

the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

No. 195

September 2, 2020

FIRST KINGS BAY PLOWSHARES ACTIVIST SENTENCED

Elizabeth McAlister, a revered elder of the American anti-war and anti-nuclear movements, was sentenced on June 8 to time served for taking part with six other Catholic peace activists in the Kings Bay Plowshares action. Late on the night of April 4, 2018, the seven activists entered the U.S. Navy’s Trident nuclear submarine base at Kings Bay, Georgia and carried out symbolic acts of nuclear disarmament. They were arrested in the wee hours of April 5, charged and convicted of three felonies and a misdemeanor. McAlister had already spent more than 17 months in Georgia county jails following her arrest.

McAlister was also ordered to pay a special assessment of \$310 and restitution of \$33,503.51, assigned jointly and severally to all the defendants. Out of consideration for her lifetime of voluntary poverty and lack of material assets, the court did not impose a fine, but mandated a minimum payment of \$25/month towards restitution. McAlister was also placed on three years of supervised probation.

disarming Trident

convicted at the courthouse
bodies on the line
a billion-dollar obscenity
primed for earth’s destruction
awaiting a trigger

controllers of the discourse
ten-second soundbites
kick justice down an alley
superiority the great dream
jobs, profits, national security

robed in court, unruffled
moral discussion banned
the Pentagon’s legal arm
makes the case for the corporate elite
cowboy myth, bought-off politicians

faith, blood, kneeled prayer
the Word made flesh
probes fake news, public lies
truth confronting insanity
hears only hammers

prophets nailed to the Cross

Jim Consedine

25 October, 2019

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, McAlister appeared for sentencing via video from her daughter’s home in Connecticut, surrounded by her three children, their partners and her six grandchildren. Judge Lisa G. Wood presided from federal court in Brunswick, Georgia.

McAlister was represented by her two attorneys, Bill Quigley, who appeared by video from New Orleans and Jason Clark, by video from Brunswick. Her codefendants, their attorneys and more than 250 others phoned in to listen to the proceedings.

Judge Wood first reviewed the case before the court for the record. She had read and studied the pre-sentencing report prepared by the probation office and the memos submitted by the defense and prosecution. Both sides stood on their written memos and made no additional arguments. The judge also made note of having read and taken into consideration the dozens of letters of support she had received on McAlister’s behalf.

In its memo, the defense had objected to several elements of the pre-sentencing report. Judge Wood denied each objection in turn. She found that in the absence of remorse, the defendant had not accepted responsibility for her actions. Wood also ruled that the recommended amount of restitution was appropriate.

Most significantly, Wood agreed with prosecutors that the defendants had, at minimum, consciously and carelessly risked their own lives and those of military personnel when they entered the base despite no trespassing signs and broadcast audio warnings of deadly force. The judge recalled that one of these warnings was heard in court on a video recording of the action made by one of the defendants. This is the first time in 40 years of Plowshares actions that the “risk of death” enhancement has been used by the government to increase the recommended sentence for Plowshares defendants.

The same objections have been made to the pre-sentencing reports for the other defendants, and Judge Wood can be expected to reject them in those cases, as well.

Before rendering judgement, the court heard from Frida Berrigan, McAlister’s oldest child, and then from the defendant herself.

Frida Berrigan told the judge and prosecutor, “[You] know in your hearts and see with your own eyes ... that our mother is a good and holy person whose only crime is to attend to the thrum and whisper of her conscience and not allow that still, small voice to be drowned out by the blood-thirsty screams and desperate caterwauling of nuclear preparations and constant war-making. As her daughter, I could wish her hearing was not quite so good. As her kids, my brother, sister and I wish she had not spent 17 months and 9 days in your county detention centers. We would like to say enough is enough. She has paid too high a price already, and we who love her have paid that price too.

“But as a 46-year-old white citizen of a nation that is going to spend \$720 plus billion on the military this year, even in the face of an economy-smashing pandemic that has killed 100,000 people and laid bare the stark inequity and fundamental brokenness of every fiber of the social safety net, I am grateful that people like my mother are willing to stand up and say: ‘Trident is a crime.’

“As a 46-year-old white citizen in a country where white supremacy and militarized policing are so emboldened that Derek Chauvin can crush George Floyd’s life out of him in front of a crowd, in front of cameras, where the McMichaels father and son can gun down Ahmaud Arbery in broad daylight as he jogged through the streets of a quiet Georgia town, I draw hope and inspiration from white people who continue to invoke Dr. King’s framework of the giant triplets of racism, militarism and materialism ... these weights that cripple our collective humanity. I draw hope and inspiration from my mom and her friends who declare that ‘Black Lives Matter,’ who wed their anti-nuclear analysis with an anti-racist ethos, and declare that the ultimate logic of Trident is omnicide.

“So, I am here as a daughter who doesn’t want her 80-year-old mother sent back to jail and a human being who wonders how anything ever changes if people like my mom aren’t willing to take that risk.”

Elizabeth McAlister told the court that she had spent much of her adult life speaking and writing against weapons of mass destruction as contrary to life and destructive of life on every level. The action she took to address this crime against humanity and the earth “came out of years of training in the ways Jesus taught us.”

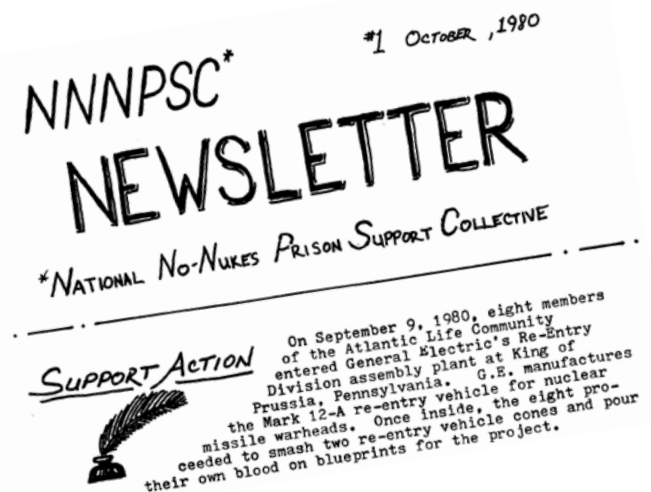
“I’ve tried to faithfully follow the prophet Isaiah who told us to turn swords into plowshares, spears into pruning hooks, who spoke of nations not learning war, learning how to live humanly with other human beings in a humane environment.”

She concluded by saying that it’s because of her children and grandchildren that she feels compelled to act. “I don’t apologize for it... I had to follow my conscience and my faith.”

As she pronounced the sentence, Judge Wood demonstrated her understanding of “blind justice” in a careful, dispassionate avoidance of uttering the words “nuclear weapons,” while being sure to note that restitution was warranted “to make up for all the things that were ruined there.”

Judge Wood also conceded to McAlister “the firmness of your convictions and strongly held beliefs about which

40th Anniversary Issue



For more than half of the Nuclear Age, the Nuclear Resister has chronicled nonviolent direct action for a peaceful, nuclear-free future and encouraged support for the people behind bars for these acts of conscience.

On pages 4 and 5 of this 40th anniversary issue, we commemorate the Plowshares Eight nuclear disarmament action, the only arrests reported in the very first issue of the newsletter of the National No-Nukes Prison Support Collective, now known as the Nuclear Resister.

laws are righteous and which laws are not. But if you do choose to break those laws, and a jury of your peers finds so, there are consequences.”

As conditions of her probation, McAlister must cooperate with collection of a DNA sample, may not possess firearms and must provide any financial information requested by the probation office. Her home is also subject to search on reasonable suspicion of any violation of the judge’s orders.

The Kings Bay Plowshares – Elizabeth McAlister, Mark Colville, Clare Grady, Martha Hennessy, Fr. Steve Kelly, Patrick O’Neill and Carmen Trotta – were convicted last October on charges of misdemeanor trespass and three felonies: destruction of property on a Naval Station, depredation of government property and conspiracy to do these things. The other six defendants have exercised their right to be sentenced in person in open court, when family and friends can attend. Their sentencing was originally set for late May, but the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in successive postponements, first to late June, then late July, then early September, and now to separate times on October 15 and 16.

Five of McAlister’s co-defendants have already served from seven weeks to fifteen months in jail. Fr. Kelly has been in jail since the action, nearly 29 months and counting. He has already served the upper range of the recommended sentence.

Kelly is not eligible for release because his Georgia arrest violated conditions of his sentence for a 2017 line-crossing at the west coast Trident base at Bangor, Washington. Federal marshals are expected to transport him to Washington to appear before the judge there, sometime after he is sentenced in Georgia.

Prosecutors have also said that, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the government will not recommend sentences of home confinement because their actions involved a threat to human life.

Elizabeth McAlister is the widow of Philip Berrigan. They co-founded the Jonah House community in Baltimore in the mid-1970s, where they raised their three children and for several decades mentored countless activists to resist nuclear weapons and war.

For more information, including the schedule of sentencing hearings, visit kingsbayplowshares7.org.



Notes of support can 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.

Resistance Reflections

Hiroshima 75: The Criminality of Nuclear Deterrence

The human race stands on the verge of nuclear self-extinction as a species, and with it will die most, if not all, forms of intelligent life on the planet earth. Any attempt to dispel the ideology of nuclearism and its attendant myth propounding the legality of nuclear weapons and nuclear deterrence must directly come to grips with the fact that the nuclear age was conceived in the original sins of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945. The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki constituted crimes against humanity and war crimes as defined by the Nuremberg Charter of August 8, 1945, and violated several basic provisions of the Regulations annexed to Hague Convention No. 4 Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land (1907), the rules of customary international law set forth in the Draft Hague Rules of Air Warfare (1923), and the United States War Department Field Manual 27-10, Rules of Land Warfare (1940). According to this Field Manual and the Nuremberg Principles, all civilian government officials and military officers who ordered or knowingly participated in the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki could have been lawfully punished as war criminals. The start of any progress toward resolving humankind's nuclear predicament must come from the realization that nuclear weapons have never been legitimate instruments of state policy, but rather have always constituted illegitimate instrumentalities of internationally lawless and criminal behavior.

THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The use of nuclear weapons in combat was, and still is, absolutely prohibited under all circumstances by both conventional and customary international law: e.g., the Nuremberg Principles, the Hague Regulations of 1907, the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948, the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocol I of 1977, etc. In addition, the use of nuclear weapons would also specifically violate several fundamental resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly that have repeatedly condemned the use of nuclear weapons as an international crime.

Consequently, according to the Nuremberg Judgment, soldiers would be obliged to disobey egregiously illegal orders with respect to launching and waging a nuclear war. Second, all government officials and military officers who might nevertheless launch or wage a nuclear war would be personally responsible for the commission

of Nuremberg crimes against peace, crimes against humanity, war crimes, grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and Protocol 1, and genocide, among other international crimes. Third, such individuals would not be entitled to the defenses of superior orders, act of state, tu quoque, self-defense, presidential authority, etc. Fourth, such individuals could thus be quite legitimately and most severely punished as war criminals, up to and including the imposition of the death penalty, without limitation of time.

THE THREAT TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter of 1945 prohibits both the threat and the use of force except in cases of legitimate self-defense as recognized by article 51 thereof. But although the requirement of legitimate self-defense is a necessary precondition for the legality of any threat or use of force, it is certainly not sufficient. For the legality of any threat or use of force must also take into account the customary and conventional international laws of humanitarian armed conflict.

Thereunder, the threat to use nuclear weapons (i.e., nuclear deterrence/terrorism) constitutes ongoing international criminal activity: namely, planning, preparation, solicitation and conspiracy to commit Nuremberg crimes against peace, crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide, as well as grave breaches of the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949, Additional Protocol I of 1977, the Hague Regulations of 1907, and the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948, inter alia. These are the so-called inchoate crimes that under the Nuremberg Principles constitute international crimes in their own right.

The conclusion is inexorable that the design, research, testing, production, manufacture, fabrication, transportation, deployment, installation, maintenance, storing, stockpiling, sale, and purchase as well as the threat to use nuclear weapons together with all their essential accouterments are criminal under well-recognized principles of international law. Thus, those government decision-makers in all the nuclear weapons states with command responsibility for their nuclear weapons establishments are today subject to personal criminal responsibility under the Nuremberg Principles for this criminal practice of nuclear deterrence/terrorism

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Some Thoughts on Anti-Nuclear and Anti-War Resistance

by Jack and Felice Cohen-Joppa

For over 40 years, we have witnessed the evolution of the intertwined anti-nuclear and anti-war movements. We have chronicled these movements from the particular perspective and through the words of those organizing and engaged in the many forms of civil resistance.

Even before COVID-19, and by several measures, we've observed a declining number of activists engaged in the sorts of nonviolent direct actions against war and nuclear threats that in decades past resulted in many arrests, trials and imprisonment. Many factors have been suggested, at least anecdotally, to explain this evolution. Not least among them is the aging of the cohort of people who took such actions when these movements surged in the 1980s, 1990s, and for a decade post-September 11, 2001.

For anyone younger than 30, the United States at "war on terror" overseas has not been a distinct or disruptive event, but the presumptive background of their entire lives. Since the end of the Cold War, it's been permanent

war for the permanent war economy.

By the time of Obama's 2008 election, a glimmer of vague hope supplanted the already notable war protest fatigue. Then the Nobel Academy's preemptive Peace Prize to Obama draped a gauzy veil over his administration as it laid the obscure foundation for the multi-trillion-dollar project to completely rebuild the U.S. nuclear weapons production capacity and replace multiple delivery systems, a project that the Trump regime now continues apace.

For the last decade, nuclear resistance in the United States has been sustained principally by the Plowshares movement and some long-standing campaigns centered at nuclear weapons-related sites and the Pentagon. Anti-war resistance in the U.S. is now largely comprised of campaigns at several air force and national guard bases where pilots remotely wage drone warfare overseas, in addition to speak-outs at hearings and sit-ins on Capitol Hill.

Another contribution to declining nuclear- and war-resistance is, of course, the emergence of other urgent social issues that have drawn generations of new participants to the tactics of nonviolent direct action. One of these issues is the comparably existential climate crisis.

Rising to the organizing challenge of the pandemic, Extinction Rebellion in the United Kingdom has published a three-page *Guidance on Actions in the time of coronavirus* in advance of the climate protests underway there just this week. The *Guidance* highlights precautions to take on the streets alongside hybrid actions that folks can take from home to amplify the rebellion.

We firmly agree with what Jack heard Daniel Ellsberg say over 40 years ago, as he did again on Hiroshima Day, 2019, when he addressed the demonstrators preparing to block the gates at Livermore Lab. "It has been true for many years. Nuclear weapons must not be made in this country without having to arrest Americans to do it." Francis Boyle's Resistance Reflection, above, affirms that view, making clear that the law-breakers who should be arrested are those making the weapons. Until then, some of the rest of us should be making "good trouble, necessary trouble," as the late John Lewis bade us to do.

where we're at

It's been quite a summer, hasn't it? We're hanging in there and hope you are, too.

July was the hottest month ever recorded here in Tucson – a record that was quickly bumped by an August that is now the hottest month ever to be recorded. Nearby fires, Arizona near the top of the list of U.S. states for COVID-19 cases, a severe drought and mostly absent summer rains... In addition, here in the U.S. there's been a constant stream of political destabilization, a toxic electoral campaign season (even more so than usual), police shootings and other attacks on people of color, economic collapse, emboldened right-wing extremists and more. The wave of activism in response to everything going on, often initiated and organized by youth, has been a source of hope and inspiration.

It was hard to imagine just a year ago that we'd be needing to protest to save the U.S. postal service. We're not sure how quickly mail is moving these days, so we hope the first class stamp ensures swift delivery of this 40th anniversary newsletter to our subscribers!

The first issue of *the Nuclear Resister* was published in October 1980. It carried just one story - that of the Plowshares Eight, the inaugural plowshares action.

We've dedicated pages 4 and 5 to commemorating the Plowshares Eight action, a milestone in the history of the anti-nuclear movement. Thank you to John Schuchardt, Molly Rush and Dean Hammer for their powerful reflections on the action, 40 years later.

As the August 6th and 9th 75th anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki approached, we realized that many commemorations around the world, including civil resistance actions, would not be taking place due to COVID-19.

While a lot of activities remembering these anniversaries moved online, in-person events were still held at places where there are normally people risking arrest on those dates, such as Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, Lockheed Martin in Pennsylvania, the Nevada nuclear test site and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action in Washington state held a blockade at the Bangor Trident nuclear submarine base. Six activists held banners in the

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Thanks

Thanks to Ruth for proofreading assistance. Due to the high number of COVID-19 cases in Arizona, we mailed the last issue ourselves. We'll again miss the conversations with and help from our friends while mailing out this issue. Many thanks to those who have subscribed, renewed their subscription and/or made a donation this summer!

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!

SUBSCRIPTIONS and BULK ORDERS

One-year subscriptions are US\$25 in the United States, US\$30 to Canada, and US\$35 overseas. Payment can only be accepted in US currency or checks drawn on US institutions. All subscriptions are sent via First Class or Airmail.

Please inquire about multiple copies of the current issue for free distribution at conferences, workshops, trainings, etc.

THE NUCLEAR RESISTER ON MICROFILM

The Nuclear Resister is available on microfilm as part of the Alternative Press Collection (1986 - present) and the Alternative Press Center Supplement of the Underground Press Collection (1980 - 1985) offered by the ProQuest Company, 789 E. Eisenhower Pkwy., Ann Arbor, MI 48106 or online at proquest.com.

ABOUT THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

Since 1980, *the Nuclear Resister* has provided comprehensive reporting on arrests for anti-nuclear civil resistance in the United States, with an emphasis on providing support for the women and men jailed for these actions. In 1990, *the Nuclear Resister* also began reporting on anti-war arrests in North America, plus overseas anti-nuclear and anti-war resistance with the same emphasis on prisoner support.


The Nuclear Resister is published about every three months and serves to network this nonviolent resistance movement while acting as a clearinghouse for information about contemporary nonviolent resistance to war and the nuclear threat. We believe that in any significant movement for social change, many committed individuals are imprisoned. Behind bars, they are physically isolated from their supporters and their own resistance activity is limited. Broader awareness of their actions and support for the imprisoned activist are essential to the movement for a peaceful, nuclear-free future.

Each issue provides the names and jail addresses of currently imprisoned anti-nuclear and anti-war activists. Readers are encouraged to provide active support by writing letters to those behind bars and in other ways requested by the prisoners.


Jack and Felice Cohen-Joppa, Editors

iPresente!

Peace, anti-nuclear and environmental activists



Sarah Seeds Willner
February 21, 1950 – July 3, 2020



John X. Linnehan
February 28, 1928 – May 13, 2020



photo via facebook.com/VetsAboutFace
Lance Corporal Ahmed Al-Babati stands vigil in London, August 24, 2020.

British Military Refuser Arrested

An active duty British soldier in uniform was arrested outside the Ministry of Defence in London while engaged in a solo public protest. Yemeni-born Lance Corporal Ahmed Al-Babati recorded himself making this statement for social media that he posted on the morning of August 24:

Yemen is facing the worst humanitarian crisis... due to years of war. This proxy war is led by Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia are responsible for multiple airstrikes, killing innocents, targeting hospitals and breaking international law. Saudi Arabia are also responsible for blocking aid from going into the country.

This has left 80% of the population in need of emergency aid. That's 24 million people in need of emergency aid. Yet our government continues to arm and support Saudi Arabia. We tried to make our voices heard by protesting in London, Manchester, Liverpool and many other cities. We've even tried to email our MPs, but clearly our words mean nothing to Boris Johnson.

And it's clear this government has blood on their hands, so with that being said I refuse to continue my military service until the arms trade with Saudi Arabia has been put to an end. It is reported that a child dies every 10 minutes in Yemen, so I'll be standing outside 10 Downing Street blowing a whistle every 10 minutes so that they can hear every time a child dies due to a war they continue to arm and support.

I joined the army in 2017 and took an oath to protect and serve this country, not to be part of a corrupt government that continues to arm and support terrorism. What made this decision so easy for me and why I choose to sacrifice a lot of things including possibly my freedom is for the simple fact that me myself, as somebody that was born in Yemen, I could have easily fell victim to one of those air strikes or died out of hunger. I've seen enough not to speak out and I'd rather sleep peacefully in a cell than stay silent for a paycheck.

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2012 NATO SUMMIT PROTESTER NEARS RELEASE

Jared Chase will complete his prison sentence and be released on November 6. At press time, the Illinois Department of Corrections reports that thirteen staff and four prisoners at the Dixon Correctional Center, where Chase is held, have tested positive for COVID-19.

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 city hosted the 2012 NATO summit. The three were entrapped in a plot fomented by the clandestine cops to construct crude Molotov cocktails. Originally facing eleven felony counts under the Illinois equivalent of the U.S.A. Patriot Act, the three were acquitted at trial of all terrorism related charges, but convicted of possession of incendiary devices.

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



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

DR. DHAFIR IS HOME!

On the morning of May 15, Dr. Rafil Dhafir was released to home confinement from the Allenwood federal prison in central Pennsylvania. The Iraqi-American physician who has worked internationally with Doctors Without Borders has been in federal custody since the day of his arrest more than 17 years ago in 2003, on the eve of the second U.S. invasion of Iraq. He was not due to be paroled from his 22-year sentence until November, 2021. Dhafir is now completing that term at his home near Syracuse, New York. In a telephone call to the Nuclear Resister a few days later, he thanked the Prophet Allah and everyone who had supported his case and cause through the years.

The prosecution of Dr. Dhafir and his continuing punishment while in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons stand as a shameful monument to a particularly cynical and legalistic abuse of the civil and human rights of Muslims in the United States during the so-called War on Terror.

Since the events of September 11, 2001, the U.S. government has raided and closed down six major Muslim charities and many smaller ones, accusing each of funding terrorism. In every case, alleged "guilt by association" meant that the charities' assets were frozen and their principals arrested. Yet despite new investigative powers and surveillance technologies, prosecutors failed to produce any evidence of actual terrorist financing by these Muslim charities.

Dr. Dhafir, a leader in the Islamic community of upstate New York, was the founder of one of these charities, Help The Needy (HTN). For 13 years he worked tirelessly to help publicize the plight of the Iraqi people and to raise funds to help them, contributing significantly himself over the years. As an oncologist, he was also concerned and spoke out about the effects of depleted uranium ammunition on the Iraqi population, which was already experiencing skyrocketing cancer rates.

In October, 2005, Dhafir was sentenced to 22 years in prison. When he refused a plea deal on the original charges of violating sanctions on Iraq, Dhafir was additionally charged with dozens of counts of medicare fraud, based on the government's interpretation of multiple individual disputed billings for cancer therapy in his office. The government even acknowledged he gave much more charity than they accused him of fraudulently receiving from the government.

A series of post-conviction appeals and motions for reduction of sentence were all denied. Co-defendant Ayman Jarwan was sentenced to 18 months and deported to his native Jordan upon his release in December, 2006.

That same month, Rafil Dhafir was among the first group of 16 men, including 14 Muslims, to be moved into the now-notorious Communications Management Unit (CMU) in the old federal death row at the Terre Haute, Indiana prison. Prisoners in the CMU had all of their communication with the outside world monitored. All correspondence and phone calls had to be in English and, for some time, letters were all routed through Washington,

D.C. for review. Visits were non-contact and monitored live and, in 2008, an FBI agent was even introduced into the unit to mingle and surveil from within during the day.

Dhafir was held there for over five years, during which time his health continued to deteriorate. He was moved to the Devens Federal Medical Center for prisoners in Massachusetts in 2012.

Twice while held at Devens, Dhafir was placed in solitary confinement for investigation of unspecified rule violations, only to be released weeks later with no hearing and no charges. A few weeks after the second incident, in January, 2019, Dhafir was abruptly moved out of Devens and straight into the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn. At that time, MDC Brooklyn was in the midst of a complete power outage during record freezing that lasted for days. Prisoners, including Dhafir, were subjected to lockdown in total darkness and frigid indoor temperatures without added blankets. Two weeks later, he was moved on to the federal prison at Allenwood, from where he has now been released.

In a rare interview given shortly before being sentenced in 2005, Dhafir deflected inquiries about his own feelings.

Why are we still staying away from the real issue? The real issue is the thousands and thousands of people who died in Iraq... The children in Iraq: That's what you and I should be talking about. That's what you and I should be weeping about... My anger, if there is any, is for those Iraqi children and those cancer patients who did not need to suffer.

Thanks to Bob Elmendorf, secretary of the Dr. Dhafir Defense Committee, for his contribution to this report.

Peltier Podcast

A new podcast, *LEONARD: Political Prisoner*, tells Leonard Peltier's story in weekly episodes available on most podcast platforms.

Although initially denied release to home confinement, an April 24 letter to the Bureau of Prisons from U.S. Representatives Deb Haaland and Raúl Grijalva has renewed this request for the wrongfully convicted 75-year-old Native American activist.

For more information, visit whoisleonardpeltier.info.



Leonard Peltier has a solid re-entry plan to return to his home community on the Turtle Mountain reservation in North Dakota. Respectful letters supporting 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.

Inside & Out



ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS

Song Kang-ho (Prisoner No. 219)
Jeju Post Office PO Box 161, Jeju City, Jeju Peace Island, Korea 63166.
(Awaiting verdict 9/24 for cutting the fence and entering Jeju Navy Base to pray for peace, 3/7/20)

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)

Rafil Dhafir
(22 years - released to home confinement until 11/24/2021)
(Convictions resulting from providing humanitarian and financial aid to Iraqis in violation of U.S. sanctions, 2/05)

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)

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)

We’re vulnerable, but so are the warheads

by Molly Rush

I have admired Dan and Phil Berrigan since they burned draft records. I did visit Jonah House and met Liz McAlister and their young children.

I learned about a planned protest at General Electric (G.E.) from John Schuchardt and I expressed interest, so he drove me to the retreat to pray and plan for a nonviolent action to protest G.E.’s production of Mark 12A nuclear warheads.

It was a serious decision because my two youngest sons of our six children were just 12 and 15. But it was the height of the Cold War and we lived under the very real threat of nuclear war. I was very worried if they’d live to grow up.

So in fear for their lives, I was determined to take what steps I could. I became a part of what came to be called the Plowshares Eight.

In the 1970s, I’d been arrested several times with members of the Thomas Merton Center at Rockwell International’s Pittsburgh headquarters in protest of the B-1 bomber.

On one occasion, sixteen of us entered the reception room just before closing time. We refused to leave and we all stayed the night and then were arrested.

My husband Bill was very much opposed to my involvement in the G.E. action. Three of my brothers came to the door at midnight to try to convince me to change my mind. But seeing my determination, James said, “Molly, why don’t you put up a cross in the front yard and hang yourself on it!”

“But James, what would the neighbors say?” They gave up and left.

After I left home, I don’t know how he learned of the plan, but James called the FBI and told them the details. He wanted them to stop us. After I returned home he took me out for coffee and, looking guilty, he told me of how upset he was that they failed to do so. “Oh, James, I understand.”

On September 9, 1980, we drove to G.E. in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. The question was how to get inside. It was very early morning before the workers arrived.

So we just walked in. The security guard behind the desk reached for the phone, but Fr. Carl Kabat and Sr. Anne Montgomery put their hands over it. We walked right past them and entered the nondestructive test area.

On tables sat the unarmed warheads. They were not much larger than highway cones. Some were very thin, gold colored with tiny spiraling grooves. The others were covered with a dark coating material to protect them from the atmosphere as they raced to their targets.

We had small hammers. I banged my small household hammer on one of the warheads and made a small hole in it. A tiny piece hit me under my chin. I was able to put dents in the other one.

I thought, they’re not really invulnerable. They’re really not. We’re vulnerable, but so are they. And that means that human beings have made these, and human beings can unmake them.

The others hammered away, then poured baby bottles of blood on them. We then circled and prayed and waited to be arrested.

The jail was so tiny that all eight of us were put in one cell. We were filled with joy.

We were taken to the Berks County Jail. We were charged with thirteen offenses, including burglary, criminal trespass and criminal conspiracy.

Over the next two and a half months I was moved to four more county jails. Poor Bill had to drive all over the state to visit me.

Our bail had been set at \$125,000. Just before Thanksgiving, the Sisters of St. Joseph had each posted \$5,000 and I was reunited with my family.

On February 23, 1981, we went on trial before Judge Samuel Salus. We were prepared to argue that we acted to prevent the commission of crimes. And we were justified by Pennsylvania statute, international law and natural law. The Judge said he was not interested in international law.

In defense we planned to call expert witnesses, including Daniel Ellsberg, Dr. Helen Caldicott, Nobel Prize-winning George Wald, psychiatrist Robert J. Lifton, International Law Attorney Richard Falk and Robert Aldridge, who left his job at Lockheed when he realized he was designing not a deterrent but First Strike weapons. Two Catholic Bishops also offered to testify on our behalf.

The Judge refused to allow any of them to testify.

Our attorneys were wonderful, including former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who stated that Pennsylvania statutes allowed for a justification defense.

But arguments were in vain. The Judge denied the testimonies. He had already made up his mind.

It took ten years of Appeals but finally the Pennsylvania Supreme Court sent the case to the Superior Court for re-sentencing. The Judge’s decision was “time served.”

The entire experience was a real blessing. Bill became my biggest supporter. He even made a t-shirt: “If you’ve seen one nuclear war, you’ve seen them all.”

[Mother, grandmother and great-grandmother Molly Rush is retired as Director of the Thomas Merton Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which was founded in 1972 with a mission to work for peace and justice. She can be contacted at molly.rush@verizon.net.]

40th Anniversary o



The Plowshares Eight (l-r): Fr. Carl Kabat, Elmer Maas, Philip Berrigan, Molly Rush, Fr. Daniel Berrigan, Sr. Anne Montgomery, John Schuchardt, Dean Hammer.

DAN, ELMER, PHIL, ANNE – ¡PRESENTE!

My Letter of Love and Gratitude

by John Schuchardt

Dear Jack, dear Felice....

Your Chronicle of Hope has been a lifeline of Spirit for all the years since your first mimeographed edition, mailed at personal expense, to announce the Good News of September 9, 1980, “good news to the poor, liberty to the captives, freedom for the oppressed, Jubilee justice this day and every day into eternity.”

You have nourished and been our Book of Acts for our beloved community of conscience which has over and again brought light from “the brilliant light burning in the human heart” into the darkest of places.

Dear readers/friends of 40 years, you who have written with your lives the Nuclear Resister, our astonishing Chronicle of Hope, you who have enfolded hope and incarnated the Word, I am sending you this, my letter of love and gratitude, to each of you.

Our 40 years in the wilderness is marked by the astonishing span of Phil Berrigan’s lighting a new fire of morality at Catonsville in 1968 and King of Prussia in 1980 and the sacrifice of Liz McAlister and the Kings Bay Plowshares being silenced and sentenced in 2020 for the simple truth: “The logic of Trident is Omnicide.”

Hibakusha Setsuko Thurlow, 13 years old in Hiroshima, was silenced during our 1983 trial of the Avco Plowshares, yet another Plowshares judge making mockery of the law. How miraculous then that her words would ring around the world in 2017 as she accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of ICAN: “Nuclear weapons do not signify a nation’s elevation to greatness, but rather the descent to the deepest darkest depths of human depravity.”

“In the end everything depends upon our human relationships.” (Merton) When I think of the Plowshares Eight, when I read stories from the Chronicle of Hope, I think of friends made, of trust built, of the movements of the Holy Spirit, the divine feminine, just as gentle woman Sr. Anne taught us in 1980: “Wisdom moves more easily than motion itself....she rises from the power of God, a pure effluence from the glory of the Almighty....everlasting light, the flawless mirror of the active power of God and image of his goodness...age after age she enters into holy souls and makes them God’s friends and prophets.” (Wisdom 7.24-30)

When I am asked to tell the story of the Plowshares Eight, I tell the story of the invisible, ineffable movement of the holy spirit, moving us, yes, but moving innumerable, indispensable others, known and unknown: Bob Smith and Beth Centz and Brandywine; the conversion of Lockheed engineer Bob Aldridge warning us of first strike policy; the conversion of Bill Whistler, witness to a Pacific test, career employee of G.E. who gave

us a map of Plant #9; the Bauerlein family (Charlie voted for Reagan) feeding and giving us sanctuary during trial; Agnes survivor of Nazi occupation and U.S. bombing that slaughtered her beloved brother and sister in Holland, giving her self as human shield in Iraq, and, and,.... Innumerable others, known and unknown, moved by the holy spirit.

Dear Jack, dear Felice, dear friends reading these words, illuminating hope with your lives, you are and have been the greatest blessing for my life, you have followed the Way, the Truth, the Life.

I am certain that for each of you what has been at the heart of your memories of these community building years has been the “patient listening, fidelity, self-control, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness,” the soul forces, fruits of the Spirit, made real through life-sharing, selflessness, prayer, scripture study.

I was led to the peace movement though a spiritual quest, seeking repentance. I found individuals living lives guided by conscience. We all recognize that the name of our “crime” is responsibility, as Dan said at trial. “We have some responsibility. To not take it, to resign ourselves to our fate and march to global suicide without resistance is moral, spiritual death.” (Merton)

O yes, together we carry in the core of our very being dearest friends such as humble, humorous, scholar, musician, playwright Elmer Maas. We carry in our souls Carl Kabat and his long suffering 18 years as prisoner for Christ, filling uncounted courtrooms with his resonant voice, “Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice... rejoice... rejoice!”

“Consequences, truth and,” as Dan put it. The depravity of Hiroshima and Nagasaki created a world epidemic of fear, terror really, bomb shelters and McCarthyism, embodied in legislation granting absolute power to the Executive under a “state of emergency.” (Mass. Ch. 639, Acts of 1950). On March 15, 2020 the State of Emergency was declared: the Bomb fell on America.

In my anxious dreams I can hear Agnes in the Avco courtroom: “Isn’t anybody asking any questions?”

Yet it is still true: There is something in the human spirit that will survive and prevail. There is a tiny and brilliant light burning in the human heart that will not go out no matter how dark the world becomes.

(*pure coincidence that September 9 is Tolstoy’s birthday)

[John and his wife Carrie founded the House of Peace, Ipswich, Massachusetts in 1990 to provide sanctuary and medical care for victims of war, living in community with adults with special needs. A member of Veterans for Peace, John resigned his Marine Corps commission in 1965 when the first marines landed at Da Nang.]

f the Plowshares Eight

In the four decades since the Plowshares Eight took their historic action, there have been about 100 more such direct disarmament actions around the world. Plowshares actions are characterized by the use of hammers and other tools to start dismantling weapons, pouring blood as a symbol of the blood shed if they ever used, and hanging banners as they take personal responsibility for the necessary work of nuclear disarmament. They are inspired by the prophet Isaiah:

They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Filled with Gratitude for the Plowshares Conspiracy of Hope

by Dean Hammer

“It will take a long time before we really understand what we did at GE King of Prussia.” Phil Berrigan shared this reflection with me during a jail yard walk shortly after the Plowshares 8 action. This is one of the many gems from this treasured teacher and friend. When we did the Plowshares 8 action, we had no idea that over a hundred plowshares actions in the U.S., Europe, and Australia would follow ours. Indeed, this is amazing grace.

I share the following reflections with deep thanks for Phil’s leadership with Liz McAlister, the Atlantic Life Community, and the global network that evolved the past forty years. This resistance community provided immeasurable passion and skill to create, sustain, and expand the Plowshares movement. The gracious, wise, and stalwart spirits of Daniel Berrigan, Anne Montgomery, and Elmer Maas continue to inspire us in their heavenly witness — I feel buoyed by their vital presence in my life. The persistent lived commitment to peace and justice by Molly Rush, John Schuchardt, and Carl Kabat is a great blessing, bearing light in dark times.

As I ponder the meaning of the Plowshares in the context of the COVID Pandemic and the rising outcry for racial and economic justice, Martin Luther King’s teaching on the triplet evils (militarism, racism, and economic oppression) keeps coming to mind. The Plowshares witness especially challenges the militarism dimension: 1) renouncing our allegiance to the justification of mass killing with nuclear weapons; 2) taking responsibility for the threat of omnicide by disarming nuclear weapons as an act of service; and 3) exposing the complicity of the judicial system that protects the production, deployment, and intent to use nuclear weapons. The eight of us entered a conspiracy of hope — claiming with our lives: “The world is made safer and more just every time a nuclear weapon is disarmed. We cannot coexist with nuclear weapons.”

I have been hearing the echoes of Phil’s voice: “truth converges,” a central Gandhian principle. Derek Chauvin’s knee on the neck of George Floyd is now a horrific image of systematic violence and racism. This is also iconic for the *Superpowers Syndrome* (Lifton, 2003) and the terror of nuclear annihilation. The human family cannot breathe with nuclear weapons on our neck, and we scream out for relief. Nuclear war will be the final pandemic. There will not be any social distancing in the event of nuclear winter.

The Plowshares 8 witness remains a beacon of hope in a world defiled by nuclear weapons. The forty years of Plowshares actions serve as a countervailing force to the psychological and spiritual entrapment created by nuclear weapons. The very existence of WMD’s (weapons of mass destruction) wounds the collective imagination and renders a radical futurelessness [highlighted by Lifton in *Indefensible Weapons*]. This collective trauma deprives the present of its full meaning and joy. The succession of disarmament actions challenges the social madness of nuclear weapons and helps to heal the moral imagination. Yes, these monstrous objects can be disarmed one hammer blow at a time.

The pending sentencing for the Kings Bay Plowshares and Steve Kelly’s continued jail witness since April 5, 2018 create a gravity point for the writing of this reflection. I give deep thanks for the ways the Plowshares communities of the past forty years have poured out their lives on our behalf and for keeping the light of this conspiracy of hope burning brightly.

[Dean Hammer lives in Vermont where he works as a peace and justice activist and a psychotherapist. He can be contacted at: dhammer.psyd@gmail.com.]

Impressions from the Prophets or G.E. Re-entered

Voices, like footsteps that come and go
and, beyond,
the echo of the morning star, robed in darkness:
“This is the way; walk in it -
Turn not to right nor to left.”

The sword is drawn
(or is it a missile?)
arrowed from a bow bent
to bring down the oppressed and the poor.

But you, Lord, set our feet on the way,
in the dawn of your coming,
a judgment as certain
as the light of day.

Unclean the idols,
metal-plated, gold-bright images of death
triple-horned blasphemies,
no breath of life in them,
Woe to those who say, “Awake,”
to dumbshapes, “Arise,”
for their own words shall destroy them,
their own counsels devour them,
because of the violence done to the land,
to the cities and to all who dwell in them.
Of what avail is the molten image and lying oracle
that its very maker should trust in it?
But the Lord is in his holy temple;
silence before him, all the earth!

His word comes forth
like the ringing of bells,
the sounding of gongs,
hammer on anvil
swords into plowshares,
stony hearts melted
to flesh
turned like the sod of a fresh-furrowed earth
to breathe new life.

The warm circuit of hand clasping hand,
life-blood shared
like that spattered in this metallic temple
this place of human sacrifice
shattered -

But our circle -
a world made one
a song in unison:
“Forgive us, as we turn, sisters and brothers;
Thy will be done
on this earth
your earth,
our earth,

Around us faces white as the dried bones
of the already dead
(Will the Spirit breathe in them?)

They say to us: “Have no visions.
Do not cry out for us
what is right;
speak flatteries to us, conjure up illusions.
Out of the way! Out of our path!
Let us hear no more
of the Holy One of Israel.”

But he who is God and not man
the Holy One present,
will not let the flames consume us.

In waiting and calm shall we now be;
in quiet and trust lies our strength;
our way committed to the Lord,
our trust in his action.
He will make justice dawn like the light,
bright as the noonday sun the vindication
of the little ones
who possess the earth.

Sr. Anne Montgomery
September 20, 1980

Philip Berrigan, from *Fighting the Lamb’s War:*

The Plowshare movement began, and it must continue, because the government has no intention of disarming its nuclear arsenal. Atomic weapons protect the rich and powerful. That’s why they were designed, built, tested, and deployed. That’s why the establishment is willing to threaten other countries, and our own people, with atomic annihilation.

...and before he died in December, 2002:

I die with the conviction, held since 1968 and Catonsville, that nuclear weapons are the scourge of the earth; to mine for them, manufacture them, deploy them, use them, is a curse against God, the human family, and the earth itself.

Fr. Daniel Berrigan, from reflections on the Plowshares 8:

... We knew these hideous cones (“shrouds” is the GE word) were concocted in a certain building of the General Electric complex. The building is huge: we had no idea exactly where the cones could be found.

Of one thing we were sure. If we were to reach the highly classified area of shipping and delivery and were to do there what we purposed, Someone must intervene, give us a lead.

After our deed, a clamor arose among the FBI and state and county and GE (and God knows what other) police who swarmed into the building. “Did they have inside information? Was there a leak?” Our answer: Of course we had Inside Information, of course there had been a Leak. Our Informant is otherwise known in the New Testament as Advocate, Friend, Spirit. We had been at prayer for days.

And the deed was done. We eight looked at one another, exhausted, bedazzled with the ease of it all. We had been led in about two minutes, and with no interference to speak of, to the heart of the labyrinth...

I must inject here a message from the jails of Pennsylvania. If the eight have insisted on anything, it is that their trial and imprisonment are not the issue at stake. Pity for them gains nothing. Neither does fear for them or for their children and spouses. The eight go their way, a way meticulously chosen and after much prayer. But the issues they raise will continue to shadow their lives and vex their hearts. It is the corporate crimes of General Electric, the race toward oblivion that this monstrous entity both fuels and illustrates...

From our statement: “In confronting GE, we choose to obey God’s law of life, rather than a corporate summons to death. Our beating of swords into plowshares is a way to enflsh this biblical call. In our action, we draw on a deep-rooted faith in Christ, who changed the course of history through his willingness to suffer rather than to kill. We are filled with hope for our world and for our children as we join this act of resistance.”

*You can read Berrigan’s entire reflection at
bit.ly/DanBerriganP8*

Fr. Carl Kabat, after the 1984 Silo Pruning Hooks action:

Our country’s carpet bombing of Dresden and the nuclear destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have prepared us to accept the preparation for mass murder done in our name. Like the German people who accepted the legality of the holocaust, we by our lack of continuous clear public actions accept the possibility of the final idolatry.

I am celebrating my silver anniversary of the priesthood by beginning the disarmament of one missile silo; I invite you to do the same with the other 1,048. ‘Choose life that you and your children may live’ by breaking the laws that protect the nuclear idols of our time.

Elmer Maas, speaking at Juniata College in 2005:

On a bright, sunny morning in September of 1980, we drove in a couple of cars to the General Electric plant in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, and drove around to the back of the plant. We walked inside and opened up cases that would carry destructive power thirty times the power of the bomb that was dropped in Hiroshima, Japan in 1945. Standing in front of these nosecones that we pulled out of the cases, we held up our hammers and baby bottles filled with human blood, a symbol of the life that had been shed because of these weapons. And we destroyed those two nosecones. We hammered on them until they were incapable of being used by anybody to kill...



Resisters of U.S. Nukes Convicted in Germany

During two trials in May and June, six people were convicted of trespass and damage to property for their part in a July 15, 2018 protest at the Büchel air base in west-central Germany. Büchel is where the United States Air Force deploys 20 hydrogen bombs and where German pilots train to use them in possible attacks against Russia.

The six were among 18 nuclear resisters – seven from the U.S., six from Germany, four from The Netherlands, and one from England – who gained entry to the base in five groups and in broad daylight after cutting five separate holes through its perimeter fence. Three others among the 18 were convicted of similar charges in January.

On May 11, 78-year-old Dennis DuVall, a long-time member of Veterans for Peace from Arizona now living in Dresden, Germany, became the first U.S. citizen to be prosecuted in Germany for civil resistance against the threatened use of the U.S. nuclear weapons. (Plowshares Eight resister Fr. Carl Kabat was thrown out of Germany after a disarmament action against U.S. Pershing missiles deployed there in the 1980s.)

There have been repeated arrests and detentions of U.S. citizens during annual protests at the Büchel base since 2017, but no charges have been brought to trial until now.

DuVall and codefendants Susan van der Hijden, 51, from Amsterdam’s Catholic Worker House, and Christiane Danowski, 50, a founder of the Hamburg Catholic Worker now living in Dortmund, Germany, were found guilty by Cochem District Court Judge Andre Zimmermann.

The defendants each addressed the court to acknowledge their acts but denied they were illegal. They instead condemned the lawlessness of U.S. nuclear weapons deployed at Büchel. Danowski cited not only the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty but also the Two Plus Four Treaty of 1990 that committed the newly reunited Germany to renounce the manufacture, possession of and control over nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. Danowski told the court about the 2019 journey she and van der Hijden took to the United States, and their arrest during a peaceful protest at the Kansas City nuclear weapons factory that makes parts for the next generation of U.S. nuclear weapons to be deployed in Germany.

DuVall spoke of moving to Nuremberg, Germany two years ago. He knew the city as the namesake for the Nuremberg Principles that established the precedent of individual responsibility for war crimes such as the “incomprehensible horror” of the Nazis’ mass murder.

Exposing another war crime is the reason I am standing in this courtroom here today. Today the unimaginable horror is the threat of nuclear war. American thermonuclear hydrogen bombs in Europe are designed to be used in a nuclear war and NATO is using these weapons now to threaten nuclear war. Planning and preparing for this war to happen is the primary reason for the nuclear-armed NATO military alliance and is the only reason for the United States to position nuclear weapons in Europe. Nuclear bombs were deployed to Büchel shortly after Germany joined NATO in 1955. Each B61 hydrogen bomb stationed at Büchel is two to eight times as destructive as the atomic bomb that incinerated the city of Hiroshima. In his book, *The Doomsday Machine*, Daniel Ellsberg revealed that 200 million people in Europe would die in a nuclear war between Russia and the United States. Where is the judgement of Nuremberg now that thermonuclear weapons threaten to kill hundreds of millions of people? Why is nuclear war above the law? Why is it that the defense of necessity and the testimony of experts in international law are verboten in the trials of anti-nuclear activists? Even when nuclear abolitionists accept personal responsibility for preventing nuclear holocaust,

MILITARY REFUSER, CONT.

continued from page 3

Soldiers! You are not robots, we were born to care and love for one another, regardless of how different we are. No one is born to hate, but greed and selfishness have poisoned our hearts.

I ask that you prioritize peace over war, unity over money, and justice over patriotism. We all have some sort of part to play to make this change happen. You are just as accountable as those who cause corruption if you chose to stay silent.

For more than nine hours that day he stood on the sidewalk next to hand-lettered signs reading “I refuse to continue my military service until the deal with Saudi comes to an end,” and “Every 10 minutes child dies in Yemen due to war – 1 whistle = 1 dead child”.

After 57 whistle blasts, two military police were recorded approaching the young man, having a brief conversation, then escorting him into custody. He was released from custody and returned to his unit a few hours later, facing an uncertain future as a soldier.

why are we denied international and humanitarian law to defend ourselves? While weapons of mass murder have found their way into the arsenals of nine nations, international law has not found its way into the courtroom. Yet, the threat of nuclear war is hundreds of times more horrendous than the Holocaust, not only in counting human lives, but because the uncontrollable and indiscriminate heat, blast and radiation from hydrogen bombs is a nuclear nightmare that threatens omnicide, the destruction of all life on our planet. The judiciary must wake up and allow international law into the courtroom.

That didn’t happen and, after announcing the verdicts, Judge Zimmermann sentenced all three to fines equivalent to 30 times their daily income, ranging from €150 to €900 plus court costs.

Three more resisters, Marion Küpker of Hamburg, Stefanie Augustin of Dortmund and Margriet Bos from Amsterdam, were convicted by the same judge on June 10.

In 1997, Küpker co-founded the group Nonviolent Action to Abolish Nuclear Weapons that began a campaign of public education and civil disobedience at Büchel to get U.S. nukes out of Germany. The group hosts an annual action camp outside the air base, attended by thousands including the international abolitionists on trial.

She read a detailed statement into the record, chronicling her education about the issue, her anti-nuclear activism and the legality of their actions at Büchel. Citing research about 6-11 million excess deaths due to the fallout from over 500 above-ground nuclear weapons tests, and adding “the 1,550 underground nuclear tests, the worldwide production of radioactive waste, and all steps in the production of nuclear weapons, from uranium mining, to uranium enrichment, and uranium weapons, to the atomic bomb,” Küpker concluded, “it becomes apparent that even in the absence of nuclear war, these are weapons of mass destruction of unimaginable proportions.”



photo by John Michael LaForge

On July 16, 2020, the 75th anniversary of the first nuclear weapon test in New Mexico, Marion Küpker gets carried away for blocking the main gate into Büchel air base in Germany, where U.S. nuclear warheads are stockpiled.

Margriet Bos told the court that, “The oceans of money invested in the development, manufacture, and maintenance of nuclear weapons are taken from things that benefit us as human beings. How much easier would the road to sustainable, nonviolent peace be if we harnessed these resources for diplomacy, the cultivation of connection and peace, education in nonviolent communication, and a fairer distribution of the good we get from this earth?”

Küpker, Augustin and Bos were also convicted and ordered to pay fines of “30 daily wages,” ranging between €300 and €1,200. Refusing to pay could see the defendants jailed for up to 30 days.

Six days after the trial, on the July 16 anniversary of the first nuclear weapons test in New Mexico, 14 activists from the United States, Germany and The Netherlands blocked the main access to the Büchel air base for 90 minutes before police carried them off the road. No one

Dr. Song still in Jeju Prison

Dr. Song Kang-ho remains in jail as trial proceedings plod along on Jeju Island, South Korea. He was jailed in March after entering the navy base with Ryu Bok-hee, where they went to pray at the remnants of sacred Gureombi Rock, blasted and buried by construction of the base beginning eight years earlier. Ryu was released a few weeks after the action.

For a hearing in May, Song and Ryu returned to Gureombi Rock with the judge and lawyers for both sides to examine the scene of the crime. In July, a villager evicted from her farm to make way for the base testified about the centrality of Gureombi to the residents’ lives. On August 27, testimony from lawyers detailed the deceptive bureaucratic maneuvers that imposed the only military port on The Peace Island, and firmly placed the civil disobedience actions of Song and Ryu in the context of Korea’s historic April 5, 1948 Jeju and May, 1980 Gwangju uprisings. Both activists gave moving testimony of their aspirations for the restoration of Gureombi and establishment of institutions committed to a world without war.

Prosecutors asked for prison terms of three years for Dr. Song, two years for Ryu, and 18 months plus probation for Choi Su-in and Yoon Hae-sung, now also indicted as abettors to the prayer action. A decision is due on September 24. 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. A letter from Dr. Song imagining how to liberate Gureombi Rock is excerpted on page 7, the Inside Line.

was charged and they were given a verbal order to stay away from the gate for 48 hours. They vigiled there anyway the next day without incident.

DuVall Appeals

DuVall appealed his conviction to the Koblenz Justice Court, where he was heard on August 4. He told the jurists:

In two days will be 75 years since the United States exploded an atomic bomb over Hiroshima, Japan. Most of us in this courtroom are here today because nuclear weapons still threaten the world with unimaginable death and destruction ... To prevent any future Hiroshimas, and as a United States citizen, I appeal to this court to exercise judicial courage to remove 20 American B61 thermonuclear bombs from Büchel air base.

DuVall’s appeal was denied and the sentence upheld. He told this court as well that he simply won’t pay, expecting to be jailed “20 days for 20 bombs” at Büchel. But first, he will appeal the conviction to the Constitutional Court.

Second U.S. Resister Charged, Third Implicated


Nukewatch organizer John LaForge, who recruited resisters to travel from the U.S. to join the protest camp at Büchel from 2017–2019 and was repeatedly arrested inside the base, attended both trials. The day after the trial in May, LaForge was questioned by police as he waited in his car outside the U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt, where he had an appointment. After running his details through their system, police found and presented LaForge with a May, 2019 Penalty Order of €1,500 for two go-in actions at Büchel in 2018. Police called the same Cochem judge who’d convicted the others the day before, and he agreed LaForge could be relied upon to appear without posting bond for his release. No court date was given, and LaForge was served an identical set of charges when he attended the trial in Cochem in June. Subsequently, he returned to the United States without incident.

The Penalty Order states, “On 08-06-2018 you committed a similar act together with Susan Crane, who is subject to separate prosecution...” Crane, a Catholic Worker from Redwood City, California, who joined the protests at Büchel for all three summers, was never notified of these charges despite being arrested again in the summer of 2019.

Of particular note is that for the first time during this campaign a court document implicitly confirms the deployment of nuclear weapons at Büchel, a fact that public authorities always deny. It refers to the “annual rally and protests against nuclear weapons at the NATO air base in Büchel.” The NATO designation is also a first, mistakenly implying that it is not a German base while candidly acknowledging NATO influence over Germany’s Ministry of Defense.

For more information, contact John LaForge at nukewatch1@lakeland.ws.

THE
INSIDE
LINE



WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from Jeju Prison

by Dr. Song Kang-ho
May 27, 2020

Jeju Navy Base should be shut down... The unlawfulness and corruption during the construction process can hardly be told enough. The existence of the navy base itself denies and damages the value of our constitution... The way to restore Gureombi Rock is not so difficult. The west of the navy base is a military training ground. With only the removal of dirt, Gureombi Rock can be revealed. With smashing and removal of the dock, great parts of Gureombi Rock would be restored... Let's occupy and take the navy base. Let's return it back to the citizens, the original owners. The Kim Young-Kwan Center (Civilian-Military Complex Center) will be Gangjeong Village Peace Center. The military residence will be a dormitory for Peace University. The military court will be a global civic peace court. The military medical corps would be a village medical center. The troop headquarters would be a Peace Convention Center. The troop barracks would be Peace University classrooms... Let's remove all the wire fences of the navy base, tear down its stone walls, break its iron gates. And let's make anyone be able to freely walk in and out of Gureombi. With the smashing of the whole military port, most parts of Gureombi will be restored.

[Song Kang-ho awaits a verdict following his trial for entering the navy base to pray on Gureombi Rock last March.]

Resistance Reflections, cont.

continued from page 2

that they have daily inflicted upon all states and peoples of the international community. Here I wish to single out four components of the threat to use nuclear weapons that are especially reprehensible from an international law perspective: counter-ethnic targeting; counter-city targeting; first-strike weapons and contingency plans; and the first-use of nuclear weapons even to repel a conventional attack.

THE CRIMINALITY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND NUCLEAR DETERRENCE

As can be determined in part from the preceding analysis, today's nuclear weapons establishments as well as the entire system of nuclear deterrence/terrorism currently practiced by all the nuclear weapon states are criminal — not simply illegal, not simply immoral, but criminal under well established principles of international law. This simple idea of the criminality of nuclear weapons can be utilized to pierce through the ideology of nuclearism to which many citizens in the nuclear weapons states have succumbed. It is with this simple idea of the criminality of nuclear weapons that concerned citizens can proceed to comprehend the inherent illegitimacy and fundamental lawlessness of the policies that their governments pursue in their names with respect to the maintenance and further development of nuclear weapons systems.

THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY OF NUCLEAR DETERRENCE/TERRORISM

Humankind must abolish nuclear weapons before nuclear weapons abolish humankind. Nonetheless, a small number of governments in the world community continue to maintain nuclear weapons systems despite the rules of international criminal law to the contrary. This has led some international lawyers to argue quite tautologically and disingenuously that since there exist a few nuclear weapons states in the world community, therefore nuclear weapons must somehow not be criminal because otherwise these few states would not possess nuclear weapons systems. In other words, to use lawyers' parlance, this minority state practice of nuclear deterrence/terrorism practiced by the great powers somehow negates the existence of a world *opinio juris* (i.e., sense of legal obligation) as to the criminality of nuclear weapons.

EMBASSY PROTECTORS PLEAD “GUILTY TO OBSTRUCTING IMPERIALISM”

by Anya Parampil, The Grayzone

On the morning of June 3, four U.S. citizens from the Venezuelan Embassy Protection Collective (EPC) who engaged in a two-week-long standoff with right-wing Venezuelan exile hooligans and members of Juan Guaidó's coup administration entered a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

The Chief Judge for the U.S. District Court District of Columbia, Beryl Howell, sentenced David Paul, Margaret Flowers, Kevin Zeese, and Adrienne Pine to six months of probation and fines totaling \$750 each. Additionally, Judge Howell ordered the four defendants to stay away from the building which formally served as Venezuela's embassy in Washington, D.C., threatening them with 30 day jail terms if they failed to meet the conditions of their probation.

Before sentencing the defendants, Judge Howell delivered an unhinged law-and-order tirade, personally denigrating each of them and declaring her intention to make an example of them in order to prevent future protest actions which challenged U.S. government policy.

The prosecution of the EPC final four resulted in a mistrial in February of this year, when the jurors were

where we're at, cont.

continued from page 2

road, and traffic was stopped until police escorted them off without issuing any citations. There have also been other blockades and actions this summer which have not resulted in arrests, such as at Büchel air force base. (The Nuclear Resister's policy is to report on actions resulting in arrests, so we haven't included these stories.)

COVID-19 has affected many things, and nonviolent direct action is one of them. For one thing, there is the added risk to consider of spending time behind bars with too many jails and prisons reporting a high number of cases of the coronavirus.

So for now, except for some upcoming court hearings (including the sentencing of some of the Kings Bay Plowshares), the resistance actions we chronicle are pretty much on hold.

There is a very simple response to that specious argument: Since when has a small gang of criminals — in this case, the nuclear weapons states — been able to determine what is legal or illegal for the rest of the community by means of their own criminal behavior? What right do these nuclear weapons states have to argue that by means of their own criminal behavior they have ipso facto made criminal acts legitimate? No civilized nation state would permit a small gang of criminal conspirators to pervert its domestic legal order in this manner. Moreover, both the Nuremberg Tribunal and the Tokyo Tribunal made it quite clear that a conspiratorial band of criminal states likewise has no right to opt out of the international legal order by means of invoking their own criminal behavior as the least common denominator of international deportment. *Ex injuria jus non oritur* is a peremptory norm of customary international law. Right cannot grow out of injustice!

To the contrary, the entire human race has been victimized by an international conspiracy of ongoing criminal activity carried out by the nuclear weapons states under the doctrine known as “nuclear deterrence,” which is really a euphemism for “nuclear terrorism.” This international criminal conspiracy of nuclear deterrence/terrorism currently practiced by the nuclear weapons states is no different from any other conspiracy by a criminal gang or band. They are the outlaws. So it is up to the rest of the international community to repress and dissolve this international criminal conspiracy as soon as possible.

THE HUMAN RIGHT TO ANTI-NUCLEAR CIVIL RESISTANCE

In light of the fact that nuclear weapons systems are prohibited, illegal, and criminal under all circumstances and for any reason, every person around the world possesses a basic human right to be free from this criminal practice of nuclear deterrence/terrorism and its concomitant specter of nuclear extinction. Thus, 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 these international crimes. Every citizen of the world community has both the right and the duty to oppose the existence of nuclear weapons systems by whatever nonviolent means are at his or her disposal. Otherwise, the human race will suffer the same fate as the dinosaurs, and the planet earth will become a radioactive wasteland. The time for preventive action is now!

unable to reach a verdict. The U.S. government then offered to drop the charges in order to avoid a re-trial. Under the negotiated deal, all four defendants pleaded guilty to a low-level, Class B misdemeanor charge of “incommoding,” which falls under local D.C. jurisdiction, in exchange for the dropping of federal charges which had alleged they interfered with the ability of U.S. authorities to provide protective services on embassy grounds.

“I proudly pleaded guilty to obstructing imperialism, neoliberal fascism and white supremacy, and will continue to stand alongside the Venezuelan people and other targets of U.S. military and police violence at home and abroad,” Adrienne Pine, an American University Professor of Anthropology, told *The Grayzone* shortly following the court's announcement.

“As the deadly violence of militarized police forces around this country over the past week in particular have made abundantly clear, now more than ever we must draw attention to the inextricable links between imperialist violence and the violence against brown, black and indigenous communities here in the United States. I would not think twice if given the chance again to put my body on the line against such racist violence, which has already killed so many of my friends,” Pine added.

For awhile anyway, it looks like we'll have less resistance news to report. In the meantime, we'll be busy organizing more Nuclear Resister archives so we can ship more boxes off to the Peace Collection at Swarthmore College. We've seen the Nuclear Resister papers already there referenced in published works!

We do wonder what's ahead.

Over 40 years, there have always been ebbs and flows in the resistance movement, sometimes depending on the urgency of other social justice issues. It feels like a good opportunity now to take stock of where the movement is. We invite you to ponder with us, to consider options, and plan, reflect and strategize together: What's next? Where do we go from here? What will we do when the Treaty for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons enters into force (after being ratified by just 6 more countries to achieve the needed 50)? How will we as citizens enforce the treaty? These are some of the questions that were to be the focus of the conference in Tennessee we had been organizing with the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance and Nukewatch for last May, which unfortunately had to be cancelled because of COVID-19. The conversation still needs to happen (even if we can't meet in person right now)!

We invite your responses and thoughts. Thank you for being part of the movement for a peaceful and nuclear-free future.

Peace,
Felice and Jack

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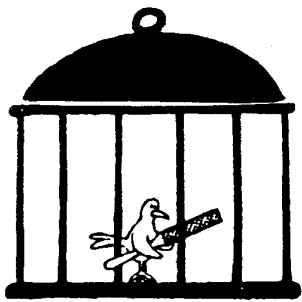
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THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

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Update Files

MORDECHAI VANUNU: On June 1, an Israeli court again renewed for another year all of the restrictions on the nuclear whistleblower’s movement and contact with media and foreigners originally imposed upon his release from an 18-year prison sentence for espionage and treason in 2004...

VOLK FIELD: Due to the pandemic, trial for seven people arrested at a protest against military drone training at the Wisconsin National Guard base have had their trial postponed until November 16...

KITSAP-BANGOR TRIDENT BASE: Four people facing federal trespass charges after crossing the line in protest at the nuclear submarine base last March were initially given a September 2 arraignment date, but that hearing has been postponed due to the pandemic...

SHANNON AIRPORT: A huge backlog of cases due to COVID-19 has Dublin Circuit Court giving priority to cases where defendants are in prison. Consequently, at a brief hearing on July 3, peace activists Edward Horgan and Dan Dowling were told to prepare for trial on December 13, 2021. That will be 4½ years since they tried to inspect U.S. military aircraft on layover at Ireland’s international airport in defiance of that country’s official neutrality. “We can wait for our trial,” says Horgan, “but the people of the Middle East who are dying each day due to U.S. wars of aggression and associated sanctions cannot wait.”...

FUTURE ACTIONS

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

creech air force base

CodePink and Veterans for Peace will co-sponsor the annual fall Shut Down Creech National Mobilization to Peacefully Stop U.S. Drone Wars, from Sunday, September 27 through Saturday, October 3 outside Creech Air Force Base, northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada. Participants are asked to read more information and complete the registration form at www.shutdowncreech.blogspot.com. Twice-daily 2-hour peace vigils at the gate will include visual tableaux and other nonviolent direct actions as planned by participants.

Due to the pandemic, the Shut Down Creech Team is taking extra precautions to protect fellow peacemakers and keep everyone COVID-safe. Participants are asked to travel there without using public transportation (bus or plane), and to arrange their own transportation between Camp Justice (on the grounds of the Temple of Goddess Spirituality in nearby Cactus Springs) and the base, to practice social distancing and otherwise wear face masks within 8’ of other participants. Plan to tent camp or sleep in your vehicle at Camp Justice. The guesthouse will be unavailable except to the select kitchen crew preparing group meals. Bring your own camping equipment, plate, bowl, utensils, cup and water bottle and a comfortable lawn or folding chair if you have room. Only outdoor sinks, showers and porta-potties available.

sacred peace walk

The annual walk hosted by Nevada Desert Experience from Las Vegas to the Nevada Test Site, postponed from last spring, will take place October 4-8. It’s been re-named Sacred Peace Walk: codeGREEN. Participants must pre-register as soon as possible to be contacted about virus-related requirements and restrictions placed on the limited number of walk participants. There will be opportunities for supporters to join the walk virtually during morning and evening programs, and concurrent codeGREEN events in Las Vegas beginning October 2. For more information and registration, visit nevadadesertexperience.org or call 702-646-4814.

NO New Tridents! Announcing a Campaign Against the Columbia Ballistic Missile Submarine

Machines age, and grow useless. The Trident ballistic missile submarines are no exception. First put into service in 1981, they are approaching the end of their expected operational life. But instead of allowing them to simply pass into obsolescence and remove the threat which they pose to all creation, our government is undertaking to replace them with a new weapon to assure that the threat continues without intermission. Each new sub will carry sixteen missile tubes, eight fewer than the current Ohio-class Tridents, but will also have updated propulsion and stealth capabilities which will magnify their threat. They will initially carry the existing Trident II D-5 missile, but designs for both a new missile and warhead are now underway.

Cost for the production of twelve boats is presently estimated at \$103 to \$109 billion. Initial construction has already begun at Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia, with final assembly to take place at Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut, beginning this year, ahead of schedule.

At a time when the consequences of global warming and pandemic are being experienced in the lives of all humanity on a daily basis, we condemn the reckless and immoral commitment of human creativity and treasure to these weapons which threaten to erase all creation, and by their mere existence deny fundamental rights to human freedom and community. It is obviously clear that they would constitute a crime against both humanity and the environment.

The NO New Tridents campaign proposes to undertake programs of public education, lobbying and nonviolent civil disobedience calling for the immediate abandonment of the Columbia submarine, and the diversion of funds set aside for its construction to policies which will realize the rights of all the world’s people to healthcare, housing, education, income equity and racial justice.

The Norfolk Catholic Worker will be the primary organizer around the Newport News Shipyard, while the Hartford Catholic Worker will coordinate the witness at Electric Boat.

For further information, contact stephen.kobasa@gmail.com.

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“A Chronicle of Hope”

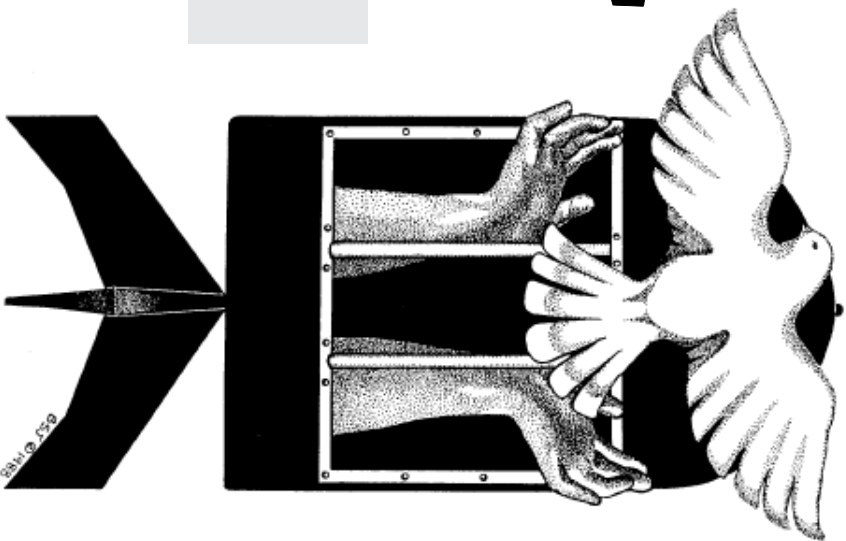
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British Military
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NATO Summit Protester
Nears Release

40th Anniversary of
the Plowshares Eight

Resisters of U.S. Nukes
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