more than 100 nonviolent direct actions where participants give form to the Biblical prophecy of Isaiah to “beat swords into plowshares.” Five of the seven took part in earlier Plowshares actions and have spent time in federal prison – in Steve’s case, almost ten years.

Kings Bay is the home port for six (of 14) U.S. Trident nuclear-powered submarines. In a perverse double-down for doom, the Georgia base also regularly services Great Britain’s allied fleet of four Trident nuclear subs. The U.S. Tridents can each launch up to 24 Trident ballistic missiles bearing multiple nuclear warheads. Each packs five to thirty times the punch of the bombs that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Each submarine carries the potential to destroy life on earth as we know it.

Legal wrangling over their novel defense strategy delayed this trial longer than any previous Plowshares trial. Four decades of defending anti-nuclear resistance in federal court have resulted in binding legal precedent against any defense based on necessity, lesser harm, international law or the unconstitutional establishment of a state religion of nuclearism.

As the momentum builds for nonviolent direct action demanding radical measures on the climate crisis, anti-nuclear and anti-war activists have been keen to see their message incorporated into the actions for change. A recent analysis by energy expert Amory Lovins confirms that the opportunity cost of new or even existing nuclear power generation actually speeds up the impact of climate change. And it is indisputable that the Pentagon, emblematic of the world’s major militaries and the single largest source of greenhouse gases and nuclear weapons proliferation, is a major contributor to both existential crises: climate and nuclear.



photo by Garry Thomas

Following their conviction, the Kings Bay Plowshares hold a banner on the steps of the federal courthouse in Brunswick, Georgia (except Fr. Steve Kelly, who was returned to the local jail). From left: Martha Hennessy, Kathleen Rumpf (supporter and Plowshares activist), Mark Colville, Clare Grady, Carmen Trotta, Patrick O’Neill and Liz McAlister.

Trying a new tack, the Kings Bay Plowshares sought a reduction or dismissal of charges based on the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). RFRA mandates that government must show a compelling interest and employ the least restrictive means to curtail legitimate expressions of religious faith and practice. RFRA has notoriously been used to defend employers who won’t provide health insurance that includes contraception as a family planning option, and by businesses refusing to serve gay couples.

In pretrial briefs and testimony, Catholic clergy and theologians provided expert support for the legal arguments that a talented volunteer team of attorneys prepared for the defendants.

After final oral arguments in August, Federal Judge Lisa Godbey Wood found that the defendants’ religious

“We engage the judiciary in the courtroom, one of the more dangerous rooms in the Pentagon.”

beliefs are sincere and deeply held. However, she ruled that the government’s compelling national security interest outweighs their liberty to break into the base for such religious acts.

In a final memo issued just 60 hours before trial, she cut the heart out of their defense. Wood wrote that there is nothing important to be learned about “the defendants’ subjective beliefs about religion and the immorality and illegality of nuclear weapons,” and further, that “testimony and argument on these topics creates the danger of unfair prejudice, confusing the issues, misleading the jury, undue delay, wasting time, or needlessly presenting cumulative evidence.”

However, her own subjective prejudice was worth noting, if only parenthetically: “...whether nuclear weapons are actually illegal under international or domestic law (a doubtful proposition) is not relevant or an appropriate issue to litigate in this case.”

Thus she forbade the proposed trial testimony of Professors Francis Boyle (International Law) and Jeanine Hill Fletcher (Theology), and Roman Catholic Bishop Joseph Kopacz.

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Resisting (the) War on Mother Earth

With decades of experience in courts, jail and prison, peace and anti-nuclear movements offer good lessons for partisans of climate disobedience from their own history of challenging the roots of state and corporate power.

In England, these bonds were strengthened during two multi-day resistance actions in London: when Extinction Rebellion (XR) activists helped to disrupt a massive arms exhibition in September, and when the newly-formed XR Peace contingent joined in the autumn Extinction Rebellion actions.

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where we're at

Autumn recently brought welcome rain and much cooler days to Tucson and southern Arizona. We think about what the change of season means for the people living on the street, and for the migrants and refugees crossing the borderlands south of us.

We were glad to have a visit in November from our friend Jorge, while he was in the area volunteering with No More Deaths. He spent a month in the Sonoran Desert with other volunteers. They left water and other supplies along migrant trails, including during the eight days that long-time No More Deaths volunteer Scott Warren was once again on trial in a federal courtroom in Tucson.

The jury at Scott's first trial back in June deadlocked. Eight members refused to find him guilty on charges related to offering food, water and shelter to two men who had crossed the U.S./Mexico border. The government decided to try him again. This time, on November 20, the jury deliberated just two hours to find him not guilty of harboring undocumented immigrants! Warren told supporters gathered afterwards outside the courthouse, "The government failed in its attempt to criminalize basic human kindness." Said one juror, "I think we all agreed that what he and these people do is fantastic."

Across the country on October 24, a federal jury in Brunswick, Georgia also reached its verdict in just a couple of hours. The outcome was unfortunately a very different one, with the twelve jurors finding the seven Catholic nuclear disarmament activists guilty on all four charges. (see story on page 1)

Thanks to generous help from Pacific Life Community friends and Tucsonans who attended the Nuclear Resister's benefit screening of *The Nuns, the Priests and The Bombs*, we were able to travel to Georgia to be present with the defendants, their families, legal team and supporters. This community of activists from across the country filled the courtroom during the four days of the trial and held a constant vigil outside the courthouse with signs, banners and leaflets for passersby. Each day a simple lunch and dinner was shared at a nearby church. There was a wonderful Festival of Hope on the night before the trial and other evening programs.

The focus throughout: While it was our seven friends who were on trial, Trident is the crime.

Undaunted by the verdict, Martha Hennessy told those of us gathered outside the courthouse after the trial was over, "The weapons are still there, the treaties are being knocked down, one after the next, but we are called to keep trying, and we will do this together. We have no other choice."

As they await a sentencing date, join us as we continue to hold the Kings Bay Plowshares – Liz McAlister, Clare Grady, Martha Hennessy, Patrick O'Neill, Carmen Trotta, Mark Colville and Fr. Steve Kelly (who remains behind bars) – and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

Thanks to those of you who have already responded to our recent fund appeal letter! If you haven't yet and would like to send a donation, it would still be very welcome. Also, let us know if you'd like to send a gift subscription for a friend or family member. We would be glad to send this issue to them along with a card letting them know of your gift.

Happy holidays and best wishes in the new year!

Peace,

Felice & Jack



¡Presente!

March 15, 1919
– August 27, 2019

Activist for a peaceful and nuclear-free future, war tax resister, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, inspiration and mentor to many

November 3, 1940
– February 23, 2019

Peace, justice, equal rights and anti-nuclear activist, mother, grandmother



Resistance Reflections

Omnicide or Ecocide - Is There Really a Difference?

by Michele Naar-Obed

"There are two problems for our species' survival - nuclear war and environmental catastrophe," says Noam Chomsky in his new book on the two existential threats of our time.

How then does one choose to act against these two major threats? Is one worse than the other? After all, is omnicide any different than ecocide? Don't they both lead to mass extinction? How does anyone in their right mind make a choice?

I have chosen to intervene at nuclear weapons facilities in the past. For my two Plowshares actions and numerous anti-war actions, I have spent over three years in prisons and jails. This time, for better or for worse, I chose to disarm the weaponry of the fossil fuel industry.

These weapons are being used in a current and active war waged against our earth and all her inhabitants. This war has already resulted in massive "ecocide," which is defined as "criminalized human activity which violates the principles of environmental justice such as causing extensive damage or harming the health and well-being of a species" (including humans). According to the Center for Biological Diversity, we are headed for a mass extinction, and this current crisis is caused almost entirely by humans.

In October 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), created to provide policy makers with scientific assessment on climate change, its implications and potential future risks, issued a special report on global warming and the dire consequences it will have on all species if temperatures rise more than 1.5°C. In order to stop the likelihood of ecocide, leading scientists from over 30 nations delivered this challenge: The time is now for unprecedented and urgent action. We humans have about 10 years to push for a ceasefire of CO2 producing weapons against our mother earth. Our largest CO2 producing weaponry comes from the fossil fuel industries. In North America, the largest source of CO2 pollution comes from the tar sands oil industry out of Alberta, Canada.

On February 4, 2019, four Catholic Workers (CW) and their support team came together to participate in an anti-war action in defense of our mother earth. The Four Necessity Valve Turners called for a ceasefire of tar sands oil by shutting down the delivery system through the Line 4 Enbridge Energy pipeline running from Canada through the Dakotas, across Minnesota and to the Superior, Wisconsin refinery where it will then be processed and shipped out to the Asian market to be sold as refined gasoline to the transportation sector.

In order for the shutdown to occur in the safest way possible, the group called the Enbridge Energy emergency number listed at the block valve site just outside of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, insisting that the company turn the valve to the off position by remote control. And then, in typical Catholic Worker fashion, we prayed and we sang. We called in the saints and the angels and all the ancestors. This was, after all, an act of faith.

We hung up a copy of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si*. We hung prayer ties, Buddhist peace flags, tobacco ties, holy cards, rosary beads, and patron saint medals. We live-streamed all of our efforts and activities at the site and, within an hour, heard the valve turn and the flow of oil through the pipeline come to a stop. We delivered the following statement:

We, a group of Catholic Workers and farmers, are spiritually rooted and devoted to the care of all life. We are ordinary people without all the answers, and yet we each feel personally called to step into responsibility by standing in the way of this deadly fossil fuel industry, which benefits the few at the expense of all life, especially those who are most vulnerable.

We do not come in judgment of our brothers and sisters who make their living from this industry. We too are in need of work with just wages. We are certain that if we shut the door to this destructive industry, we will open the door to clean energy industries that will bring meaningful work that uplifts the common good.

Our species stands at death's door due to the outmoded and violent myth that some people are more important than others, and that we can live without the intricate and miraculous web of life that surrounds us. Even as we approach total devastation, this myth still rages and nowhere is it more apparent than here in our own backyard. The state of Minnesota and the Enbridge Energy corporation are pushing to increase the volume of deadly tar sands oil through inherently unsafe pipes across

Ojibwe treaty territory, and public lands, forests and wetlands – threatening Indigenous Nations' food, medicine and cultural security as well as the water that we all depend on for survival.

The recent scientific study on climate change presented to the U.N. indicates that the threat of irreversible damage and destruction to our planet is imminent. Therefore, having exhausted all legal and political avenues, and having found those avenues lethally inadequate either to curb our dependency on fossil fuels or to stop its expansion, we find it necessary to take this direct action of turning off the flow of this poisonous tar sands oil.

The time is now for unprecedented and urgent action. We recognize that turning the valve of one of the many pipelines is but a small step in the struggle for environmental justice. Our hope is that it will remain off and that the decision makers at Enbridge Energy Corporation will feel called to do the right thing and turn off the others as well. Only then can we work towards a clean and sustainable future for all and for generations to come.

Brenna Cussen-Anglada (St. Isidore CW Farm), Michele Naar-Obed (Hildegard House CW), Allyson Polman (St. Isidore CW Farm) and Daniel Yildirim (Evening Star Farm) are charged with one felony (aiding and abetting damage to a pipeline) and one misdemeanor (aiding and abetting destruction of property). We will be tried on June 2, 2020 by jury. We have been denied the necessity defense.

Please follow us on facebook at Four Necessity or on our website, fournecessity.org.

[Long-time Catholic Worker activist Michele Naar-Obed believes that "war is war whether it's against our mother earth or our sisters and brothers in foreign lands, and it's always waged to profit the empire."]

Thanks

Thanks to Betty, Charlotte, Aston, Gretchen, Russell, Cindy, Sarah, Rosemary, Bill, Faith, Catherine, Frank, Brad, Kathleen, Jim, Steve and Paige for helping to mail the last issue, and to Ruth for proofreading assistance. Thanks also to our friend Dwight, owner of the Gloop Factory (Tucson's community-minded union print shop), for donating the printing of the Nuclear Resister's end-of-the-year fund appeal and reply cards, and to Faith and Moira for their help at the screening of *The Nuns, The Priests and The Bombs*.

the Nuclear Resister

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YOU CAN HELP!

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

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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

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D.C. Cops Menace Activists

In Washington, D.C., the four Embassy Protection Collective peace activists arrested after last spring’s siege of the Venezuelan Embassy do not yet have a trial date. And a noxious fallout continues. On October 25, a police SWAT team demanded entry to journalist Max Blumenthal’s D.C. home. Last spring his website TheGrayZone.com was publishing a series of investigative reports exposing the administration’s backing for the Venezuelan coup-plotters and their vocal supporters outside the embassy.

The SWAT team had a warrant and Blumenthal was arrested and jailed for 20 hours. An opposition activist claimed he’d assaulted her, despite ample documentation of police standing aside while coup supporters persistently threatened, intimidated and occasionally assaulted the peace activists who rallied outside the embassy. The charge had been dismissed months ago and was revived without Blumenthal’s knowledge until police came pounding.

Three weeks later, five cars of D.C. cops and more on motorbikes roared up to the home of CodePink and Embassy Protection Collective co-founder Medea Benjamin. She had not been home for long, after being assaulted and dragged away from a November 15 press conference outside the Capitol.

Florida Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz, backing the Venezuelan opposition, had been announcing the new Congressional Venezuela Democracy Caucus. Benjamin stood peacefully at her side, holding a sign that said “No Coup in Venezuela or Bolivia.” Aggressive opposition supporters ripped the sign from her hands and later tried to pull her to the ground. Benjamin reached into the crowd for something to hold to prevent her fall. For a moment, she grabbed the coat of Rep. Wasserman Schultz. Benjamin was accused of assaulting a member of Congress.

Police had no warrant, just the intimidating invitation to go for a ride down to the station. She refused and police finally departed, the assault claim a lingering threat.

For more information visit defendembassyprotectors.org.

JARED CHASE REMAINS IN PRISON

On November 6, Jared “Jay” Chase was paroled from the Illinois State Prison at Dixon, but was immediately returned to custody for parole violation. His maximum release date remains November 6, 2020.

The development saddened and frustrated the small group of supporters in Chicago and elsewhere struggling to maintain contact with Chase. Chase has Huntington’s disease, a hereditary degenerative neurological disorder marked early on by personality changes, irritability, impulsiveness and impaired judgement. Jay Chase first showed symptoms of Huntington’s disease in 2008. According to the Mayo Clinic, “Medications are available to help manage the symptoms of Huntington’s disease, but treatments can’t prevent the physical, mental and behavioral decline associated with the condition.”

He is not known to have replied to correspondence from supporters for over a year. In the weeks prior to his parole date, a prison counselor reported that Chase would not meet with her, had refused to sign any paperwork related to his release and told prison authorities he wanted to stay at Dixon. The Illinois Department of Corrections had made arrangements for his residency in a halfway house, but Jay refused. He has also reportedly refused family contact.

Chase is the last in prison of the NATO 3, a trio of men targeted by two undercover Chicago police in the weeks before the 2012 NATO summit in the Windy City. The three were entrapped in a plot fomented by the clandestine cops to construct rudimentary Molotov cocktails. Originally facing eleven felony counts under the Illinois equivalent of the U.S.A. Patriot Act, the three were acquitted at trial of all terrorism related charges, but convicted of possession of incendiary devices.

Chase, now 36, got the longest sentence of eight years. In April, 2016, he was sentenced to an additional year in prison for squirting a shampoo bottle of his human waste at a guard. Chase later wrote in a letter that he acted out when he did not receive the special diet or vitamins prescribed for Huntington’s disease. It is not known what if any specialized medical care he is currently receiving related to his condition.



Please send cards and letters of support to Jared Chase M44710, Dixon Correctional Center, 2600 N. Brinton Ave., Dixon, IL 61021.

MANNING’S RECONSIDERATION MOTION DENIED; DAILY FINES MOUNT

Thanks to sparrowmedia.net

On August 5, Judge Anthony Trenga denied Chelsea Manning’s Motion to Reconsider Sanctions imposed after he found her in civil contempt of court for her refusal to give grand jury testimony relating to her 2010 disclosures of classified information.

While the judge has authority to sanction Ms. Manning in an effort to coerce her testimony before the grand jury,

A Prison Visit With Turi Vaccaro

Imprisoned Sicilian pacifist Turi Vaccaro received a rare visit in late August from Pino Apprendi, president of Antigone Sicilia, a recognized prisoner rights and advocacy organization. Supporters who have not been permitted to visit had asked the organization to do so. In an interview following his visit, Apprendi offered some details about Vaccaro’s life in prison.

Vaccaro continues his vegan diet, head-standing meditation practice, and “strike of the word,” speaking little if at all to fellow prisoners and staff, and sometimes remaining in his cell, reading, writing and meditating, instead of taking his exercise hour outside.

Having recently completed an 11-month, 27-day sentence, he’s now serving a new, consecutive sentence of five more months for another of his protests at MUOS, the U.S.-run military satellite communications base on the Mediterranean island. Vaccaro is now due to be released on December 31. He has the right to be released now, but only if he signs forms requesting it. Apprendi brought the forms to sign but Vaccaro refused. He seeks no goodwill from the state, Apprendi reported. If the state permits his freedom, it should happen without his pleading.



Letters of support should be sent to Salvatore Vaccaro, Casa Circondariale Caldarelli, Piazza Pietro Cerulli #1, 90129 Palermo PA, Italy.

he does not have the authority to impose sanctions for punitive purposes. Manning argued that the sanctions, including both incarceration and steep (now \$1,000) daily fines, will never coerce her compliance with the Court’s order, and therefore impermissibly serve only a punitive function.

The term of this grand jury will expire late next summer, by which time the imprisoned war crimes whistleblower will accumulate close to half a million dollars in fines.

The judge denied her motion without holding a hearing on the matter, although both parties had consented to and anticipated an opportunity to present further evidence and argument. “The Court has reviewed [her] records and concludes [...] that Ms. Manning has the ability to comply with the Court’s financial sanctions or will have the ability *after her release from confinement.*” (emphasis added) In a footnote, Judge Trenga explained his unexpected decision by saying, “The Court [...] finds, based upon the nature and volume of documents proffered, that a hearing would not aid the decision process and therefore decides the Motion without a hearing.”

When informed of the judge’s decision, Manning said, “I am disappointed but not at all surprised. The government and the judge must know by now that this doesn’t change my position one bit.”

Manning tweeted on August 20 that she is “working on a few projects to keep myself busy for the next year or so – I’ll keep y’all posted as we come up with new ideas”.

For more information, follow Chelsea Manning on twitter at #ychelsea, or visit sparrowmedia.net.



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. Do not decorate envelopes.

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 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.
(18 months, 17 days – out 12/31/19)
(Plowshares activist convicted for two acts 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
Dixon Correctional Center, 2600 N. Brinton Ave., Dixon, IL 61021.
(8 years – out 11/6/20)
(Convicted of possession of incendiary devices with intent to commit arson during protests at NATO summit in Chicago, 5/12)



NUCLEAR RESISTERS

Stephen Kelly 015634
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 activist awaiting sentencing following conviction for 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)

PREVIOUSLY LISTED, RECENTLY RELEASED:
Elizabeth McAlister, Mark Colville

HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI, cont.

continued from page 1

abolitionists were already gathered alongside the road outside the main gate into Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, the Pacific Ocean homeport for Trident nuclear submarines in Washington State’s Puget Sound. On cue, thirty flash mob dancers and supporters entered the roadway carrying peace flags and two large banners. A long banner stretched across three incoming lanes reading, “We can all live without Trident.” Above the dancers, a bold yellow banner read “Abolish Nuclear Weapons.”

While traffic into the base was blocked, Edwin Starr’s classic recording of *War (What is it good for?)* boomed from portable speakers, driving the choreographed performance of dancers including fourteen members of Susan Delaney’s extended family, fronted by seven-year-old Adrianna and twenty-year-old Anteia.

After the performance, the dancers left the roadway and eleven demonstrators remained. They were removed from the roadway by the Washington State Patrol and cited for being pedestrians on the road.

About 30 minutes later, and after being cited, five of the eleven reentered the roadway carrying a banner with this quote by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: “When scientific power outruns spiritual power, we end up with guided missiles and misguided men.” The five were again removed by the State Patrol, additionally cited for failure to disperse, and released at the scene.

Cited for remaining on the roadway after the dancers dispersed were Susan Delaney, Philip Davis, Denny Duffell, Mark Sisk, Mack Johnson and Stephen Dear. Cited a second time for reentering the roadway were Judith Beaver, Michael “Firefly” Siptroth, Glen Milner, Charley Smith and Victor White.

The demonstration was the culmination of a four-day Hiroshima/Nagasaki remembrance event at Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action.

Eight of the 11 appeared in a mitigation hearing in county traffic court on September 26, when each explained to a judge why they felt compelled to act and why their \$68 fines should be reduced or dismissed. All fines were reduced to \$5. Glen Milner had contested the charge and planned to present his defense, but the charge was subsequently dismissed.

The five who reentered the road were entitled to a jury trial, but were informed on the eve of their scheduled arraignment that the charges had never been formally filed.



photo by Leonard Eiger

To the tune of Edwin Starr’s classic *War? What is it good for?* a four-lane-wide flashmob answered “*Absolutely Nothing!*” and blocked traffic into the Trident nuclear submarine base at Bangor, Washington on August 5.

MOTHER’S DAY UPDATE

Editors’ note: We mistakenly reported that Bob Delastrada crossed the line at Bangor and received a federal trespass citation last May 11. It was James Manista who crossed and was cited.

Manista pled not guilty to a September 4 arraignment in U.S. District Court in Tacoma, Washington. Appearing again on October 23, he changed his plea to guilty. As the Kings Bay Plowshares were giving their own testimony in a federal courtroom across the country, facing the same trespass charge and more, Manista spoke passionately to the court from a prepared statement, reading in part:

Heartened by the heroism of protesters like the Plowshares 7 and my fellow Ground Zero colleagues, and filled with a hope of responding rationally and creatively to the prospect of planetary horror, I had a banner made asserting “Nuclear weapons are immoral” (to produce, stockpile, and use) and displayed it on the ground of those most likely to benefit from reading it and taking its message to heart. I did not just trespass on the base, which without my banner I had no cause to do, but with it I finally and publicly answered the duty of my conscience and exercised my right of free speech where the federal government seemed not to want me to. Your honor has the opportunity – as do all – to join the

community resisting nuclear madness....

The Navy prosecutor recommended a \$50 fine. Magistrate Judge Theresa Fricke accepted Manista’s guilty plea and stated, “I will lower the recommended fine in recognition of the defendant’s conscientious protest.” She ordered, and Manista agreed, to pay the \$25 fine, \$10 mandatory fee, and \$30 for processing the case.

For more information, visit gzcenter.org

LIVERMORE

“Designing Armageddon at Livermore Lab” isn’t how the media office would describe the work, but it was the name for the annual Hiroshima Day demonstration at the nuclear weapons industrial park east of San Francisco. Daniel Ellsberg addressed the crowd, and his book, *The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner*, was left at the scene and included as evidence in the October trial of the Kings Bay Plowshares. A march to the west gate followed, where Japanese activists invited all to participate in a traditional bon dance. Dozens of people then held a die-in that blocked the road, while others chalked outlines of the “dead” to illustrate the shadows burned into the background when people were vaporized by the atomic blast. Many of the protesters then tried to enter the lab, resulting in 43 arrests. All were cited and released.

For more information, visit trivalleycares.org.

FASLANE

A woman was arrested during the August 6 commemoration of Hiroshima at the main gate of Faslane Naval Base in Scotland.

Bearing a placard reading “Never Again,” the 29-year-old honored the lives lost as a result of the atomic bombings by dousing herself in red paint, symbolic of the blood of the fallen, and then lying in the road in front of the home to Britain’s nuclear arsenal of warheads and Trident submarines. Traffic during the daily shift change was disrupted and, upon refusing the police request to move, she was arrested for obstruction of the highway.

Emma, a resident of the nearby Faslane Peace Camp who attended the demonstration, stated: “Once again we have the spectacle of a peaceful protester being arrested whilst the Trident deployments from Faslane continue with impunity, against international law and in contravention of every convention and rule of warfare. This was a measured response to the historical atrocities

UCLA Hecklers Acquitted

A jury has acquitted five University of California Los Angeles students and alumni following their protest of Trump administration policies in February, 2018, at a public address by Treasury Secretary Stephen Mnuchin. With hisses and booing, they interrupted Mnuchin as they sat in their chairs in the half-filled campus auditorium, loudly denouncing the administration on tax breaks for the rich, war provocations, immigration and fascist intent. Campus police lifted each in turn from their seat and carried them out of the room.

When Mnuchin withdrew permission for the University to post its video of the event as planned, a public records request from the Society of Professional Journalists eventually compelled its release.

Six months later, the five were charged with trespass, disturbing the peace and resisting arrest. Two were also charged for disrupting another campus speech by former Obama advisor and Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel. Some protesters also stood accused of violating a seven-day ban from campus following their arrests when they had attended a silent immigration protest and a talk by Chelsea Manning there.

The five are members of Refuse Facism/L.A. and the UCLA Revolution Club, affiliated with the Revolutionary Communist Party. Pretrial discovery revealed that the Los Angeles police department had opened an investigation in the fall of 2017, conducting surveillance of members and sending undercover informants to several Refuse Fascism meetings. The fruitless investigation was later reportedly closed. Testimony at trial revealed that campus police had also conducted surveillance of the group’s members.

continued on page 6

government plays in the war machine. BAE Systems and Lockheed Martin both have locations in Scotland as well as a whole host of other despicable companies all over the U.K. We take this action as the NATO exercise Joint Warrior, coordinated from HMNB Clyde [Faslane], draws to a close. It was marked most notably by the participation of the Turkish soldiers, while meanwhile the Turkish military invaded Kurdish northern Syria, threatening the most progressive democracy in the world deemed as terrorists by an increasingly fascist Turkish state. It is time for our politicians to stop paying lip service to the values of freedom and democracy and act in defence of our Kurdish allies who led the offensive against ISIS only to find themselves facing further betrayal at the hands of the west.

Police cut through a locking device that joined the two and arrested both. They were cited and released.

While the Tridents are based at Faslane, their nuclear weapons are stockpiled at Coulport, one loch west. Peace camper and Trident Ploughshares member Sylvia Boyes was arrested there in the wee hours of November 20. She had spent 12 hours exploring the interior of the base, where she cut two areas of fence before walking to the main gate and informing military police of her presence. She was arrested and released on the condition she stay away from both bases until her December 18 court date.

VANDENBERG

More than 40 people joined the Los Angeles Catholic Worker (LACW) and Beatitude House communities on August 6 for their annual commemorative demonstration outside the main gate of Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. LACW co-founder Catherine Morris, using her walker, crossed over the line in peaceful witness and was arrested for trespass, cited and released later the same day.

Vandenberg tests the intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) used by the United States to carry nuclear warheads. Morris’s prayer and message was that, if we were to close this military base and others preparing for nuclear war, we could house all of those in need throughout this country.

Appearing in federal court in Santa Barbara on October 17, Morris entered a plea of guilty. She told the court that she hates having to close the soup kitchen for the Hiroshima Day demonstration, because 500–1,000 people go without meals. But the people on Skid Row in Los Angeles “understand we’re activists,” she said, “and they support me doing this.”

The prosecutor usually handling Vandenberg protest cases was out sick, and the replacement had a better attitude. He looked at the date of the offense and told Morris, “I think I understand your point.”

He did not ask for a sentence, and the judge did not impose one. The judge had no choice but to impose the \$40 processing fee, but gave Morris a year to pay after she explained she receives only a \$25/month stipend plus room and board. After court, Morris went to the clerk’s office and told the clerk she would not pay. “I know, we just have to fill out the paperwork,” came the reply.

For more information, visit lacatholicworker.org.

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from USP Coleman

Thanksgiving Statement

by Leonard Peltier

November 22, 2019

The year of 2019 is coming to a close and with it, comes the day most Americans set aside as a day for Thanksgiving. As I let my mind wander beyond the steel bars and concrete walls, I try to imagine what the people who live outside the prison gates are doing, and what they are thinking. Do they ever think of the Indigenous people who were forced from their homelands? Do they understand that with every step they take, no matter the direction, that they are walking on stolen land? Can they imagine, even for one minute, what it was like to watch the suffering of the women, the children and babies and yes, the sick and elderly, as they were made to keep pushing west in freezing temperatures, with little or no food? These were my people and this was our land. There was a time when we enjoyed freedom and were able to hunt buffalo and gather the foods and sacred medicines. We were able to fish and we enjoyed the clean clear water! My people were generous, we shared everything we had, including the knowledge of how to survive the long harsh winters or the hot humid summers. We were appreciative of the gifts from our Creator and remembered to give thanks on a daily basis. We had ceremonies and special dances that were a celebration of life.

With the coming of foreigners to our shores, life as we knew it would change drastically. Individual ownership was foreign to my people. Fences?? Unheard of, back then. We were a communal people and we took care of each other. Our grandparents weren't isolated from us! They were the wisdom keepers and story tellers and were an important link in our families. The babies? They were and are our future! Look at the brilliant young people who put themselves at risk, fighting to keep our water and environment clean and safe for the generations yet to come. They are willing to confront the giant, multi-national corporations by educating the general public of the devastation being caused. I smile with hope when I think of them. They are fearless and ready to speak the truth to all who are willing to listen. We also remember our brothers and sisters of Bolivia, who are rioting, in support of the first Indigenous President, Evo Morales. His commitment to the people, the land, their resources and protection against corruption is commendable. We recognize and identify with that struggle so well.

THE INSIDE LINE



So today, I thank all of the people who are willing to have an open mind, those who are willing to accept the responsibility of planning for seven generations ahead, those who remember the sacrifices made by our ancestors so we can continue to speak our own language, practice our own way of thankfulness in our own skin, and that we always acknowledge and respect the Indigenous lineage that we carry.

For those of you who are thankful that you have enough food to feed your families, please give to those who aren't as fortunate. If you are warm and have a comfortable shelter to live in, please give to those who are cold and homeless. If you see someone hurting and in need of a kind word or two, be that person who steps forward and lends a hand. And especially, when you see injustice anywhere, please be brave enough to speak up to confront it.

I want to thank all who are kind enough to remember me and my family in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you for continuing to support and believe in me. There isn't a minute in any day that passes without me hoping that this will be the day I will be granted freedom. I long for the day when I can smell clean, fresh air, when I can feel a gentle breeze in my hair, witness the clouds as their movement hides the sun and when the moon shines the light on the path to the sacred Inipi. That would truly be a day I could call a day of Thanksgiving.

Thank you for listening to whomever is voicing my words. My Spirit is there with you.

Doksha,
In the Spirit of Crazy Horse,
Leonard Peltier

[Leonard Peltier is serving two life sentences, wrongly convicted for the 1975 deaths of two FBI agents while defending traditional indigenous from threats including uranium mining on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. USP Coleman has been on lockdown since July.]

RESISTING REMOTE CONTROL WARFARE

HANCOCK FIELD

Expressing deep anguish and grief over a recent U.S. drone attack in Afghanistan, responsible for killing at least 30 pine nut workers, members of Upstate Drone Action returned to block the gate of Hancock Field in Syracuse, New York with another graphic tableau. They held a couple of dolls wrapped in bloodied sheets, and a banner reading "Drones Fly, Children Die – Our Hearts Are Breaking." A tipped over stroller and car seat completed the scene. When sheriff's deputies showed up, they were asked by the blockaders to enforce the law and stop the killings by the Air National Guard at Hancock, where armed drones are piloted in Afghanistan. Ed Kinane, Ann Tiffany, Julianne Oldfield, Rae Kramer, Les Billips and Mark Scibilia-Carver were arrested and jailed. They were charged with trespass, disorderly conduct and obstruction of government administration, then released by late evening. Their next court date is January 9.

For more information, visit upstatedroneaction.org.

CREECH AIR FORCE BASE

Drone warfare opponents returned to Creech Air Force Base in Nevada at the end of September for another round of Shut Down Creech actions. The week of twice-daily highway vigils and banner calls to the conscience of Air Force personnel training for and engaged in distant combat with MQ-9 Predator drones.

Midweek on the morning of October 2, three small groups of activists and supporters pulled off four separate blockades of the two base gates. Their main gate banner read, "Stop Droning Afghanistan – 18 years: Enough!" Ten people from across the U.S., including military veterans, were arrested after each group in turn blocked the main gate.

Toby Blomé, Michael Kerr, Susan Witka, Maggie Huntington, Don Kimball, George Killingsworth, Don Cuning, Denny Riley, Eleanor Levine and Norie Clarke

were taken to a Las Vegas jail for processing. Six were released by mid-afternoon, but four of the women refused to cooperate with the full body scanner that was recently installed at the jail and were held for five additional hours before being released.

October 2 was also Gandhi's 150th birthday, so that afternoon, as military and civilian personnel left the base, some of the activists held a large poster of Gandhi with signs reading, "Nonviolence Works!", "Endless War is Not Working!" and "Join Us!"

The vigils also memorialized and honored the lives of innocent drone war victims, including more than 30 Afghan farm laborers recently slaughtered by a U.S. drone strike that left dozens more wounded.

"There is a total disregard for the lives of the civilian population in the countries we are in conflict with, and it just keeps getting worse," said Toby Blomé, one of the arrested protesters. "These crimes are on par with the brutal lynching of Blacks that occurred in the South. Men, women and children are violently murdered on suspicion alone, for standing in the wrong place at the wrong time, for just living their lives, for being of the wrong race or culture, for attending a wedding, for picking pine nuts! It has to stop...NOW!"

Creech Air Force Base is a key control center in the covert U.S. targeted assassination program using drones. Both the Pentagon and the CIA use Creech air force personnel to execute their targeted assassinations around the globe. Under the Trump administration, the use of drones to kill military targets has tripled in frequency according to some estimates, leading to an increased occurrence of civilian deaths.

VOLK FIELD

by Joy First

Seven peace activists walked onto the base at Volk Field on November 12, wearing black veils, carrying limp dolls and posters of children killed by drones and reading a statement of mourning.

ALASKA PEACE PICKET POPPED

Veteran for Peace Rob Mulford was on hand to greet those attending a community "defense forum" at a Fairbanks hotel in October. The Fairbanks North Star Borough (county) touted the meeting as providing "state and local leaders with strategies they can use to build strong military-community partnerships and rally new defense community champions at the state and local level." Mulford writes, "At my protest, I wore a sandwich board proclaiming, on the front side, 'Get The War Racket Out of Fairbanks'; on the back it read 'Warfighter Want Out? Call 877-447-4487' (the GI Rights Hotline phone number). I also carried the Veterans For Peace flag. Attached to my flag pole was a small, fairly loud but high quality speaker playing Buffy Sainte Marie's *The War Racket* song. The tune was playing as the police were handcuffing my limp, prostrate body."

Sit-In Arrests Over F-35 Base

Opposition to basing the new, extra-loud F-35 fighter jet at the Burlington, Vermont airport had been building for a decade by the time the first two planes were delivered to the Air National Guard station in September. Sit-in protests in the days before the jets arrived targeted the office of Senator Patrick Leahy, a champion of the Pentagon decision to bring 18 jets to Vermont.

Opponents forged an alliance, Save Our Skies, of people concerned for the local health impact of the warplane training, its carbon footprint and the military force projection it supports. When it became public that the F-35s will soon become part of the strategic nuclear bomber force, the prospect of being a military target and nuclear threat to others rose to the top of their list of concerns. Leahy's office claimed Vermont-based jets would somehow be excluded from that role in nuclear wartime.

Armed with a list of their concerns and demands to stop the jets from coming, activists visited the Senator's Burlington office on Monday, September 9. Retired Air Force Col. Roseanne Greco and retired Lt. Col. Roger Bourassa announced their intention to stay until the Senator agreed to see them. After some discussion with Leahy's staff and local police, the two were arrested for trespass. They were cited and released.

Greco returned the next day, accompanying Kara Paige and Carmen Sargent, who were both admitted into the office only when they promised to leave at closing time. On Wednesday, Paige, Sargent, Roddy O'Neill Cleary and Rabbi Joshua Chasan were admitted into the office when one of them promised to leave at closing time. This time, they did not and were arrested for trespass. Rabbi Chasan summed up their nonviolent resistance for a reporter, saying "This is the tip of the spear of American militarism. It's wrong on so many levels."

On September 19, the day the first jets arrived in Burlington, Greco and Bourassa came to court for arraignment and found their cases had been referred to a restorative justice program.

For more information, visit saveourskiesvt.org.

Bonnie Block, Joyce Ellwanger, Joy First, Bob Graf, Fr. Jim Murphy, Phil Runkel, and Brian Terrell were arrested by Juneau County, Wisconsin officers. They were handcuffed and taken to the station in Mauston, where they were cited for trespassing and released.

The action was organized by the Wisconsin Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars, a group that has vigiled monthly at the gates since 2011. It was the sixth direct action leading to arrests at the base.

Volk Field is an Air National Guard base that trains personnel to operate the RQ-7 Shadow Drone, which is used for reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition.

Our government is using drones to kill people in over eight different countries in the Middle East and Africa. Though the reasoning is to kill terrorists, the program actually has the opposite effect, and, as loved ones are killed by drones, their friends and family can be recruited into what we call terrorist groups to retaliate. Drone warfare is illegal by standards of our U.S. Constitution and international law, and has been condemned by the United Nations, yet our country persists in this devastation.

For more information, contact Joy First, joyfirst5@gmail.com.



Mother Earth, cont.

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During the first week of September, more than 2,000 people participated in daily thematic demonstrations aimed at stopping 1,600 exhibitors from setting up for the Defence Security and Equipment International (DSEI) arms bazaar, Europe’s largest market for police, security and military equipment. For several days, demonstrators blocked trucks delivering tanks, aircraft, boats and more to ExCeL, the London Exhibition Centre.

The direct actions began on Monday, September 2 with the Stop Arming Israel protests that blocked the road and resulted in six arrests, including some who climbed aboard the stopped transport trucks.

September 3 was No Faith in War day, with many faith communities represented. Hundreds of people blocked the road leading to the east gate of ExCeL for nine hours, with time reserved for their different services and prayers. More than 300 people joined the mid-afternoon Quaker meeting for silent worship. A quiet standoff followed, with the arms fair shut down while the worshipers were surrounded by police. Although the Quakers announced that worship would conclude after 45 minutes, police

KANSAS CITY NUCLEAR RESISTERS IN COURT

In Kansas City, Missouri municipal court on September 5, Byron Clemens agreed to a diversion from prosecution for trespass last July 4 at the “National Security Campus” (NSC) where most of the non-nuclear components of U.S. nuclear weapons are manufactured. He paid a \$300 fee and agreed not to return to the site for six months.

“That leaves me plenty of time to return later,” Clemens said after court. He was arrested with Fr. Carl Kabat, who has been arrested at the site all but one summer since it was under construction in 2011. Kabat has since moved to his order’s assisted living facility in Texas and has no plans to return to court.

“I took part in supporting Carl Kabat’s continuing efforts to stop the insanity of nuclear weapons. Part of my motivation is the plan for smaller, more ‘usable’ atomic bombs. They’ve abrogated the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty to allow the U.S. to send more nuclear weapons to Europe. The new secretary of defense is proposing distributing smaller and intermediate-range missiles throughout Asia.”

The retired high school journalism teacher’s family has also suffered cancers connected to living and working near the Mallinkrodt Chemical Works in St. Louis, a notorious Manhattan Project uranium enrichment site.

On November 1, 15 peace activists who’d crossed a purple line at the NSC during a Memorial Day rally were on trial for trespass. The judge listened attentively for four hours as each of the 15, under questioning from their attorney, Henry Stoeber, delivered prepared testimony about their motivations to act. Before announcing her verdict, the judge let the defendants know that she respected their viewpoints and understood that they intended no harm to persons or property. And while she admired their commitment to a higher purpose, her commitment is to the law. She found them all guilty of trespass.

One week later, they were offered a clean record if they meet terms of probation including a payment of \$168.50, staying outside a two-mile radius from the plant, and performing 10 to 50 hours of community service, depending on their prior record. Two Catholic Workers visiting from Germany and the Netherlands had also been arrested, but did not return to the U.S. for the trial. Warrants were issued for their arrests.

For more information visit peaceworkskc.org.

Hecklers, cont.

continued from page 4

Photographic evidence withheld from the defense until trial confirmed that two defendants had been brutalized during their arrest, and their charges of resisting arrest were thrown out. Testimony further revealed that police did not know what law had been broken and were simply ordered by a university administrator to arrest the hecklers. A defense motion for a mistrial was denied, and the case went to the jury on October 10. The jury returned the following day with a verdict of not guilty on all counts.

For more information, visit refusefascism.org.

broke the silence, moving through the crowd to arrest anyone who did not heed the command to leave.

As one observer noted, “Anyone with even the most basic knowledge of Quaker principles knows this would inevitably lead to the prayers continuing.” And they did, ending only after police had arrested dozens more. Smaller blockades brought the two-day arrest total to 53.

Wednesday, September 4 was No Nuclear Day. Announcing a joint plan with Trident Ploughshares to block both ExCeL entrances, XR declared:

War and the arms trade is fueling the climate and ecological emergency. Wars create vast devastating environmental damage. Militaries expend huge amounts of carbon in continuing the cycle of war. When the government should be creating an emergency budget to bring carbon emissions down and halt the loss of biodiversity, they are instead continuing to subsidize and support the world’s largest arms fair and many of the companies exhibiting at it.

Extinction Rebellion is working alongside long-standing rebels for peace in an aim to grow a movement of movements – an alliance of rebels – to take action against the ecological and climate emergency, to build a mass presence at the International Rebellion 7 October...

At least a dozen people representing both groups were arrested blocking the entry roads, arms locked together through a car, a van and a small boat on a trailer. Seven more were arrested later in the day.

A Conference at the Gates on September 5 brought teach-ins about the arms trade and its global connections to other social issues and institutions onto the street. More attempts to block exhibitors resulted in more arrests.

Climate Justice was the theme on September 6, with workshops and blockades highlighting how the fossil fuel and arms industries feed off each other. Riders for Bikes Not Bombs pedaled circles around the multitudes of police on hand, distracting their attention so other activists could get positioned, lock themselves together and block the road.

Saturday, September 7 was the day for a big Festival of Resistance, filled with workshops and activities for all ages to advance the common work for a peaceful future and to celebrate the actions of the previous week.

The final theme played out on Sunday, the Borders and Migration day of action. One sign read, “If you export arms, don’t complain about importing refugees!” Even London’s mayor was calling for the arms exhibition to be kicked out of the city.

By the exhibition’s opening day on September 10, 116 people had been arrested outside ExCeL during the actions to disrupt the exhibition.

October Extinction Rebellion

The XR Peace coalition kicked off a full week of participation in London’s October Rebellion climate actions. Early on the morning of Monday, October 7, the peace rebels blocked Victoria Embankment, the road outside the Ministry of Defence (MoD). Two people locked onto a car and three others onto a mock Trident missile. Pop-up tents and banners protected the blockade and the road was held for six hours. A stage was set up for a program of workshops and discussions about the impact of war and militarism on the climate. Police made 23 arrests when they finally cleared the road.

The next day, XR Peace held a die-in at the Whitehall gate of the MoD, sitting and lying for hours in heavy rain without arrests. Two people were arrested blocking a police line when it came up the street. One of them, Angie Zelter, was jailed for two days. She pled guilty in order to return to the Rebellion with no bail conditions, and was fined a total of nearly £600 for the offense and for breaching bail conditions from her arrest during the April Extinction Rebellion actions.

Her comrades returned Wednesday morning for another die-in, blocking the door for an hour before four more were arrested.

The next day, another group of four Trident Ploughshares activists locked down together as part of the wider XR effort to occupy Trafalgar Square. They released themselves after a few hours in order to join actions over the following days. Another arrest was reported near the MoD in Whitehall.

South Korea

Four South Korean university students are reported to be in custody after scaling the walls of the U.S. embassy and occupying the grounds. The October 18 demonstration was led by the Korean University Student Progressive Alliance, described as a leftist pacifist group founded in 2018 and campaigning for reconciliation with North Korea. They demonstrated in response to U.S. demands that South Korea more than quadruple its payment in support of U.S. troops stationed there under the mutual defense pact. The Trump administration is demanding payment of \$5 billion per year, more than the Pentagon reports even spending on the relationship.

Students shouted, “Stop interfering with our domestic affairs!”, “Get out!” and “We don’t need U.S. troops!” before some used extension ladders to scale the wall of the embassy compound. Inside they displayed a banner demanding “Leave this soil, Harris,” referring to U.S. Ambassador Harry Harris.

Police took 17 students into custody inside the embassy and two others outside who were trying to break in. Twelve were released by the next day with a warning. Three were told they may be indicted, while the other four have been formally indicted and are reportedly being held in custody to prevent absconding.

XR Peace targeted the London offices of BAE Systems on Monday, October 14, linking U.K. arms sales to Turkey and Saudi Arabia with the climate emergency. Six people locked themselves together in the front entrance and were eventually cut apart and arrested.

That evening, five XR Peace activists were among those arrested when police, with little notice, cleared demonstrators from Trafalgar Square.

On the morning of October 17, XR Peace activists glued and locked themselves to the doors of Leonardo U.K., another international arms dealer on Great George Street. Four were arrested. An hour later, eight more XR Peace rebels provoked arrest by gluing themselves together at the entrance of the Supreme Court, in defiance of special protest restrictions imposed in response to the city-wide October Rebellion actions. They also called on the courts to recognize that ecocide is an offense against humanity, that nuclear weapons are illegal and that arming countries like Saudi Arabia to secure oil interests is a crime.

A final glue-down at the London headquarters of Lockheed Martin ended with three arrests.

The next morning, XR Peace joined other Extinction Rebels in a blockade of Oxford Circus, leading to the arrest of two peace activists, including Angie Zelter’s fifth of the campaign. She was held overnight and the same



XR Peace photo

At one of the dozens of Extinction Rebellion direct actions disrupting London over two weeks this fall, XR Peace activists block the London headquarters of BAE Systems, a major arms exporter, on October 14.

judge she’d seen previously now fined her an additional £1,200 for the offense and for again breaching bail conditions from last April.

In the first ten days of Extinction Rebellion actions, organizers in London reported at least 1,642 protesters had been arrested and 133 charged with criminal offenses. Those numbers have since grown.

For more information, visit stopthearmsfair.org.uk, xrpeace.org and rebellion.earth.

Kings Bay Plowshares, cont.

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Steve’s message for those gathered at the Festival of Hope addressed this outcome. “We engage the judiciary in the courtroom, one of the more dangerous rooms in the Pentagon. The judiciary at the District, Appellate Circuit and Supreme level have precluded truth telling in the courtroom so that in the words of Daniel Berrigan, a nuclear holocaust will be legal.”

The trial began on Monday, October 21, with jury selection and opening statements.

While the Catholic faith of the defendants could not be avoided on the stand, the court rigorously enforced its prohibition on any testimony suggesting that faith gave religious, moral or legal justification for their disarmament actions. Francis Boyle told a reporter, “This is a kangaroo court with a rubber stamp and a railroad all put together.”

Clare Grady’s opening statement at the end of the first day pushed the limits and earned a threat from the judge once she’d released the jury. “I am going to require you to follow my rulings” about a defense of necessity or religious freedom. Otherwise, she would impose “alternate arrangements for your participation in the trial.”

The prosecution took the second day. The direct actions that led to the arrests were laid out for the jury in testimony and physical evidence. Four large plastic crates and a wheeled cart overflowed with tools, backpacks, jackets, banners, prayer books and more, all wrapped and tagged. A section of cut fence had been removed, rolled up and brought into court, bound by large zipties.

The government’s lengthy show and tell was all about *what* and *how*, but no *why*, considering the defendants had already stipulated to all of the evidence and their actions. Heavily featured in the government’s case were edited videos from GoPro cameras that two of the defendants wore that night. We watched the actions of the defendants, which were projected on a large screen above them. We listened to their conversations and, when the defense presented its case, we heard their prayers.

One camera recorded Patrick and Mark approaching the prominent Strategic Weapons Facility Atlantic sign and display of life-size missiles erected like a shrine inside the base. They struck the Trident D-5 missile replica with a hammer cast from melted guns and removed the sign’s illuminated letters.

Clare and Martha joined them after their work at the administration building, where they had secured the entrance with yellow crime-scene tape, marked the insignia with blood and hung a banner stating “The Ultimate Logic of Trident is Omnicide,” echoing Dr. Martin Luther King’s observation that the ultimate logic of racism is genocide. The group had consciously chosen the 50th anniversary of King’s assassination to take action against what he identified as the “evil triplets” of racism, militarism and extreme materialism. They posted an indictment of Trident’s violation of international law, spraypainted “Love One Another” on the sidewalk and left a copy of Daniel Ellsberg’s book, *The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner*.

The other camera showed Liz, Steve and Carmen as they cut fences to reach the brightly lit road between the final pair of fences that surround the nuclear bunkers. We heard them greet the armed responders, “We come in peace, we mean you no harm.” They held a banner with four bold words:

NUCLEAR
WEAPONS
IMMORAL
ILLEGAL

The defense presented their case on the third day of the trial with the testimony of six of the seven defendants, who addressed the *why*. Over repeated objections, the defendants struggled to stay on the approved script while parrying the prosecution’s relentless, often sarcastic, dismissals of their active conscience as simple criminal intent. Still, each shined in moments of testimony.

Patrick O’Neill, who’d waited until now for his opening statement, acknowledged that they’d used “high drama” to make their point about first-strike nuclear weapons. “I draw a correlation with Jesus cleansing the Temple... like smashing the golden calf in the Hebrew Bible.”

The symbol of blood used to mark a sidewalk, insignias, and the missile shrine, he explained, “has clear meaning in the context of faith... The blood of sacrifice of Jesus and the everlasting covenant. And blood symbolizes what happens in war... Kings Bay is nice and clean and you never see the blood. All we did was make it more visible. It was already there.”

Martha Hennessy testified that, for her, the blood was sacramental, “to atone for our sins.” As the granddaughter of Dorothy Day, cofounder of the Catholic Worker movement, she spoke of how her grandmother’s early public condemnation of nuclear weapons influenced her own views. She reflected on her Catholic belief that “It

is not enough to attend Mass. I also have to show I care through my works that this is what I know.”

Carmen Trotta’s passion could not be muted on the stand. He agreed with Martha that they went to Kings Bay, from where one-quarter of the U.S. nuclear arsenal is deployed, to deliver a sacrament and begin the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy.

“These things are not aspirational. We have to live them into being now!”

“Please lower your voice” the judge interjected.

“I shouldn’t be preaching,” replied Carmen with a smile.

“That’s right.”

Of the property damage, he said, “We wanted you to see the outrage of God.”

Clare Grady’s testimony began with the influence of her parents and their Catholic faith. “It’s not enough to just talk about Jesus. Our whole lives are about learning to understand that God is love.” One of her purposes was to take responsibility for the weapons and withdraw her consent by action.

She was asked to define the word omnicide. “It’s a word that didn’t exist before the nuclear age – the death of all living things. We had no word to describe the possibility.”

Mark Colville spoke of his decision, at age 19, to form a life around voluntary poverty, in community, among the poor. “My religion says faith is a lie without action. Faith is expressed in deeds, not words.”

Government witnesses referred to a missile display, but Mark explained why they called it a shrine. Like a shrine, he said, the site is arranged to provide honor and give reverence to missiles.

Why had he painted “idol” and “blasphemy” on them? Because they place other than God at the center of earthly life. Idols are to be smashed.

He described their actions as more than symbolic, but also sacramental: actions that call into reality that which is not yet real.

In her testimony, Liz addressed the centrality of prayer to the group’s planning. Her attorney, Bill Quigley, opened an evidence box to hold up the banner Liz, Steve and Carmen had displayed near the bunkers. What did those words mean?

“The nuclear weapons at Kings Bay are poison and illegal,” she said. “If you understand the kill power – if they aren’t illegal, they ought to be.”

“I need to witness against these weapons for the sake of these children and grandchildren,” she concluded.

Fr. Steve Kelly, representing himself, was the only defendant who did not testify nor offer an opening or closing statement. Instead, he quietly and prayerfully listened to the proceedings.

Any suspense about the outcome of their trial was short-lived. The jury of 12 returned within two hours, convicting the seven on four counts each – misdemeanor trespass and three felonies: destruction of government property, depredation of government property on a military installation and the conspiracy to do these things. Each faces a maximum of up to 20 years in prison, but federal guidelines suggest lesser sentences.

Pre-sentencing reports and recommendations for sentence will be prepared before a sentencing date is set, possibly in January or February. Six defendants have been released with curfew and travel restrictions; Fr. Kelly is not eligible for release due to an outstanding federal case from an earlier protest at the west coast Trident base at Bangor, Washington.

After the verdict was announced and jurors dismissed, a single voice rose in the overflow courtroom, joined by a growing chorus:

“Rejoice! Rejoice! Again I say rejoice!”

The halls and stairwell filled with song as six of the defendants, their attorneys, family members and supporters departed the courthouse to join others outside, while Steve Kelly was returned to the local jail.

Together, we embodied the hope we came there to find.

For more information about the Kings Bay Plowshares, including their biographies, legal documents from the case, and how to support them as they await sentencing, visit kingsbayplowshares7.org.



Notes of support should be sent to Stephen Kelly 015634, Glynn County Detention Facility, 100 Sulphur Springs Road, Brunswick, GA 31520, on pre-stamped white postcards. See complete mail restrictions on page 3, Inside & Out.

FUTURE ACTIONS

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

fire drill fridays

Codepink has joined with Jane Fonda to sponsor Fire Drill Fridays and demand urgent action to avert the worst of climate change. Each Friday at 11 a.m. through mid-January will feature a rally in front of the Capitol building and opportunity for civil disobedience while addressing the multitude of issues related to climate change. Although there were no arrests reported on November 8, the day focused on war and climate change, the December 13 action will highlight climate change and transition to a peace economy. For more information, visit codepink.org/firedrillfridays or email Caroline.tassi@codepink.org or Clara@codepink.org.

pentagon

The Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, together with members of the Atlantic Life Community and Southern Life Community, will hold a Holy Innocents Faith and Resistance Commemoration in Washington, D.C. beginning on December 27 at 1 p.m. through December 28 at 8:30 a.m. This will include a time of prayer/reflection and witness at the Pentagon. Location: St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church, 1525 Newton St. NW, Washington, DC 20010. For more information, contact Art Laffin, artlaffin@hotmail.com.

offutt afb

Join the Midwest Catholic Workers on December 28 for their annual peace/nonviolence presence at Stratcom, the nuclear command headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base, outside Omaha, Nebraska. Gather for Mass at 8:30 a.m. in the basement of St. John’s Church/Creighton University, then a rally and line crossing at the base from 10:00-11:00 a.m. For more information, contact Br. Jerry Ebner, OSF at 402-769-8452 or brjerryosf2@gmail.com.

witness against torture

Witness Against Torture returns for their annual public fasting and vigils in Washington, D.C. to mark the January 11 anniversary of the opening of the extralegal military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Details are in flux until the gathering begins on the evening of January 7, but the outline includes creating and carrying out nonviolent direct action possibly risking arrest on January 10 or 11. For more information, visit witnessagainstitorture.com or RSVP by emailing witnesstorture@gmail.com with your name, phone number and the dates you plan to be there.

SAVE THE DATE! May 22-25, 2020

The Nuclear Resister, Nukewatch and the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance will host *Stop the New Nuclear Arms Race: Strategizing for Abolition, Action for the Ban Treaty*, an international conference in Marysville, TN, ending with a protest at Y-12. For more information, visit nukewatchinfo.org/stop_new_nuclear_arms_race.

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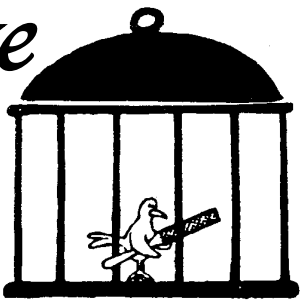
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Update Files



LOCKHEED-MARTIN, SUNNYVALE: After the arrest of eleven Pacific Life Community members for blocking the entrance to the California nuclear missile maker last March, Redwood City Catholic Worker Susan Crane wrote to supporters in September, “...we all pled not guilty, we were given a trial date of September 30, and the group started to plan and prepare for trial. The next thing we know, the District Attorney has decided ‘in the interests of justice’ to drop the charges. We have to wonder if the charges were dropped ‘in the interests of Lockheed’, as we know that the government and corporations work hand in glove. One of the defendants, through his lawyer, brought up the question of who owns the road where we were arrested. Perhaps Lockheed didn’t have the authority to charge us with trespass on a public road. In the 1970s, we believe that Lockheed sold some of its property to the Navy at a hefty profit, and then leases it back for pennies, and consequently does not have to pay Sunnyvale any property tax on that land. Perhaps we were arrested on that land. Or, perhaps Lockheed Martin didn’t want a public discussion about the weapons that it makes, the children who are maimed and killed by them, or the threats to all life on earth made by the existence of nuclear weapons. Perhaps the thought of paying for three squares and a cot for 11 people seemed like a poor use of county funds. Or, perhaps the District Attorney had a change of heart...”

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE: Federal charges for three people arrested in June at the California Global Hawk drone command base were dropped prior to their initial notice to appear in August...

BATH IRON WORKS: The Sagadahoc district attorney has once again dismissed charges against demonstrators arrested at the coastal Maine navy shipyard. This time, it was the charges faced by 22 protesters who blocked traffic outside the christening of a warship in June. Finite prosecution resources and desire to avoid undue publicity for the cause were the factors cited by prosecutors...

BURE: Kevin Fluchs served four months in prison from mid-July for his refusal to comply with a court order resulting from protests of the planned nuclear waste burial ground near this village in northeast France. He was one of about a dozen people barred from the region

when he was arrested last summer during a short-lived re-occupation of the forested site for the dump...
GERMANY: An administrative court in Münster has ruled the police illegally violated the liberty of six people when they were held in custody for up to 17 hours after blocking a uranium transport train in October, 2017. Nevertheless, they still face charges for violating the liberty of others with their protest. In Lingen, Cecile LeCompte faced the first day of trial for resisting police when she blocked a police car carrying other demonstrators with her wheelchair during an anti-nuclear demonstration at the town hall. Her trial will continue next year...

Vets for Peace Held in Ireland Get Their Passports Back!

from stopthesewars.org

After being held for more than eight months in Ireland, U.S. Veterans for Peace Tarak Kauff and Ken Mayers got their passports back on November 27. The High Court ruled to change their bail conditions requiring them to forfeit their passports because the case has been moved to the Dublin Circuit Court, which is so backed up that the trial is at least 18 months off. The pair have always promised to return for trial, and the new conditions allow that they may also not be required to return for some pre-trial hearings.

Both men spoke outside court, expressing sincere gratitude for the hospitality they received while they could not return to the U.S. They expect to be home by December 5. Their trial is currently scheduled for April 13, 2021.

The two were arrested on March 17 for going onto the airfield at Shannon Airport to demand that police inspect a U.S.-military contracted plane believed to be carrying U.S. troops and weapons on their way to illegal wars in the Middle East. These flights, which have been passing through Shannon Airport since 2001, are in violation of

Irish neutrality and international law. After being held in jail for nearly two weeks, Mayers and Kauff were released on €2,500 bail each and forced to surrender their passports.

While they were unable to leave Ireland, Kauff and Mayers spent their time drawing attention to the issue of Ireland’s complicity in illegal U.S. wars in the Middle East. They completed two “Boots on the Ground for Freedom” walking tours, walking for “freedom to return home to our families, freedom from war, and the freedom to respect and affirm a strong and peaceful Irish neutrality,” wrote Kauff. In September they carried out nearly a month of walks through the northwest of Ireland, beginning at Limerick Prison, where they had been held without bail following their arrest, and ending at Malin Head, at the site of a marker reading “Eire,” meant to signal pilots to respect Ireland’s neutrality during World War II. In October, they completed phase two of the walks, this time in the northeast, from Dun Laoghaire to the border at Dundalk.

For more information, visit shannonwatch.org and stopthesewars.org.

the Nuclear

Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

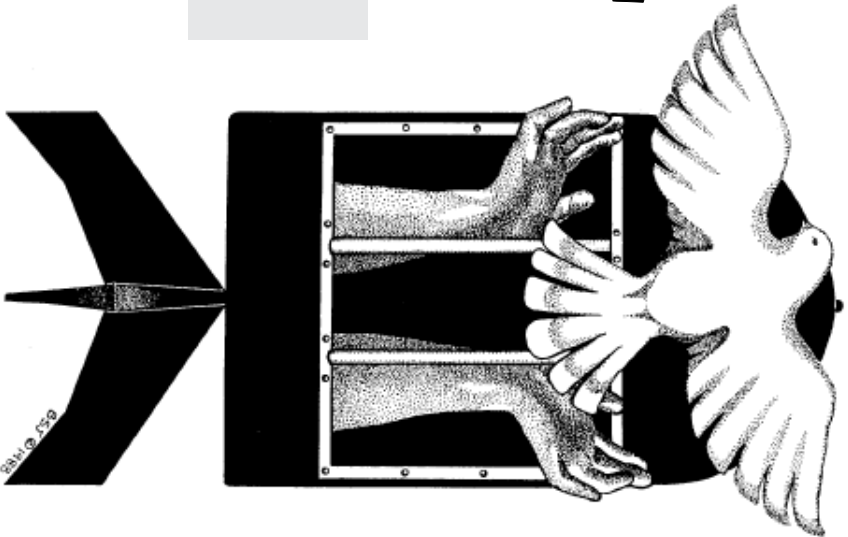
Kings Bay Plowshares
Convicted

Hiroshima/Nagasaki
Anniversary
Resistance Actions

Drone Warfare Foes
Arrested in Nevada,
Wisconsin & New York

NATO Protester
Rejects Parole

U.S. Veterans for Peace
Return Home from Ireland



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ABOUT AND
SUPPORT FOR
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ANTI-NUCLEAR
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ACTIVISTS

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Future Actions
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