

the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

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KINGS BAY PLOWSHARES

Sentencing Dates Set for Nuclear Abolitionists

After delays and disputes over pre-sentencing reports followed by a court closure due to the coronavirus pandemic, the seven Kings Bay Plowshares activists are due to be sentenced in separate hearings on May 28 and 29 in federal court in Brunswick, Georgia. The dates were announced on April 6, just over two years from the day the seven were arrested inside Kings Bay Naval Base while engaged in symbolic acts of nuclear disarmament.

At press time, it is not yet certain whether the defendants will appear in person or by video, whether spectators will be allowed in the courtroom or access to the proceedings by audio stream, or whether sentencing might be delayed.

The declaration of a National Emergency in mid-March led federal courts around the country to curtail business and restrict access. In southeast Georgia, the federal court put most proceedings on hold, first until April 17 and later through the end of May.

Commenting in mid-April on the uncertainty, defendant Mark Colville asked people to “all step back and consider the absurdity of sentencing people by video conference to federal prison. To tell us it’s too dangerous to be in a court and at the same time to order people to prison during this deadly virus pandemic is inhumane. People are dying in prisons right now. It shows that the prison industrial complex takes a higher priority in the eyes of this government than human life. All prisoners should be set free.”

On April 4, 2018, the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., seven Catholic activists – Mark Colville, Clare Grady, Martha Hennessy, Fr. Steve Kelly SJ, Elizabeth McAlister, Patrick O’Neill and Carmen Trotta – set out late at night to practice their faith and witness for peace among the people working with nuclear weapons inside the U.S. Navy Kings Bay nuclear submarine base on the south Georgia coast. Once inside, they split into three groups to hang banners, pour blood, spraypaint religious sayings, block off an administrative building with crime scene tape and hammer on replicas of the nuclear missiles deployed on the Trident submarines based at Kings Bay.

Patrick O’Neill recently wrote, “One Trident submarine carries a payload of Trident II D-5 nuclear missiles that could end life as we know it. Trident is literally a diabolical doomsday machine embraced by most Americans as virtuous and godly... We went to Kings Bay to expose the sin of Trident, specifically the sin of the D-5 missile. It is the most insidious, deadliest, horrific weapon ever built. It has no right to exist. The Trident II D-5 missile is the opposite of God.”

Following a three-day jury trial last October, the seven were convicted of misdemeanor trespass and three felonies: destruction of government property, depredation of government property on a military installation and a conspiracy to do these things.

Fr. Steve Kelly was returned to the Glynn County Detention Center following the trial. Bail was not an option due to his unresolved federal probation violation from an earlier disarmament action in Washington state. The others are out on conditional release, relieved of prior electronic monitoring but subject to nightly curfew.

When they were convicted, the court had set forth a clear timeline for the completion of pre-sentencing reports in anticipation of sentencing last winter. Those deadlines slipped by as draft reports for each of the defendants were prepared.

Continuing his position of non-cooperation, Fr. Kelly refused to be interviewed by federal probation officials for their report. According to federal guidelines, criminal

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DEMANDING DISARMAMENT AT NUCLEAR SUBMARINE BASE



photo by Felice Cohen-Joppa

At the gate of the Trident nuclear submarine base and flanked by eight more blockaders from the Pacific Life Community, Stanford University Professor Rush Rehm reads aloud the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Thirteen nuclear abolitionists blocked traffic leading into Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, Washington on March 2, as part of a public protest of the United States’ Trident nuclear-missile launching submarines based there.

The direct action came at the conclusion of the annual gathering of the Pacific Life Community, a network of spiritually motivated activists from the Pacific Coast and other western states committed to nonviolent action for a nuclear-free future.

Washington state police arrested nine people for obstructing traffic after they carried banners that stretched across the roadway just outside the base main gate. Their banners read “Trident Threatens All Life on Earth” and “Abolish Nuclear Weapons.” While they stood in the road, one of the blockaders read aloud from the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Shortly thereafter, four people carrying signs crossed one at a time onto base property. Before stepping over a blue line painted on the pavement, each made a statement to the assembled activists, police and military personnel. Each in turn was arrested by Navy security and taken into custody. They were issued trespass citations and released shortly thereafter, pending arraignment in U.S. District Court in Tacoma. The nine arrested by state police had also been quickly cited and released.

Those cited by state police are: George Rodkey, Gary Cavalier, Sue Ablao, Julia Ochiogrosso, Rush Rehm, Ed Ehmke, Mary Jane Parrine, Elizabeth Murray and Clancy Dunigan. Arrested on base property were Jim Haber, Charlie Smith, Betsy Lamb and Steve Dear.

Dr. Rafil Dhafir Promised Release to Home Confinement

As we go to press, Dr. Rafil Dhafir is in quarantine for 14 days at Allenwood federal prison in central Pennsylvania. After weeks of vague hints and assurances, he was told on May 1 that he would be released to home confinement on May 13 under provisions of the Bureau of Prisons (BoP) Covid-19 management plan.

On May 3, the Iraqi-American oncologist was told he would now be freed on May 15, perhaps a correction for the mandatory 14-day pre-release quarantine period he was told began on May 1. Should another prisoner in the unit test positive for Covid-19 during this time, the clock will go back to day one for Dhafir. FCI Allenwood reports no confirmed staff or prisoner cases of Covid-19 at press time.

A combination of factors described in the BoP management plan contributed to Dhafir’s eligibility for

Sam Yergler dropped a 20-foot banner from a nearby overpass visible to the demonstrators and traffic. It read, “Base closed for survival”.

Activists also held a sign that read “We love you, Fr. Steve Kelly.” Kelly is a Jesuit priest and member of the Pacific Life Community. As one of the Kings Bay Plowshares activists, he has been in a Georgia county jail for more than two years after their April 5, 2018 arrest at the Kings Bay Trident submarine base in Georgia.

“We face an existential threat from these first-strike weapons systems,” said Dear, an organizer from Oregon with Extinction Rebellion – Eugene and Planet Versus Pentagon. “The military is the largest polluter in the world, another existential threat through climate chaos. We hope people who care will stop wallowing in despair, and take risks for peace, and for protecting our planet.”

The weekend gathering and protest, attended by about 50 people, were hosted by the local Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action. The annual Pacific Life Community gatherings and actions are scheduled to mark the anniversary of the largest nuclear weapons test ever, Castle Bravo, that devastated Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands on March 1, 1954.

There are eight Trident submarines deployed at Bangor, which is believed to hold the nation’s largest stockpile of nuclear weapons. Six Trident submarines are deployed on the East Coast at Kings Bay, Georgia.

For more information, visit pacificlifecommunity.wordpress.com and gzcenter.org.

release now. Many of his supporters wrote to the warden following the March 26 memo from Attorney General William Barr to the Director of the BoP that outlined the program. Dhafir is 71-years-old and is being held at a low-security institution. He has a compromised immune system due to diabetes. He has had no conduct violations within the last year. He has demonstrated a re-entry plan that both maximizes public safety and reduces his risk of exposure compared to continued confinement, and local authorities confirmed that he poses no danger to the community based on his crime of conviction.

Dhafir was convicted on 59 counts of violating the economic sanctions imposed by the United States on Iraq from 1991-2003, white-collar crimes related to his charity,

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Why We Persist

by Ed Kinane

All human beings possess the basic right under international law to engage in nonviolent civil resistance activities for the purpose of preventing, impeding, or terminating the ongoing commission of [international crime]. – International law expert Francis Boyle

Nonviolent civil resistance against international crime is about effectiveness and persistence. Or as Dorothy Day might say, faithfulness. We sow seeds – awakening the cogs in the machine of imperial crime and informing those who, with their federal taxes, help finance that crime.

But it’s about us – getting off our duffs and out of our comfort zones. Here in Syracuse, New York, we call it “street heat” – baby steps toward resistance, dipping our toes into the waters of risk and sacrifice. The “streets,” where Chris Hedges and Noam Chomsky keep telling us that, if things on this planet are going to turn around, that’s where it has to happen.

In the fall of 2003 in a series of front-page stories, the Syracuse *Post-Standard* announced with satisfaction that our local Hancock Field Air National Guard Base was becoming the hub for the wondrous weaponized MQ9 Reaper drone. For several days over that Thanksgiving weekend, several of us protested and fasted in downtown Syracuse.

Since then, for the past decade, immediately outside Hancock, with over 170 more protests, activists from what soon became the Upstate Drone Action Coalition have sought to expose the ensuing Reaper drone terrorism in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Allies from the Syracuse Peace Council, Veterans For Peace, Voices for Creative Nonviolence and the Catholic Worker have provided the campaign’s life blood.

The Campaign

For 45 minutes every first and third Tuesday of the month, a handful of us locals demonstrate across from Hancock’s main gate. Yes, these are brief demos, but some of us are differently-abled and some are “octos” – activists over 80-years-old. We face the vehicles going in and out of the base at afternoon shift change. This is also rush hour along East Molloy Road. Our signs and banners urge, “Stop The Killing” and “Abolish Weaponized Drones” and “Drones Fly, Children Die.”

A second, more dramatic element of the campaign is our episodic (roughly twice a year) “tableaux” and street theater blocking the driveway into that main gate. Both approaches – the first with little risk of arrest and the second with inevitable arrests – seek to poke the conscience of the 174th New York Air National Guard’s Attack Wing operating out of Hancock.

Here at our very doorstep, 174th personnel pilot remotely controlled Reaper robots laden with bombs and “precision” Hellfire missiles. Via rapid satellite relay, from within the riskless anonymity of Hancock’s fortified base, those warriors and their chain of command spew death and destruction.

Maybe our repeated poking will afflict their consciences. To the extent that they have eyes to see, the pilots get to witness firsthand on-screen the carnage they perpetrate – scattered and smoldering body parts. Such exposure just may induce “moral injury,” the psychic wound caused by betraying one’s core values. We hope that, despite being offered hefty bonuses, these technicians will refuse to re-enlist. The fewer enlistments, the less death.

Their targets and their civilian victims are mostly uncounted, undefended, unidentified Muslims inhabiting oil-rich lands. Here is Islamophobia with a vengeance. Multitudes are terrorized. If they survive, many become internal or external refugees. And why wouldn’t some also become the imperium’s die-hard foes? As the Pentagon surely counts on, the inevitable blowback generates further mayhem. Such mutually reinforcing (but extremely asymmetrical) mayhems reliably produce the high-tech contracts Lockheed Martin and its ilk thrive on.

It’s usually mid-morning when two of our Upstate Drone Action members and a videographer approach Hancock’s main gate, unannounced, to hand-deliver a letter through the barbed wire fence to the armed gate-keepers. Addressed to the 174th Attack Wing, the letter urges personnel to uphold their oath to protect the U.S. Constitution. We cite Article Six of that Constitution, which mandates that international treaties and international law are the “Supreme Law of the Land.” Such law, including the legally binding U.N. Charter, supersedes federal, state and local law. It stipulates that such military aggression amounts to a war crime.

Simultaneously, down the base driveway, our flash mob sets up banners and dramatic props. These, along with our bodies – vertical or horizontal, sometimes clad in hijab or draped in bloody shrouds – block any incoming traffic.

Within minutes, soldiers pop out from behind cement barriers to divert incoming vehicles to Hancock’s other entrances. An officer marches out to inform us – with profound understatement – that we aren’t wanted on base property. Working hand in glove with the military, the town, county and state constabularies arrive, red lights flashing. These, helpfully, draw the public’s gaze to our event. The cops schmooze with the soldiers, taking an hour or two to assemble their forces. Then, having dutifully warned us for the third time to leave, they handcuff us while soldiers confiscate our props. Our supporters across the road chant and sing. Surveillance cameras and police and military videographers record the scene.

At our tableaux and die-ins, up to 38 of us at a time have been arrested. We are driven to cells in area police stations. Despite these many forays onto federal property, military police never arrest us and we’re never charged with federal crimes. Invariably we keep getting two contradictory state charges: trespass (private property) and disorderly conduct (for public places). Both charges are “violations,” a minor matter. Violations for others generally lead to quick release with an appearance ticket. But we get special handling: strip searches along with the protracted tedium of being booked. After some hours, we are arraigned. In the late evening, we may be released with dates for the DeWitt Town night court. Often there’s bail, not because we are flight risks (we relish our days in court) but as a kind of pre-trial chastisement. Some of us refuse to post bail.

Sometimes, arbitrarily, misdemeanor charges are piled on: obstruction of government administration (OGA) or contempt of court for allegedly defying Orders of Protection (OOP) forbidding us to return to the base. Those stay-away orders “protect” the base commander

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where we’re at

Wherever in the world you are now as you read this, we very much hope you are staying well during these unprecedented days of physical distancing and growing need for social solidarity. Like all of you, we have been adjusting to changes in daily life - sewing masks from an old tablecloth, participating in Zoom calls, washing our hands often and not going out much. Around now, as we’re finishing up this issue, we’d normally be thinking of what kind of cake to bake for the mailing party, but it is not yet time to have people gather around the kitchen table to fold newsletters, and stuff them into labeled and stamped envelopes.

It feels like we’ve blinked and months have flown past. On March 2 we returned home from Seattle, where we attended the annual Pacific Life Community gathering and nonviolent action at the Bangor Trident nuclear sub base. There, 13 of our friends were arrested in what was the last anti-nuclear or anti-war civil resistance action in the U.S. since then. Five days later Felice was sick, with either a bad cold or mild case of flu or coronavirus (no COVID-19 tests were available), at the same time that Seattle became the first coronavirus hot spot in the U.S. Happily she felt better after a couple of weeks, and Jack didn’t get sick!

We had planned to wait till after the Kings Bay Plowshares were sentenced to put out this issue of *the Nuclear Resister*, expecting it to happen no later than April. But the pandemic caused federal courts to delay much of their business. Our story on page 1 reports on sentencing dates of May 28 and 29, and on the uncertainties that are still at play for Clare, Martha, Liz, Patrick, Steve, Carmen and Mark. We will send out an update after the sentencing.

During this time, the work of the Nuclear Resister shifted. With physical distancing in place, plans for peace walks, demonstrations and nonviolent resistance actions were cancelled. There were no Good Friday actions resulting in arrests to report on as there have been every year for decades. Our time and attention has been largely focused on the imprisoned activists, with a concerned eye on the spread of COVID-19 in jails and prisons. In a way that we hadn’t imagined over the last 40 years of encouraging support for anti-nuclear and anti-war activists behind bars, prison support work has taken on

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Thanks

Thanks to Moira, Charlotte, Faith, Cathy, Richard, Jim, Paige, Rosemary, Bill, Aston and Gretchen for helping to mail the last issue, and to Ruth for proofreading assistance. Because of the need for physical distancing, we’ll miss the conversations with and help from our friends while mailing out this issue.

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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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

¡Presente!

We give thanks for the lives of these women
- peace, justice and anti-nuclear activists,
beloved wives, mothers,
grandmothers and friends.



Pat Birnie
September 2, 1929 – April 15, 2020



Heidi Hynes
January 19, 1968 – November 24, 2019



Lin Romano
August 4, 1956 – February 7, 2020



Mag Seaman
March 7, 1926 – March 28, 2020



Liz Barningham
January 12, 1952 – April 30, 2020

ITALIAN PLOWSHARES ACTIVIST TURI VACCARO RELEASED FROM SICILIAN PRISON

After 21 months behind bars, Turi Vaccaro walked out of Sicily’s Pagliarelli Prison on April 15. The 67-year-old pacifist was a fugitive from court for previous acts of nonviolent resistance to the Pentagon’s MUOS satellite relay station when police caught up with him at the annual NO MUOS peace camp in August, 2018.

MUOS stands for Multiple User Objective System, a global military communications set-up that depends on five satellites and four ground stations. Ancient cork-oak groves were cleared for the ground station in Sicily, adding to the anti-war and public health opposition to the U.S. installation.

Vaccaro was sentenced then to nearly 12 months in prison for a December, 2014 *Spade in Aratri* (Swords into Plowshares) action. On that occasion, he cut the fence to enter the MUOS site, planted fig trees and grape vines, then picked up a large rock outside a MUOS service building, walked inside and used it to smash electrical equipment vital to the operation of the MUOS satellite dishes. While in custody, other outstanding protest charges were prosecuted and months were added to his sentence.

Vaccaro was to have been released at the end of 2019, but throughout his imprisonment he had silently refused consent to prison discipline in numerous ways, and last fall he refused to sign the forms requesting parole. A further six months were added to his sentence on January 1, pushing his expected release date out to August, 2020.

NO MUOS activists rallied to his support, but were challenged because Vaccaro’s noncooperation prevented regular visits and severely limited other communication with the outside world.

On February 1, he began another hunger strike with three demands: to end the U.S. occupation of Sicily with MUOS war-making apparatus; to stop washing his cell with chlorine bleach; and to remove the demand that prisoners must ask to be granted the required 45 days credit for every six months of good time served.

As it became clearer he was enduring many hardships, his former wife flew from the Netherlands to Italy in early February to visit him. Vaccaro goes barefoot or wears sandals in winter, but the prison refused to let her

PELTIER DENIED COMPASSIONATE RELEASE

Leonard Peltier was in lockdown last year at USP Coleman I from mid-July until early December. In his elder unit, men were confined to their cells 24/7 with only half an hour to shower, every three days. Then in February, a major fight in the yard led to another lockdown, followed a few weeks later by the BOP-wide shutdown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This time, Peltier first reported an hour out of their cells, three times per week, recently extended to two hours, three times per week. He cannot attend Sweat Lodge, but has been able to pray with his pipe in his cell. At press time, no prisoners and only one staff person at his prison have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

In an email shared with supporters, he wrote that on May 1 he was informed the warden had denied his request for compassionate release, giving as his only reason, “Not at this time.”

“Yes, it was a disappointment but not a surprise,” Peltier wrote. “It was a long shot but [...] there are other options for release under the CARES Act, so supporters should continue to let BOP know that they are still advocating for me.”

For more information, visit whoisleonardpeltier.info.



While Peltier does not qualify for priority consideration under the March 26 COVID-19 home confinement directive from the Attorney General, he does have a solid re-entry plan to return to his home community on the Turtle Mountain reservation in North Dakota. Respectful letters requesting his release to home confinement should be sent to Michael Carvajal - Director of BOP, 320 First St. NW, Washington, DC 20534, and J.A. Keller - SW Regional Dir. (BOP), 3800 Camp Creek Park SW Bldg. 2000, Atlanta GA 30331.

Letters of support should be sent to Leonard Peltier 89637-132, USP Coleman I, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521.

pass sandals in because they were not winter shoes, then refused a wool hat as well because it was too long.

Following her visit, his former wife joined the demonstration for his freedom outside the prison and reported that he was fatigued by months of harassment due to his essential noncooperation. Decision making and lucid thought were more difficult.

Vaccaro was welcomed at the gate by supporters. The full circumstances of his release were not clear but, in a statement upon leaving the prison, Vaccaro said that he had fasted and was mostly kept isolated from other prisoners. He told supporters he expects to return soon to jail, “because I’ll break some law to stop the war.”

At the time of his imprisonment in 2018, NO MUOS issued a statement declaring that:

“Turi has always shown us how far a popular struggle movement could go, and it is for this reason that a gentle, elderly pacifist who goes barefoot is considered so

dangerous by institutions around the world.

“Turi has always been in the front row to give his exemplary and radical example in the struggles against wars, militarization and environmental devastation from the struggles of Comiso* until today. He hammered the words ‘NO MUOS’ on the Muos satellite dish and also carried out other striking international direct actions against the war. He decided by choice never to defend himself in the courts, aware of the moral and civil value of what he did: that the judges are now to be shamed for continuing to sentence and keep such a man in prison.”

Several supporters have also been charged with helping Vaccaro briefly elude police before he was arrested in 2108, and they still face prosecution.

* Comiso is the air force base on Sicily where U.S. nuclear-armed, ground cruise missiles were deployed and faced stiff popular resistance in the early 1980s.

For more information, visit nomuos.info.

Chelsea Manning Free Again

(from a longer article by Andy Worthington, reprinted in full with permission of the author at nukeresister.org)

On March 12, District Judge Anthony J. Trenga ordered the immediate release from jail of whistleblower Chelsea Manning (formerly Pfc. Bradley Manning), who was imprisoned since March 2019 for refusing to cooperate with a Grand Jury investigation into WikiLeaks and its founder Julian Assange.

While serving as an Army intelligence analyst in 2009, Manning was responsible for the largest leak of military and diplomatic documents in U.S. history, and received a 35-year sentence – described by Charlie Savage in the *New York Times* as “the longest sentence by far in an American leak case” – in August 2013.

After her conviction, as Savage also explained, “she changed her name to Chelsea and announced that she wanted to undergo gender transition, but was housed in a male military prison and twice tried to commit suicide in 2016.” After these bleak experiences, it came as an extremely pleasant surprise when, just before leaving office in January 2017, President Obama commuted most of her sentence.

Unfortunately, after seven years in prison, Chelsea Manning’s freedom was short-lived. Last March, as Charlie Savage put it, “prosecutors investigating Mr. Assange subpoenaed her to testify before a grand jury about their interactions.” As Savage also explained, “Although prosecutors granted immunity for her testimony, Ms. Manning had vowed not to cooperate in the investigation, saying she had ethical objections, and she was placed in civil detention for contempt of court.”

Shortly after, that first Grand Jury expired but, as Savage explained, “Prosecutors then obtained a new subpoena, and she was locked up again for defying it in May [2019].” As he added, ominously, “The moves raise the possibility that prosecutors could start over a third time.”

In his brief order, Judge Trenga stated, “The court finds that Ms. Manning’s appearance before the grand jury is no longer needed, in light of which her detention no longer serves any coercive purpose.” As Savage described it, the judge’s ruling involved him “dismiss[ing] the grand jury that Ms. Manning was refusing to testify before after finding that its business had concluded,” even though

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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

Song Kang-ho (Prisoner No. 219)
Jeju Post Office PO Box 161, Jeju City, Jeju
Peace Island, Korea 63166.
(*Awaiting trial 5/14 for cutting the fence and
entering Jeju Navy Base to pray for peace,
3/7/20*)

Rafil Dhafir 11921-052
FCI Allenwood Low, Federal Correctional
Institution, P.O. Box 1000, White Deer, PA
17887.
(22 years – out 5/15/2020)
Please note: This prison will not accept cards,
only white paper letters and envelopes using
no crayon, markers, drawings or stickers.
(*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*)

**PREVIOUSLY LISTED, RECENTLY
RELEASED:**
**Chelsea Elizabeth Manning,
Salvatore Vaccaro**



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 cards,
only white paper letters and envelopes using
no crayon, markers, drawings or stickers.
(*Framed for murder while defending
traditional indigenous from threats including
uranium mining on sacred lands, 6/75*)

Honoring Dr. King at Lockheed-Martin

by Robert M. Smith
Brandywine Peace Community

Another Martin Luther King Day has passed. A new decade, January 20, 2020. It was cold, real cold, with a wind that always seems to accompany the Martin Luther King Day peace demonstrations at Lockheed Martin from 1995 until now (and for 17 years before that at General Electric). Our large banners attached to A-frames wouldn't hold. We had to adapt. Our heavy wooden sign reading "We're making a killing!" and painted with the Lockheed Martin logo in the background, was grounded to an iron light post at the main entrance to the King of Prussia, Pennsylvania corporate complex of the world's #1 war profiteer. We shared a Statement of Commitment, and Brandywine

troubadour singer-songwriter, Tom Mullian, did some verses from his song, *I may not get there with you*. As our bell of peace tolled loudly, crime scene tape was stretched across the driveway as five people attempted to deliver poster size copies of our statement to Lockheed Martin personnel. Company security police vehicles blocked delivery and Upper Merion police arrested Paul Sheldon, Tom Mullian, Theresa Camerota, Robert M. Smith and Rev. Patrick Sieber, OSF. Each was cited for disorderly conduct, taken into custody and released a short time later from the Upper Merion police station. Dr. King looked down on us. We remembered and looked up. For more information, email brandywine@juno.com.

CodePink Hauled From Hearing

from CodePink
Activists from the peace organization CodePink were arrested by U.S. Capitol Police on the morning of February 28 before Secretary of State Mike Pompeo addressed a hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Committee titled, "Evaluating the Trump Administration's Policies on Iran, Iraq and the Use of Force." Capitol Police abruptly removed nearly a dozen CodePink members from the hearing, before placing four members – Medea Benjamin, Ariel Gold, Helen Schietinger and Leila Zand – under arrest. CodePink co-founder Medea Benjamin and national co-director Ariel Gold were immediately placed in handcuffs. The four were taken to the police station, where they were processed and released. Both Zand and Schietinger were released after paying a fine. Gold and Benjamin are required to appear in court at a later date.



As the Secretary of State takes his seat for a congressional hearing on war threats, CodePink activists stand up for peace. Moments later, Capitol police removed the activists and arrested four.

Middle East, Pompeo and his cronies have a lot of nerve demanding that Iran behave like a 'normal nation.' Let's start by calling out the U.S. and its allies, such as Saudi Arabia and Israel, for engaging in violent, repressive behavior." The Trump administration's campaign of maximum pressure has intentionally crippled the Iranian economy, including its healthcare system. Pompeo's testimony came in the midst of the worldwide outbreak of the coronavirus where Iran, partially because of U.S. sanctions, has experienced a far higher fatality rate than other similarly developed countries. In February 2019, Pompeo bragged to CBS that "things are much worse for the Iranian people [with the U.S. sanctions]," indicating that the suffering being imposed upon the Iranian people is intentional. For more information, visit codepink.org.

where we're at, cont.

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an added sense of urgency during this global pandemic. A latent risk of imprisonment has suddenly come very much alive – the rapid spread within compulsory close quarters of a new, virulent and potentially fatal viral disease. Some prisoners, such as Leonard Peltier and Rafil Dhafir, are in a high risk category for COVID-19 because of their age and underlying medical conditions. We wrote letters to wardens and others to urge that they be released, and invited others to do so. Unfortunately, Leonard Peltier was recently denied compassionate release. Please see information about current support actions for Leonard on page 3. As noted on page 1, Rafil Dhafir was told that he will be released to home confinement on May 15. Of course nothing is guaranteed. After 17 years in prison, we very much hope that he will be reading this issue of the Nuclear Resister while at home, sitting in a comfortable chair. Kings Bay Plowshares activist Steve Kelly let us know that he didn't want anyone to work for his release from jail, where he awaits sentencing (see story, page 1). He doesn't want special treatment or to ask for mercy from the court. It has been Steve's consistent practice for many years that, as a matter of conscience, he will not cooperate with any aspects of probation or conditional release. He told us, "The focus still continues to be on nuclear weapons." Please keep these and the other imprisoned activists listed on page 3 in your thoughts and prayers, and write them notes of support.

In April, the Nuclear Resister, Nukewatch and the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA) had to cancel the international Stop the New Nuclear Arms Race conference scheduled in May in Maryville, Tennessee, culminating with a demonstration at Y-12. After months of planning and organizing work through the fall and winter with Ralph Hutchison, Bonnie Urfer, Kelly Lundeen and John LaForge, it was a disappointing but necessary decision. We were excited for the opportunity to come together at this critical time in the movement for a future free of nuclear weapons, to learn about global efforts to abolish nuclear weapons and to meet our colleagues from across the U.S. and around the world to network, strategize and collaborate as we move forward. Participants had been registering and we had a wonderful roster of speakers and workshop leaders from the U.S., Australia, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Germany. Unfortunately, our planned agenda did not lend itself to an online format, and with many factors to consider, we are not certain at this time about the possibility of rescheduling the conference. We are grateful for all of the support received from so many organizations and individuals. The enclosed card highlighting resources for nuclear abolition, printed by Art Milholland of Maryland Physicians for Social Responsibility especially for the conference, is one example. As we think about the Nuclear Resister network, we're grateful for the many ways we all touch each other's lives, and for the webs we weave with strands of hope, friendship, peace, joy, solidarity, justice, love! Please know that you are in our thoughts during these uncertain and challenging days. Peace, Felice and Jack

War Protest Too Noisy

The U.S. assassination by drone of an elite Iranian military commander at the Baghdad airport in January provoked war with Iran and several anti-war protests in the United States. No one was arrested at a demonstration in front of the White House, but one man was arrested without incident at the demonstration in Charlottesville, Virginia for violating a new noise ordinance. Benson Crooks was arrested and cited when he continued to use amplified sound on a public right-of-way without a permit and after repeated warnings to stop.

Pentagon Witness Remembers Holy Innocents

by Art Laffin
About 40 people from the Atlantic and Southern Life communities, joined by other peacemaking friends, gathered December 27 for an overnight retreat at St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church in Washington, D.C., and a nonviolent witness at the Pentagon to commemorate the Massacre of the Holy Innocents – past and present. Although the actual feast of the Holy Innocents Martyrs was on Saturday, December 28, our nonviolent witness took place late afternoon on December 27 so we could be present to more Pentagon workers.

The retreat began at 1 p.m. with introductions and a reading of Matthew's account of the massacre of the innocents. (Mt. 2:1-18) This was followed by a rich community sharing focusing on these questions: Why do you think Herod saw Jesus as such a threat that he wanted him killed? What are the parallels for today? How do you identify with Rachel's response to the massacre of the innocents? What are the parallels today? After a short break, there was an action planning meeting for the Pentagon witness. We then traveled by metro to the Pentagon, arriving there around 4 p.m. As we exited the metro escalators, eight of us who were risking arrest went to leaflet around the southeast checkpoint where Pentagon workers arrive and depart. The rest of the community set up a vigil line on the adjacent grass, instead of going to the police designated protest area which is much farther away. Surprisingly, at this point, only several Pentagon police were present. Thus the eight were able to leaflet for at least 10 minutes as Bill Frankel-Streit and Jackson Wages read a Litany interspersed with the refrain: "War Hurts Children – Help Us End War". Gradually, more police mobilized and the eight were arrested. As they were being escorted by police to nearby vans, we all sang "Vine and Fig Tree."

Kathy Boylan, Bill Frankel-Streit, Joan Wages, Jackson Wages, Tom Feagley, Ralph, Steve Baggary and Dave MacMillan were taken to the Pentagon police center where they were processed and charged with "interfering with agency functions" and "disobeying a lawful order." All were released within several hours and given a February 20 court date at the U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Virginia. Following the arrests, the community proceeded with a prayer service. To our surprise, police never ordered people to leave the grass area near the metro and go to the designated fenced-off "protest zone." (This has not happened before in this area on a Pentagon weekday!) The prayer included a reading of the Gospel account of the massacre of the Holy Innocents, reciting the Litany, singing "The Cry of Ramah" and the "Coventry Carol," and reading excerpts from Pope Francis' address in Hiroshima on November 24, 2019 in which he condemned the possession of nuclear weapons as immoral. As the sun began to set, we held candles to symbolize Jesus, the Light, overcoming the darkness! The witness concluded with everyone singing "This Little Light of Mine" as the community processed down the escalator and into the Pentagon metro station lobby. Upon returning to the church, we had dinner, followed by an evaluation of the Pentagon witness, then liturgy that was led by Bill Frankel-Streit. In the morning, we held a Lectio Divina prayer. This was followed by a potluck breakfast, clean-up and a closing circle, which included everyone singing "Rejoice in the Lord Always." We were all ever so grateful for our time together! All of the charges were dismissed before court. For more information, contact Art Laffin, artlaffin@hotmail.com.

HUNG JURY MISTRIAL FOR VENEZUELAN EMBASSY PROTECTORS

A video hearing set for June 3 in federal court in Washington, D.C. will determine whether the four Embassy Protectors will face a new trial, after a hung jury in February forced a mistrial.

Their case goes back a full year, when anti-war activists were given the keys and permission to occupy the Venezuelan Embassy in the wake of the Trump administration withdrawing recognition of the government of President Maduro and expelling its diplomats. It was all part of the administration’s failed strategy to threaten war, foment a coup and impose a compliant regime from abroad, naming opposition politician Juan Guaidó as the unelected President. The self-named Embassy Protection Collective maintained the property for over a month while the Maduro government sought standard diplomatic arrangements to secure their embassy property.

The four – Margaret Flowers, David Paul, Adrienne Pine and Kevin Zeese – were first charged with trespass and interfering with the protective functions of the State Department. Later, the trespass charge was dropped in a prosecution bid to avoid the issue of who actually owns the property and has jurisdiction. Instead the prosecution brought a case without context that the four had simply defied police and Secret Service directives.

CodePink activist Leonardo Flores, writing in thegrayzone.com, summed up how:

Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell overtly favored the prosecution by severely limiting the scope of the case, ruling that the defendants were limited to speaking only about events between May 13 and May 16.

For context, the Embassy Protection Collective began staying in the building on April 11. All was peaceful until April 30, when coup supporters surrounded the embassy and attacked the protectors with physical and verbal abuse, as well as death threats.

The protectors were then put under a joint siege by the police and coup supporters – the latter of whom did all they could to prevent food from being delivered into the premises. On May 8, the electricity and water were cut off.

On May 13, they subsequently received a trespass “notice” – a piece of paper with no official letter-head, signature or seal that was most likely written in Spanish and translated. They were then asked, but not ordered, to leave the premises by police.

Finally on May 16, the protectors were arrested, when, in violation of international law, U.S. federal agents in swat-style gear raided the sovereign

Venezuelan embassy. Judge Howell’s pre-trial decisions to severely limit the defense from putting the arrest in context ensured a bias that many observers considered impossible to overcome in a jury trial. The embassy defenders were not allowed to say that Nicolás Maduro is the president of Venezuela.

The defense was not allowed to talk about international law, including the Vienna Convention (which prohibits entry into another country’s embassy, even in times of war). They were not allowed to talk about the protecting power agreement (an agreement for third countries to ensure the safety of embassies in Caracas and D.C.) that was being negotiated by the U.S., Switzerland, Turkey and Venezuela.

They were not allowed to mention that President Maduro, Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza, Vice Minister Carlos Ron, and U.N. Ambassador Samuel Moncada had all authorized the activists’ stay in the embassy. They were not allowed to discuss the fact that the Trump and Maduro administrations had been in contact throughout April and May.

They were not allowed to discuss the blatant cooperation between law enforcement and Guaidó supporters in D.C. They were not allowed to discuss Guaidó’s corruption and connections to paramilitary drug cartels. They were not allowed to question Guaidó’s legitimacy.

In short, they were not allowed to tell the whole truth.

But the prosecution’s description of trespass didn’t jibe with the charge of interfering with protective functions. Believing the government had not proven its case, the four decided not to present a defense. The judge’s instruction to the jury then seemed to contradict the words of the statute. When jurors sought clarification, the judge’s response only added to their apparent confusion. After a day and a half of deliberations, the jury was deadlocked, with three agreeing that the embassy protectors were not guilty.

Two men who assisted in the delivery of food to the embassy protectors but were only later arrested for alleged assaults and jailed for 20 hours each have both had their charges dismissed before trial. Alex Rubenstein was tracked down by the Secret Service and arrested twelve hours after his alleged crime, while a D.C. police tactical unit arrested Max Blumenthal at his home a full five months later.

For more information, visit defendembassyprotectors.org.



body art design by “G”, Glynn Co. Detention Center

Kings Bay Plowshares, cont.

continued from page 1
history and the nature of the offense are assigned values to produce a recommended sentencing range. The aggravating factors at play, including the value of the property damaged, were challenged by the defense before the final reports were submitted to the court.

The most consequential and unprecedented factor still remaining in all of the pre-sentencing reports is the so-called “risk of death” enhancement that increases the recommended range if the offense involved “the conscious or reckless risk of death or serious bodily injury.”

Prosecutors have sometimes tried over the years to impugn the nonviolence of activists by invoking the risk of death or injury to themselves or others when lines are crossed or critical spaces occupied. But this is the first time the claim has been made to justify harsher punishment for Plowshares activists. The government contends that because the activists were aware of the risk of confronting armed guards and had therefore prepared and practiced how to reduce that risk and act nonviolently, they were “conscious” of the risk and are therefore subject to the “risk of death” provision in the sentencing guidelines.

Another factor disputed by the defense concerns acceptance of responsibility for the acts committed. The defendants admitted to their acts, saving the government much of their burden to prove the facts of the case. But for the government, accepting responsibility also means expressing remorse.

The sentencing guidelines call for prison sentences of 15-21 months for McAlister (already served 17 months), 18-24 months for Hennessy (served 6 weeks), 21-27 months for Trotta (served 6 weeks), O’Neill (served 6 weeks), Grady (served 3 months), Colville (served 16 months), and 27-33 months for Fr. Kelly (served 25 months and counting). When sentencing the seven, Judge Lisa Godbey Wood is free to depart up or down from the guidelines.

For more information, including the schedule of sentencing hearings, 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. Sometime after sentencing, marshals will take Kelly to federal prison in Washington state to appear in court there. Cards received in Georgia after that time will not be forwarded. Current prisoner addresses can be found at nukeresister.org/inside-out.

Last November 8, the Fire Drill Friday civil disobedience action was promoted to address the contribution of the U.S. military and war to climate chaos. Organizers announced at the Capitol rally that they would join a “March to Remove Trump” and bring their weekly sit-in to the White House with the impeachment partisans.

But at the White House it became clear that some who came to connect war with the climate were withdrawing from the planned sit-in, because that part of the day’s message had been overshadowed by the entertainer-in-chief whose home became the focus of the action. The sit-in at a blocked-off driveway was tolerated, with police issuing no warnings and making no arrests. It was the only Fire Drill Friday action that did not end with arrests.

For more information, visit witnessagainstattorture.org and firedrillfridays.com.

Rafil Dhafir, cont.

continued from page 1
Help the Needy (HTN), and Medicare fraud.

Like several other high-profile prosecutions of Muslim charities and philanthropists after 9/11, Dhafir was repeatedly slandered in the media as a funder of terrorists.

Dhafir and other HTN associates were subjected to high-profile arrests (“Kidnapped!” says Dhafir) in the early morning of February 26, 2003, just weeks before the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Simultaneous to the arrests, between the hours of 6 and 10 a.m., law enforcement agents interrogated 150 predominantly Muslim families because they had donated to HTN. Dhafir was held without bail for 19 months before trial, greatly impeding his ability to prepare his defense. The first indictment against Dhafir contained 14 charges related only to the Iraq sanctions. Later, when Dhafir refused to accept a plea agreement, the government, which had seized all of his business records, piled on more charges. After a lengthy trial, he was found guilty on 59 counts.

In 2005, Dhafir was sentenced to 22 years in prison, and was due to be released in November, 2021.

Seven government agencies investigated Dhafir

and Help the Needy. They intercepted his mail, email, faxes and telephone calls; bugged his office and hotel rooms; went through his trash; and conducted physical surveillance. They were unable to find any evidence of links to terrorism and no charges of terrorism were ever brought against Dhafir.

The Medicare charges he faced usually involve fictitious patients and made-up illnesses; Dhafir’s case had none of this. The government never contested that patients received care and chemotherapy medicine. Its argument for all 25 counts was that Dhafir was sometimes not present in his office when patients were treated, the Medicare claim forms were filed incorrectly and that he was not due any reimbursement for treatment or for the expensive chemotherapy his office had administered. The government acknowledged that the amount of allegedly fraudulent payments received was greatly exceeded by Dhafir’s own contributions to HTN.

A series of post-conviction appeals and motions for reduction of sentence had all been denied.

Updated information will be posted at nukeresister.org as soon as it is received.

WITNESS AGAINST TORTURE

The tortured prisoners of the United States’ 21st century wars were again named and remembered when activists from Witness Against Torture returned to Washington, D.C. to publicly fast and vigil for five days in January, and call for the release of the 40 Muslim men still languishing at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Accompanied by dozens of supporters, fasters representing the Guantanamo prisoners, dressed in orange jumpsuits and black hoods, carried ten coffins through downtown and lined them up in front of the Trump International Hotel. Another day, they vigiled outside the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals where a hearing was underway in the case of Guantanamo prisoner Ammar Al-Baluchi. On January

11, the 18th anniversary of Guantanamo’s first prisoners’ arrival, they demonstrated in front of the White House.

This year, their presence in the capitol city coincided with the last of Jane Fonda’s weekly Fire Drill Friday climate emergency civil disobedience actions on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. Witness Against Torture activists, recognizing the deep connections between war and the torture of planet and people, joined in. They marched to the Capitol, many again in their orange jumpsuits, behind a colorful banner that declared “U.S. Racist Resource Wars are Killing the Planet.” At least ten were among the 147 people arrested, cited and released that day.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Russia

The latest shipment by rail and sea of depleted uranium “tails” from European nuclear fuel processors to Russia was delayed for a day in December by more than a dozen protests along the railway in the Netherlands and Germany.

In St. Petersburg, Greenpeace activist Rashid Alimov held a solo protest against importing the nuclear waste in front of the city’s iconic *Gostinyi dvor* department store on December 16.

Yellow barrels with radiation symbols were dropped off and lined up in front of the giant St. Nick and Yule tree decorating the storefront. Alimov stood vigil with a banner, engaging passersby about the issue.

At home that evening, eight investigators showed up at Alimov’s home. They tried to convince his nine-year-old daughter to open the door so they could check on the utilities but she refused. Alimov met them at the door and was taken into custody, charged with squatting on the plaza. He was released after midnight and awaits trial.

In Moscow, the issue is not moving old nuclear waste to a dump, but moving people through an old nuclear dump. A new highway is being built along the Moskva



Photo © Igor Podgorny/Greenpeace

Outside a St. Petersburg department store, Rashid Alimov demonstrates against Russian imports of European nuclear waste.

River, right through the site of a soviet-era factory that processed uranium ore to extract thorium for reactors, leaving some 60,000 tons of contaminated soil and buried waste behind. Remediation of the area has been hindered because the slope of the river bank poses significant risk of disturbed soil slipping into the river. Greenpeace confirmed that contamination remains in a soil survey carried out last fall with a certified lab.

Beginning in January, dozens of local activists took part in a 24/7 vigil in a minibus parked at the site to prevent the start of construction. Police searched the apartment of the minibus owner on March 5, investigating a report of damaged radiation monitors on the site. Police then escalated their presence there, leading to several tense stand-offs with the demonstrators. When construction equipment finally rolled in on March 19, dozens of police cordoned off the slope to clear the way. No arrests were made during the standoff that day, but the next day over 60 activists were briefly detained, and a criminal case has been opened against several activists for damaging the radiation monitor.

For more information, visit greenpeace.ru.

Jeju Island

Dr. Song Kang-ho is back in prison on Jeju Island, South Korea. His actions on land and sea to oppose the new naval base there have landed him behind bars several times in the past, including for 181 days in 2012, and 150 days in 2013.

In February, he and fellow peace activist Ryu Bok-hee asked the navy’s civil affairs office for permission to enter the base on March 7, the 8th anniversary of the explosive destruction of Gureombi, a fresh-water rock wetlands where the base was being built. Gureombi, which long provided drinking water and harbored rare sea life, is regarded as sacred by locals. The two hoped to visit the small remaining area of rock inside the base to pray for peace, but were denied.

They returned to the office on the morning of March 7 and again asked for permission. They were told it would not be safe for them to enter the base. The Navy was then asked directly but the pair got no reply.

The activists then went to a public shrine at Metpuri, just outside the base. Song Kang-ho cut the wire fence and Ryu Bok-hee followed after him. They went in to the one part of Gureombi that still exists and sat in silent prayer for over an hour. At about 3:40 p.m. they went towards the main gate and were seen by a soldier. Police came quickly. Fifty meters from the entrance to the base, they were told, “You entered without permission into a Military Protection Area and you cannot leave now,” so they stopped. Song Kang-ho held up a small yellow banner that he always carries with him, which reads “Peace Island Without Military Bases.” Ryu Bok-hee held up a banner reading “Gureombi, did you sleep well this spring?”

After they were stuck like that for 30 minutes, one Gangjeong villager entered the main gate and asked, “Can I escort these people out?” and a soldier replied, “Escort them out quickly.” Following the directions of the guards, they walked out the main gate.

On March 20, police called the two peace activists to investigate their action on the base. Warrants for their arrest were issued within a week, an unusually quick outcome. Accompanied by supporters, they appeared in court on the morning of March 30 for a review of the warrant. Both were soon taken into custody.

Before entering court, Dr. Song Kang-ho said, “There is no need for the military base! Anything unnecessary should be immediately trashed. Return Gureombi Rock to the citizens!” Ryu Bok-hee said, “A military base is not a method to prevent war. War is prevented when there is no military base. We can prevent war!”

Ryu Bok-hee’s warrant was later dismissed and she was released from detention. Dr. Song Kang-ho’s arrest warrant has not been dismissed, probably due to his prior protest record. Their trial is now set for May 14.

Earlier this year, President Moon Jae-in included two Gangjeong activists in the New Year’s pardon list. They are Kang Dong-kyun, a former Gangjeong village mayor and current co-representative of the Association of Gangjeong Villagers Against the Jeju Navy Base, and Fr. Mun Jeong-hyeon, leader of the daily Gangjeong street mass.

Both Kang and Fr. Mun angrily refused to accept the pardon. “What crime did I commit?” asked Fr. Mun.

Mayor Kang said, “If the Moon government is sincere to Gangjeong villagers, it should make an apology to them,” for imposing the base against popular will and dividing the villagers “with more conflicts which would take 100 years to settle.”

The Jeju naval base, built through lies and violence,
continued on page 7

Menwith Hill

In the weeks before Great Britain imposed its anti-virus lockdown on March 23, putting such gatherings on hold, harassment of the weekly peace vigil outside Royal Air Force–Menwith Hill in the north of England was escalating. For many years, vigilers wearing bright colored, reflective vests have peacefully walked back and forth along the road where traffic exits the base, holding up their protest signs for departing drivers to read as they stop before turning onto the road.

It’s all perfectly legal, as the voluminous local court record reveals. But every few years, what with international incidents and policing staff turnover, enforcement takes an aggressive turn. The last such spell was sorted out about five years ago after mediation between vigilers and the Ministry of Defense police. But that didn’t satisfy the U.S. military, who actually run the base. Despite being an air force base, Menwith Hill has no runways or airplanes – just dozens of military and espionage satellite dishes vital to the Pentagon’s global reach.

On the evening of February 4, five vigilers were present. Among them was 78-year-old Lindis Percy, who for many years directed the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases and was a persistent thorn through the American boot on the British countryside, enduring dozens of arrests at several bases. Military police were filmed grabbing Percy and dragging her to the side of the road. They told her she was being arrested under Section 5 of the Public Order Act, which is about “causing alarm, harassment or distress” and

eventually pushed her into a police car for a trip to Harrogate police station. There the rough treatment continued, as two officers dragged her down a corridor, pulling her jacket off over her head along the way.

Percy was released without charges, but the incident prompted a statement from the MoD police that alleged misconduct is taken seriously and would be investigated.

The next week there were nine vigilers plus a film crew and nine police. She was again arrested – her 7th arrest in the last 18 months. Four others have also been arrested in that time, and not one has come to trial.

At the latest protest on March 17, the three vigilers agreed with police directions to maintain safe social distances from one another. Yet when Percy passed in front of the departing cars, officers shouted for her to clear the road, then immediately rushed in to push her out of the road and onto the ground. After a second such incident, Inspector McNamara, in charge of policing the demonstration, told Percy he was concerned because “the customers” (the U.S. military) wanted unimpeded exit for their vehicles, so they should not be expected to slow down for her, despite the stop sign and STOP painted on the pavement.

Percy’s formal complaint about these recent incidents was first assigned back to McNamara for investigation, to which she objected. It has since been given to another officer at the base with his own decades-long record of disdain for the peace vigilers.

had long been shown to be absent,” because “Manning has proven herself incoercible beyond any doubt.” Lennard cited Manning’s attempted suicide as “the most absolute evidence that she could not be coerced: She would sooner die.”

As she also explained, the framing and timing of the decision were “galling,” because, the day after the ruling, “Manning was scheduled to appear at a court hearing on a motion to end her continued imprisonment, predicated on her unshakeable resistance proving coercion to be impossible, and her incarceration therefore illegal. She endured months of extreme suffering, driving her to near death, but never wavered on her principled refusal to speak.”

As Lennard added, “Again and again, Manning and her legal team showed that her imprisonment was nothing but punitive, and thus unjustifiable under the legal statutes governing federal grand juries. Yet for nearly a year, Manning has been caged and fined \$1,000 per day. Ever since she was subpoenaed to testify before the grand

jury, which is investigating WikiLeaks, Manning has also insisted that there was never any justifiable purpose to asking her to testify. As her support committee noted in a statement last May, ‘Chelsea gave voluminous testimony during her court martial. She has stood by the truth of her prior statements, and there is no legitimate purpose to having her rehash them before a hostile grand jury.’”

Fortunately, in a sign of the esteem with which Manning is held by her many supporters, the \$256,000 was raised in donations in just two days, and a separate follow-up fundraiser, set up to fund her living expenses, has also reached its target – \$30,000 — in a matter of hours.

A May Day note of thanks from “Team Chelsea” reports that, “Chelsea has been taking some time to rest and recover, and is not planning any public appearances for the foreseeable future. She is staying indoors and safe and is hoping you do the same.”

For more information, visit www.releasechelsea.com.

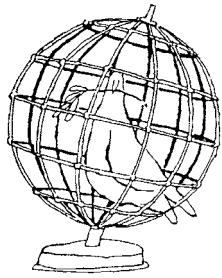
Chelsea Manning, cont.

continued from page 3

Manning’s supporters “believed that the grand jury was not set to terminate on March 12.”

For Manning the timing is obviously helpful. Just the day before, she had attempted to commit suicide and had ended up hospitalized, but Judge Trenga refused to tackle another aspect of her imprisonment over the last year that has been profoundly unjust: the decision to charge Manning \$1,000 for each day that she refused to testify. By the time of the ruling, this had reached \$256,000, but the judge ruled that “enforcement of the accrued, conditional fines would not be punitive but rather necessary to the coercive purpose of the court’s civil contempt order.”

In a hard-hitting article for *The Intercept*, Natasha Lennard condemned the ruling for failing to recognize the fact that “the coercive purpose of Manning’s detention



Jeju Island, cont.

continued from page 6

continues to divide Jeju society. Activists say there has been no healing from the pain of the massive violence and conflict caused by its establishment. In February, an appeals court in Jeju rejected a number of appeals related to protest arrests, and even overturned a small number of not-guilty rulings, imposing new fines and probation.

For more information, visit savejejunow.org.



Letters of support should be sent to Song Kang-ho (Prisoner No. 219), Jeju Post Office P.O. Box 161, Jeju City, Jeju Peace Island, Korea 63166.

I am doing well. Yesterday... I saw a drawing of a banner that said "[Open] Gureombi to the citizens." That text was very welcome... World affairs are like a rock, paper, scissors game. We know that we ourselves are weaker than the navy, but stronger than the navy are the National Assembly or the media, people like high ranking officials. We just have to find the right method to put pressure on the navy through our activism. If we are the paper, and the navy is the scissors, I think we have to think deeply about what is the rock.

Dr. Song Kang-ho
from an April 18 letter from prison

Faslane

from Faslane Peace Camp

Two Faslane peace campers were arrested on January 28, one of them just a few yards from the Trident warhead loading jetty at Coulport on Loch Long, Scotland.

Sylvia Boyes and Willemien Hoogendoorn hung banners at the pedestrian gate, and a hole in the perimeter fence was re-opened (first cut last October 8 when Boyes entered and spent several hours exploring the base interior). After about an hour, Boyes went through the hole with a banner to hang directly in front of the warhead loading bay. The banner read “TRIDENT – An atrocity waiting to happen”.

Despite openly carrying out these actions, it took at least 1½ hours for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) police to arrive. Hoogendoorn was arrested at the pedestrian gate, and Boyes was arrested immediately in front of the loading bay.

Boyes was charged with a byelaws offense, while Hoogendoorn faces a charge of criminal damage. They will be entering not guilty pleas by mail. And while Boyes was eventually arrested last October after she alerted base security to her presence, she has heard nothing more from the court.

Despite the fact that both recent Coulport actions and the arrests were announced on the Faslane Peace Camp’s public Facebook page, *The National* newspaper splashed this “exclusive” headline two weeks after this latest action: “Revealed: Two secret Trident break-ins the MoD tried to cover up.” The article reported that base brass had been meeting to “ensure word of the intrusions did not get out to the public.” A private contractor had failed to detect both security breaches, the most recent involving the two women in broad daylight. An MoD spokesperson claimed in a statement to *The National* that the women had only gained access to a redundant jetty, one not inside the security perimeter.

The local Member of Parliament, Brendan O’Hara, was also quoted, reflecting a popular sentiment. “It’s bad enough that Scotland is forced against our will to house these weapons of mass destruction, so surely the least we can expect of the MOD is that they are properly guarded.”

For more information, visit facebook.com/faslanepeacecamp.

Resistance Reflections, cont.

continued from page 2

who has alleged that we physically threaten him. This fiction parallels the perennial propaganda trope that migrants from afar – Vietnam, Nicaragua, Afghanistan – threaten the U.S. The local judges impose OOPs on dozens of us. Bizarrely re-purposed, OOP wording is derived from child or spouse abuse boilerplate.

Such OOPs have been enforced unevenly. Several years ago, Mary Anne Grady Flores, a grandmother from Ithaca, New York, got a year-long sentence for allegedly violating her OOP. Her sole crime: photographing protesters (who subsequently were all acquitted) from Molloy Road’s shoulder. After a few months in Jamesville Penitentiary, Mary Anne won release pending appeal. If eventually her appeal fails, she’ll be re-incarcerated.

We’ve long lost track of the numbers, but well over 100 of our cases have been tried before either of the two elected part-time DeWitt Town justices, Robert Jokl, Jr. or David Gideon. Those are mostly bench trials, in which a judge determines verdict and sentence; or, if involving misdemeanors, a six-person jury renders the verdict. In this court, not shy about doling out maximum sentences, juries are forbidden to hear what the max can be.

On the brink of a trial, the prosecutor may suddenly drop the misdemeanor charge, cleverly disrupting our defense prep. Jury trials in DeWitt are only occasional, since these burden the court calendar and the town budget, while providing us the opportunity to testify about drone atrocity. In an arrest-happy time and place, law enforcement and the court prop up the ambient militarism, particularly where a community embraces its military base as a “job-provider.” Conveniently for stoking public buy-in, multitudes of redundant military installations are spread widely over congressional districts across the land.

Central New York is one of the nation’s major drone technology incubators, housing a branch of Lockheed Martin and SRC Inc., a defense research company. This gravity train seems to mesmerize local mainstream media, the Chamber of Commerce, nearby citadels of higher learning, and those of all political stripes dependent on government jobs and grants: co-optation broad and deep. Even liberal activists compartmentalized in their domestic issues shrink from acknowledging Hancock’s war crimes.

When we point out to police that war crimes occur just yards from where we’re being arrested, we hear, “It’s not our jurisdiction.” The court dismisses out of hand our International Law and Necessity defenses. Nor, of course, does it acknowledge that Hancock, in violation of the 1794 Treaty of Canandaigua, occupies Haudenosaunee Indigenous land. Note the historical continuity: most Reaper victims are themselves tribal or Indigenous people of color inhabiting formerly colonized but now nominally sovereign lands such as Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen, all areas, it happens, the U.S. has yet to even officially declare war upon. Those Hellfire missiles – talk about trespass!

The disorderly conduct charge is bogus. As the base’s surveillance cameras attest, we treat everyone with respect and don’t resist arrest. (Before each demonstration, every participant signs a pledge of nonviolence.) Nor do our blockades discommode the public. The OGA charge is likewise bogus: trial witnesses, citing “security,” refuse to reveal details of Hancock’s illegal and clandestine operations, which we call out and allegedly disrupt.

At trial, we defend ourselves pro se or with pro bono attorneys. Our lead attorney travels well over 300 miles from Long Island at his own expense. On the witness stand, we speak to what drone strikes do to human flesh, psyches and souls, and thus why we risk prison opposing brutality. We note that we don’t do civil disobedience – we do civil resistance. We don’t disobey law; we seek to enforce law – both U.S. and international. We observe the Nuremberg injunction that those aware of war crimes must try to expose and impede them – or else we would be complicit ourselves.

For the DeWitt court, international law is an alien concept. In many of this rogue nation’s law schools, international law apparently isn’t taught. U.S. superpower exceptionalism prevails. The Constitution’s First Amendment – which validates our right to petition the government for redress of grievances – is also alien.

In the early days, seeking to deter continued civil resistance, we were each customarily fined the maximum amount of \$375, and some of us were also sentenced to 15 days in jail. In a further attempt to deter, the DeWitt judges – in apparent cahoots with the base – eventually conjured up those aforementioned Orders of Protection. Fortunately, suburban juries can’t always be counted on to find scrupulously nonviolent defendants guilty. Sometimes they find us not guilty on one or more counts, or the court feels compelled to dismiss a lackadaisically prosecuted charge.

Nowadays, the DeWitt court seems to be kicking the judicial can down the road. As I write in December 2019, our July 2018, June 2019 and September 2019 arrests

FUTURE ACTIONS

Plans for upcoming anti-nuclear and anti-war civil resistance actions are temporarily on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Updates will be posted at nukeresister.org/future-actions.

Update Files, cont.

continued from page 8

Workers Susan van der Hijden from Amsterdam and Chris Danowski from Dortmund...

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA: Four members of the Korean University Progressive Student Alliance, jailed last October after they scaled the wall and entered the U.S. embassy compound to demand U.S. troops out of their country, were found guilty of trespass and obstruction of business on April 29. They were sentenced to one year in prison, suspended with two years probation and immediately released from custody. One woman had already been released on bail to stand as a candidate in the April 15 general election...

LONDON: Charges have been dismissed and courts in the British capitol have failed to convict many of those who took part in a week-long series of blockades leading up to an annual arms industry exhibition last September. One exception is Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, who was convicted of highway obstruction in February and fined £1000. At least 19 XR-Peace activists arrested during a series of blockades linking war to climate chaos as part of the October Extinction Rebellion actions in London have been charged mostly with obstruction. They have plea hearings scheduled from June through July, but these may be delayed...

have yet to be assigned trial dates. In DeWitt, New York, the notion that “justice delayed is justice denied” is quaint. This past summer, one judge, without explanation or apology, simply didn’t show up for a motions hearing or to set a trial date. More recently, one evening’s judge told us, after we’d all traveled to a mandated court hearing, that our case wasn’t on that evening’s docket. Can it be that the validity of our cause is now dawning on the judges, making it hard to know what to do with us?

Reaper terror, first under Bush, increasingly under Obama, then far more under Trump, keeps escalating. We may never know if our efforts somehow slow the pace. But we do know that here in our backyard, if we don’t stand up and speak out against war crimes, it’s unlikely anyone else will. And we know that if no one speaks out, the Pentagon will keep operating as if it has a popular mandate to keep up the killing.

So we persist.

• • •

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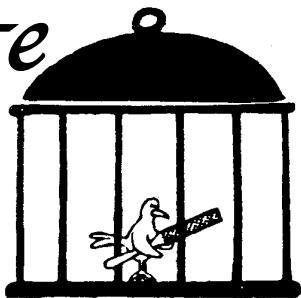
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Update Files



HANCOCK FIELD: Six people arrested during a drone warfare protest last September 24 have had a misdemeanor charge of obstructing government operations dismissed. Trial on remaining charges of trespass and disorderly conduct has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They blocked the gate of the Air National Guard base outside Syracuse, New York, where personnel remotely pilot armed drones in acts of war around the globe...

SHANNON AIRPORT: With more than a score of court appearances behind them, Colm Roddy and Dave Donnellan were set again for trial in Dublin circuit court on March 2, almost four years after they went into the Irish international airport to search and investigate U.S. military aircraft for illegally ferrying arms through their officially neutral country. They are charged with criminal damage to the fence and runway. After two more postponements until March 6, the judge on that date for complicated reasons again rescheduled their day in court to October 5, 2020. Two other pairs of activists are also on slow dockets for similar acts of crime investigation and prevention. Edward Horgan and Dan Dowling are set for trial May 18, just over three years after their arrests on April 25, 2017. U.S. peace activists Tarak Kauff and Ken Meyers are set for trial on April 13, 2021. The two Veterans for Peace entered the airfield through a fence on Saint Patrick’s Day, 2019, and were arrested as they approached a recently arrived U.S. military transport plane, carrying a peace banner...

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA: The criminal case against Rob Mulford was dismissed in December. He’d been arrested in October while engaged in a sandwich-board peace protest outside a local hotel that was hosting a forum on military community partnerships...

MORDECHAI VANUNU: On December 16, 2019, the Supreme Court of Israel rejected the nuclear whistleblower’s latest appeal against the travel and communication restrictions imposed upon him when he was released from prison in April, 2004, after almost 18 years in captivity. He is compelled to remain in Israel and refrain from communicating with foreigners. Long-time supporter Gideon Spiro wrote to the court, “From reading your judgment I learn how weak the arsenal of excuses of the security services is. Again and again they repeat the lie that Vanunu has ‘secret information’ that he intends to expose, and you adopt those words of defamation under cover of the revolting process in which the court hears evidence from the prosecution that is not disclosed to the defence. You are imposing a life sentence on Vanunu without him being able to defend himself and you are rendering the term ‘justice’ devoid of meaning... The harsh treatment of Vanunu is related to the fact that he is a native of Morocco. The judicial and security establishment cannot stand the fact that a son of Oriental Jewry has received global praise for his struggle for a world free of weapons of mass destruction...” Vanunu currently resides in Jaffa, and recently posted this message to Facebook: “April 2020. Continue to wait for my freedom in the coronavirus time, my advice to Israel gov’t is, this is the best time to let vanunu go, free, all the world is now busy with the coronavirus, no one care about vanunu, no one want to hear about this case or about israel nuclear secrets, this case is very old and there is no secrets any more. this is the time to end this case, Free Vanunu Now.”...

CATTENOM NUCLEAR POWER PLANT: The Metz (France) Court of Appeal, ruling in January on the case they heard last fall, has affirmed the conviction of eight Greenpeace activists for a dramatic action in October, 2017. They’d entered the four-reactor site and set off fireworks next to the used-fuel storage pools to illustrate security deficiencies at the aging plant. Two-month prison sentences for two of the activists were reduced to fines, as were suspended prison sentences for five others. The court also upheld the conviction and steep fine of a ninth activist, Greenpeace-France’s nuclear campaigns manager, representing the organization as a organizational accomplice to the crime. On appeal Greenpeace had argued that in the wake of the action a parliamentary commission of inquiry looked into the safety and security of nuclear installations and produced a report

recommending that security be strengthened. “Without this action there would have been no parliamentary commission of inquiry,” so in retrospect, their action was necessary in light of French law...

VOLK FIELD: Seven people arrested at the Wisconsin National Guard base last fall were due in Juneau County Court for a status hearing on March 16. Wisconsin’s governor was already under pressure to issue a “safer at home” order in response to the coronavirus, so on Friday, March 13, some of the defendants called the court to ask that they be excused or allowed to attend over the phone. The clerk told them she could not make that decision and they’d have to appear in person. The seven decided instead that they would not go, and instead they all called in on Monday morning. A new judge on the bench accepted their calls and conducted the hearing by phone. Trial is set to begin July 31, the first time protesters at the base have been granted a group trial...

BÜCHEL AIR BASE: On January 22, one Dutch and three German peace activists were sentenced for a fence-cutting and entry into the German air force base where U.S. nuclear warheads are stockpiled for NATO use. The district court in Cochem convicted Johanna Adickes, Siegrid Eckert-Hossbach, Hops Hossbach and Frits ter Kuile for the July 15, 2018 action, which took place during 20 weeks of daily demonstrations at the base. Their defense included quoting German judge Ulf Panzer, who in 1987 was part of a group of judges who blocked a Pershing II nuclear missile convoy, declaring it illegal. The four were fined 30 “tagessatze,” or daily rates, each roughly equivalent to one day’s wages. All four are Catholic Workers in Amsterdam, who are more likely to do the time than afford the fine. They were part of a group of 18 people who cut five holes in the fence that day. On May 11, three more of the group were convicted in the same court and given the same sentence: U.S. Veteran for Peace Dennis DuVall and Catholic

continued on page 7

ANNOUNCEMENT

... **The Nuns, The Priests and The Bombs**, the feature-length documentary by Helen Young about the 2009 Disarm Now Plowshares and 2012 Transform Now Plowshares actions is now available for streaming online. Search for it on Google Play, Amazon, Apple iTunes or Blu-ray.

the Nuclear

Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

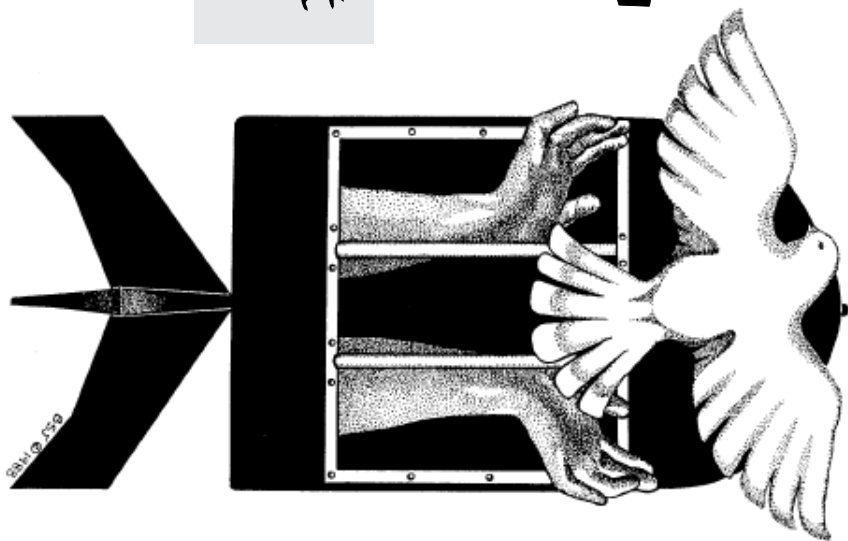
Demanding Disarmament at
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Sentencing Dates
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Plowshares Seven

Rafil Dhafir Promised Release
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Chelsea Manning
Free Again

Hung Jury for
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