HIROSHIMA/ NAGASAKI ACTIONS

LOCKHEED MARTIN

The Des Moines Catho...
where we’re at

Autumn recently brought welcome rain and much cooler days to Tucson and southern Arizona. We think cooler days to Tucson and southern Arizona. We think where we’re at

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 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 Fund, 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 banners and a large joint. 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, Trinitad 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 be present with the defendants, their families, legal team and The Bombs.”

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, the Nuns, the Priests, the Mothers of the Priests and The Bombs. Thanks also to our friend Dwight, owner of the Gloo Box. He spent a month in the Sonoran Desert 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.

“Two are there for our species’ survival - nuclear weapon and environmental catastrophe,” says Archbishop Chomsky in his new book, “The real 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 one more connected with any different kind of war? 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 three anti-war actions, I served three years in prison. Do they both lead to mass extinction? How does anyone in their right mind make a choice?

We do not come in judgment of our brothers and sisters in the nuclear weapons industry, we will open the door to clean energy industries that will bring meaningful work that uplifts everyone. The time is now for unprecedented and urgent action. We recognize that turning the valve of one of the many pipelines, major as it may be, is not going to get to the root of the struggle for environmental justice. Our hope is that it will remind the world that we can’t make up for the sins of Enbridge Energy Corporation will feel called to do the right thing and turn off the others as well. Only with this sort of action can there be a sustainable future for all and for generations to come.

Brenna Cusen-Anghaga (St. Isidore CW Farm), Michele Naar-Obed (Hildigard House CW), Allison Polman (St. Isidore CW Farm) and Daniel Yildirim (Evening Star Farm) are charged with one misdemeanor (aiding and abetting damage to a pipeline) and one misdemeanor (aiding and abetting destruction of property). We will be tried on June 25, 2020 by jury. We have been denied the necessary 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.”]

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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, 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, were indeed related to 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 offered, 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’al all posted as I come up with new ideas.”

For more information, follow Chelsea Manning on twitter at @chelseamanning or visit sparronmedia.net.

NURSAL RESISTERS

Stephen Kelly 015634
Glynny 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, 4/5/16)

Leonard Pelletier 86937-132
USP Coleman L, POB 1023, 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.

PREVIOUSLY LISTED, RECENTLY RELEASED

Elizabeth McAlister, Mark Colville

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. The case was put over last month when attorneys for all four failed to make a deal. 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 coupe 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 left a threatening note in the mailbox. Benjamin was later乃ed into the crowd for something to hold to prevent her fall.

For more information visit defendembassyprotestors.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 get Jay free. Chase has Huntington’s disease, a hereditary degenerative neurological disorder marked early on by personality changes, irritability, impulsive behaviors and impaired judgment. 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 contacts.

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 men were involved in a series of protests and demonstrations against the summit, but Chase has Huntington’s disease, and treatments can’t prevent the physical, mental and behavioral decline associated with the condition.”

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

continued from page 1

abolitionists were already gathered alongside the road outside of the base as the Plowshares 7 and their support group, the Pacific Peace 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 Delany’s extended family, fronted by seven-year-old Adrianna and twenty-year-old Anteia.

Eight of the 11 appeared in a mitigation hearing in Dumbarton Sheriff Court. Of the two, Willemien was cited and released. She faced five charges at her August 28 court date, when all were dismissed. She 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) in a peaceful demonstration outside the main gate of Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, August 6 for their annual commemoration of Hiroshima. The five were charged with 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 of community resistance.

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.

Mothers’ Day Update

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

Manista pleaded not guilty at a September 4 arraignment in U.S. District Court in Tacoma, Washington. Appearing again on August 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 and my fellow Ground Zero Plowshares, I was inspired to see there was a storm of protest against the Trident deployments from Faslane, and use) and displayed it on the ground rationally and creatively to the prospect of nuclear war, we could house all of those in need of community resistance.

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Thanksgiving Statement by Leonard Peltier
November 22, 2019
So today, I thank all of the people who are willing to die and to live open. I thank those who are willing to accept the responsibility for planning for seven generations ahead, those who remember the sacrifices made by our ancestors so that we can 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 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 Spirit of Crazy Horse.
Leonard Peltier
[Leonard Peltier is serving two life sentences, wrongly convicted for the 1975 deaths of two FBI agents while 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 inscribed with that struggle so well.

The vigil 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 populations 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 burning 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
Drones 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 USAF. They were arrested by Juneau County, Wisconsin officers. They were charged with disorderly conduct and obstruction of government administration, then released by late evening. Their next court date is January 9.

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Creech Air Force Base is a key control center in the US military’s global surveillance and bombardment. Both the Pentagon and the CIA use Creech air force personnel to execute their targeted assassinations around the globe. Upstate Drone Action, and 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.

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 effect of creating enemies of our drones. People are being killed by drones, their friends and family can be recruited into what we call terrorist groups to retaliate. Drones are 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

December 1, 2019
During the first week of September, more than 2,000 people participated in daily thematic demonstrations aiming 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 ended on Monday, September 2 with the Stopping the arms fair rebels 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 that serve communities of people locked on to 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 continued, the arms fair was still shut down.

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 fuelling the climate and ecological emergency. Part of my commitment to the arms fair is recognizing the vast devastating environmental damage. Military expend huge amounts of resources in continuing the cycle of war. When the government is funding an emergency budget to bring carbon emissions down and protect the climate, it is 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’s power movements – an alliance of rebels – to take action against the ecological and climate emergency, to build a mass presence at the trial, and to change the law.

The trial ended with three arrests.

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 that morning.

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 on the street. More arrests were made before 16 people were arrested.

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 plastered 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 mayor Sadiq Khan called 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 arms fair.

**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 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 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 XR activist in a wheelchair was arrested for two days. She was released in order to return to the Rebellion with no bail condition and was fined nearly £600 for the offense and for breaching bail conditions from her arrest during the April Extinction Rebellion actions.

The mood 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.

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.

**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 organized by the Student Progressive Alliance, described as a leftist pacifist group founded in 2018 and campaigning for reconciliation with North Korea. The protesters are said to have responded to U.S. demands that South Korea send 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 Rebellion 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 judge she’d previously finned 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 stophearmsfair.org.uk, xrpeace.org and rebellion.earth.
Fire drill fridays

C陀pekin has joined with Jane Fonda to sponsor Fire Drill Fridays and demand urgent action to avert the worst of climate change. The December 13 action will feature a rally in front of the Capitol building and opportunity for civil disobedience while addressing the multitude of climate change risks facing our nation.

Only prayers, peaceful protest, and testimony of witnesses have been offered, but no arrests were reported on November 8, the day focused on war and climate change, the December 13 action will highlight climate change and transition to a peaceful, sustainable world. For more information, visit codepink.org/ fireridflridays or email Caroline.tassi@codepink.org or Clarad@codepink.org.

Pentagon

The Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, together with members of the Atlantic Life Community and Southern Life Community, will hold a Holy Friday, 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 Lafflin, alafflin@hotmail.com.

Oufft a sb

Join the Midwest Catholic Workers on December 28 for their annual protest against the duplication of nuclear weapons at Stratom and the nuclear command headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base, outside Omaha, Nebraska. Gather for Mass at 8:30 a.m. at the basement of St. John’s Church/Credit Union, 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 brjerry22@gmail.com.

Witness against torture

Witness Against Torture returns for its 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 online outline includes creating and carrying out nonviolent direct action possibly risking arrest on January 10 or 11. For more information, visit witnessagainsttorture.org or RSVP by emailing witnessatorture@gmail.com with your name, phone number and the dates you plan to be there.

SAVE THE DATES
May 22-23, 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 Faire Tyrant 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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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...

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 mid-July for his refusal to comply with a court order. 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...

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 Derry to the border at Dundalk.

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