

the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

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KINGS BAY PLOWSHARES

Colville Sentenced, Kelly Released

Has the federal court in Brunswick, Georgia, seen the last of the Kings Bay Plowshares? On April 9, Mark Colville was the final member of the group to get a prison sentence for their April 4, 2018 nuclear disarmament action at the Trident nuclear submarine base at Kings Bay, just south of Brunswick.

Four of his codefendants sit behind bars now (see page 4), and Colville is ordered to join them on June 8. The report on his sentencing follows.

Four days later, on April 13, on the opposite coast, Colville’s co-defendant Fr. Steve Kelly walked out of the federal courthouse in Tacoma, Washington after three years of incarceration. The judge told him he was required to report within 72 hours to the federal probation office back in Georgia. He has not done so, true to his declaration filed with the court in Georgia before he was sentenced last October: “I will in conscience refuse any fines and restitution. This renders probation’s role to oversee collection pointless.”

Kelly had been jailed without bond since the 2018 action because he had violated the terms of supervised release from a 2017 line-crossing and trespass conviction at the Trident nuclear submarine base in Washington. A bench warrant for not reporting had been issued at that time, and his arrest on the Kings Bay base added to the violation.

After the sentence given in Georgia amounted to time served, Fr. Kelly remained in the custody of federal marshals until he was brought back to Tacoma to answer the 2017 probation violation. He was taken from Georgia on December 15, spent six weeks at a jail in Florida, seven weeks at a private prison in Oklahoma and eleven more days at another private prison in Nevada before finally being escorted in chains to the SeaTac federal detention center in Washington, just two weeks before the April 13 hearing. By then, he had served six additional months beyond the Kings Bay Plowshares sentence, which is the maximum sentence for the original charge in Washington.

In an exception to the court’s pandemic protocols, Kelly, who had refused to participate by video in a status hearing the day after his arrival in Washington, appeared in person with his attorney Blake Kremer in the courtroom of Federal Magistrate Judge David Christel. The U.S. attorney and probation officer joined via video link. Supporters were able to listen in by phone using a number provided by the court for the public.

Addressing the court before sentencing, Kelly recounted the circumstances of his arrest and trial in 2017. He and six others members of the Pacific Life Community had simply crossed the line during a peaceful protest outside the Kitsap Bangor base. At their bench trial before Magistrate Christel that September, they stipulated to all the facts, spoke their conscience, and were found guilty of trespass.

“We were sentenced to community service, fines and a year of supervised release,” Kelly continued.

“And I told you at the time in open court, hoping that you would understand, that as a matter of conscience I could not participate in any of those. And you listened, and then you asked me, you put it back to me, you said, ‘What alternative is there?’

“I think you did not mean it rhetorically, it was really, just, what more could you do? So I’m only saying this to remind [you]...

“As the seven of us were processed for that, you said, ‘Are you going to participate in this, Fr. Kelly?’ and I said, ‘Please, please, I cannot do supervised release. I’m asking you to translate it into a period of incarceration.’

“There was no further comment after that...

“I’m not trying to get out from underneath the

French Foes of Atomic Arms Face Fines & Jail



abolitiondesarmesnucleaires.org photo

The defendants don prison garb for a demonstration in downtown Dijon, France, spotlighting the case of “The atomic bomb, the CEA-Valduc and the three Dijon residents”.

Three French nuclear abolitionists were arrested last summer at the Center for Nuclear Studies (CEA) in Valduc and charged with trespass under the “Greenpeace law” of 2015 governing nuclear establishments. Their particular offense carries a maximum sentence of three years and a €45,000 fine.

Early in the evening of July 9, 2020, Jacques Bourgoïn, Jean-Marc Convers and Étienne Godinot drove down a quiet country lane past a vacant guard post and raised barrier at the north gate of the French nuclear weapons research and production complex north of Dijon. In front of an administrative building known as the Castle, one of the men photographed the other two holding a banner calling for economic conversion of the nuclear weapons center, and bearing the logo of ICAN

consequences ... but at least it wasn’t some kind of a trust that I was breaking. My conscience is clear.

“And this will be the last thing that I’ll be saying ... This is the way to love everyone in this courtroom. This is the way to love our fellow human beings ... I had to take a stand against the nuclear weapons.

“And of course what happened in Georgia ... was a continuation of my acting in conscience. I think that it’s probably best said that while there are nuclear weapons out there, my conscience will probably be very consistent about this. I hope that helps. Thank you.”

The magistrate said that he recalled the case and the conversation they’d had in the courtroom about his sentence, and why he had decided on probation at the time.

He told Kelly, “I thought throughout that matter that you and the other defendants were very principled, were very direct and honest. I always respected that and I still do.”

With that, Christel revoked Kelly’s probation, sentenced him to time served, and ordered his release with no supervision to follow in this case. Kelly was, however, reminded that the supervision imposed by the southern district of Georgia is still in effect.

Soon after, Fr. Kelly and his attorney walked out of the courthouse to join a circle of friends and supporters who had been praying, singing and holding signs and banners in front of the courthouse.

Sentencing of Mark Colville

Notwithstanding his “somewhat troubling” record of convictions for disarmament actions, Judge Lisa Godbey Wood sentenced Mark Colville to 21 months in prison, the low end of the recommended range of 21-27 months.

Colville, who with his wife Luz founded and live at the Amistad Catholic Worker house in New Haven, Connecticut, was also ordered, as his six codefendants have been, to pay \$310 in special assessments, serve three years of supervised probation, and “jointly and singly” make restitution of \$33,503.51 to the U.S. Navy. He is to

France, an affiliate of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. Documenting the banner display was part of an ongoing campaign of public education and nonviolent actions by the Burgundy regional collective of Abolition des Armes Nucléaires – Maison de Vigilance to promote the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The three did not intend to risk arrest, but as they returned to their car, a security guard and an employee who were headed home both used their vehicles to block the departure of the activists. Half an hour later, the local gendarmes arrived and ordered the activists to follow them back to the station. They were summoned to return the next morning for interrogation, leading to the criminal charge.

Trial was set for February 12. When COVID-19 emergency restrictions forced cancellation of a public meeting on the eve of trial, the defendants instead took to a city square during the previous weekend. Dressed in prisoner’s stripes and bound to a ball and chain to mock their prosecution, they engaged the public outdoors with flyers and a banner. Their attorney sought postponement and it was granted on the 12th because she had still not received the entire case file. No new trial date was set.

The men see their trial as an opportunity to bring before the court France’s violation of its international commitments. Activists point, for instance, to a 2010 agreement with Britain for cooperative nuclear weapons research at Valduc as a violation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

For more information, visit abolitiondesarmesnucleaires.org.

report to the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn on June 8. With credit for about 15 months spent in jail before trial plus statutory good time, he expects to be in prison for about four more months.

The global pandemic caused the sentencings of the Kings Bay Plowshares activists, each held separately, to be repeatedly delayed during 2020. Colville’s hearing was continued yet again because while free on bond he was a primary caregiver for a young relative receiving dialysis and awaiting a kidney transplant. Following the successful transplant this winter, Colville agreed to proceed with sentencing via video court due to the ongoing COVID-19 travel risks.

With the judge, prosecutor and probation department on screen from Georgia, Colville and his standby counsel Matt Daloisio joined from New Haven, Connecticut. Supporters from around the country phoned in to listen on lines provided by the court.

The hearing began with Judge Wood reviewing the sentencing memos submitted by each party, and assuring Colville that she had also read all of “a nine inch stack of letters and testimonials” regarding him and his codefendants.

Over six previous sentencings, Colville heard the court methodically, ponderously review and then reject nearly all of his co-defendant’s objections to their presentencing reports. In vain, they’d challenged the false characterizations, questionable conclusions and spurious damage estimates that in some cases added to the recommended range of sentence. To avoid the pointless recitation of each particular, Colville withdrew most of his objections before sentencing.

His remaining objection related to restitution, but not about how it was calculated. Although the court had rejected a defense based on the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, it left open consideration of the Act’s provisions as a mitigating factor at sentencing. Colville asserted it would be a RFRA violation to impose any restitution, given that the court had recognized his

continued on page 4

Resistance Reflections

Nuclear Weapons Treaty Ban Needs Bold Advocacy

By John LaForge

The newly established Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) finally prohibits the development, testing, possession, and deployment of nuclear weapons among nations that ratify it.

After 70 years of campaigns to “ban the bomb,” “freeze” the arms race, create “nuclear-free zones,” and curb nuclear weapons proliferation — and after dozens of agreements among nuclear-armed states in which the perpetrators granted themselves permission for their ghastly arsenals — the TPNW makes concrete, detailed, and indelible an absolute, globally recognized rejection of what’s been called “the ultimate evil.”

Profoundly, the TPNW goes further and specifically forbids the illogical, civilization-endangering practice of “nuclear deterrence” by explicitly outlawing its terrifying definitional essence — the threat to use nuclear weapons.

In addition, the treaty also explicitly recognizes victims and survivors of the dirty and deadly uses to which nuclear weapons have been put — the human radiation experiments and globe-contaminating testing of, and rehearsals for nuclear attacks — that require specific reparations and compensation measures.

As with other struggles for justice and peace that have lasted multiple generations — the abolition of slavery, torture, the death penalty, child labor — the TPNW’s campaigners call the new law a major breakthrough, but still just “the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons.”

The new ban treaty follows earlier international prohibitions that outlaw lesser weapons of mass destruction: the Geneva Protocol (outlawing gas warfare), the Hague Conventions (forbidding poisoned weapons), the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and the (land) Mine Ban.

The new Treaty’s compelling language nearly stings the ears, like an ambulance siren or a fire alarm, blaring repudiation of the world’s most despicable and appalling weapons, devices whose horrifying effects differ from the previously banned arms only in that they exceed beyond comprehension the accumulated evil of all the rest. (Respects to Justice Jackson at Nuremberg)

The long-delayed arrival of the TPNW is evidence of the enormous anti-democratic political and financial power and influence that the giant military industries — the only beneficiaries of continuously rebuilding nuclear arsenals — wield over whole nation states. How else to explain the time it’s taken for the community of nations to finally add nuclear weapons to the list?

The scope and power of the TPNW — and even the doddering incoherence of its rejection by nuclear-armed states — are cause for great celebration. The treaty’s detailed, comprehensive articles themselves constitute the best rebuttal of the scofflaws’ reckless endangerment. From the preamble:

Cognizant that the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons cannot be adequately addressed, transcend national borders, pose grave implications for human survival, the environment, socioeconomic development, the global economy, food security and the health of current and future generations, and have a disproportionate impact on women and girls, including as a result of ionizing radiation...

Still, nuclear-armed states all insist that their plans and threats to commit atomic violence are legal. The US Navy Field Manual says, “There is at present no rule of international law expressly prohibiting States from the use of nuclear weapons in warfare. In the absence of express prohibition, the use of such weapons ... is permitted.”

No more. The TPNW rebukes and nullifies this artful dodge and its entry into force is a monumental

where we’re at

Some of you are still getting snow, while here in Tucson temperatures have already crept into the 90s. Recently we took a morning hike in the desert. There weren’t a lot of wildflowers due to way too many hot, dry and windy days, but we did see early saguaro cactus flowers opening - so beautiful! Trying to imagine a time beyond this year of record drought, we’re considering using a \$2,000 rebate to install a water cistern in the yard to collect water off the roof for our grape vine and loquat, orange, lemon, pomegranate and peach trees. Will rain come soon? Hope springs eternal!

Over this past year, the work of the Nuclear Resister has been shaped in many ways by the COVID 19 pandemic, including a shift from reporting on new actions to a focus on prisoner support, including direct support for our friend Fr. Steve Kelly, who was recently freed after more than three years, his longest stint out of more than a total of ten years behind bars. And now four other members of the Kings Bay Plowshares began their prison sentences in recent months: Carmen Trotta and Martha Hennessy in December, Patrick O’Neill in January and Clare Grady in February.

We’d already decided to hold up this issue until after Mark Colville’s sentencing on April 9 when we learned that Steve would finally have a court hearing in Tacoma, Washington on April 13. We wondered if he might be released on that day, and he was! After three years of incarceration in a total of six different jails and prisons across the country, he came out of the courthouse with his attorney and told supporters who were holding signs

and banners there that, “we’re going to have to address the nukes, so there will be no more Hiroshimas or Nagasakis.”

With more and more people receiving their COVID 19 vaccinations, some activists are resuming more public activities and protests. We’ve made note of actions that took place in recent weeks. During their spring action camp, Shut Down Creech blockaders at the drone base in Nevada purposefully avoided arrest on several mornings by clearing the road after being warned by police of their imminent arrest. The same approach has been taken in recent actions at Hancock drone base in New York. During a Good Friday witness at the Pentagon, Kathy Boylan left the designated protest area and walked toward a new visitor’s entrance holding a sign reading “Refuse to Kill”. Despite refusing repeated orders by Pentagon police to leave the sidewalk, she was not arrested.

Throughout 40 years of chronicling these resistance actions and reporting on well over 100,000 arrests, we never imagined we would encounter anything like this pandemic, which has impacted the movement in such a significant way. It’s hard to predict when peace and anti-nuclear activists will once again engage in actions that risk the possibility of time in jail.

So friends, we hope you stay safe and stay well, as we continue to work for a peaceful, just and nuclear-free world!

Peace,
Felice & Jack

accomplishment. Forbidding nuclear weapons by name is also a triumph of harrowing urgency, considering the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists’ “Doomsday Clock” having been set at 100 seconds to midnight.

Countries with nuclear arsenals ignored the UN negotiations that produced the TPNW and they ignore the law. They and over 30 allies were led in a boycott of the talks by then US UN Ambassador Nikki Haley, who said the treaty would end up disarming the nations “trying to keep peace and safety.” While she spoke, the United States was militarily occupying or at war in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Libya, and Niger. Haley’s fairy tale didn’t fool 122 UN ambassadors that voted to adopt the treaty July 7, 2017, the 86 current Signatory States, or the 54 States Parties that have seen to its ratification.

Our broadcast and defense of the TPNW must now be emboldened and amplified to expand awareness, and the law’s mandate must be fearlessly employed to confront widespread ignorance, denial, and forgetfulness about not just nuclear weapons, but the establishment’s ongoing preparations for nuclear war.

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A Ban on Nuclear Weapons!

by Felice & Jack Cohen-Joppa

January 22 was a day of celebration for nuclear disarmament activists around the world: the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force! The historic day saw hundreds of actions in many countries – at weapons sites, military bases, financial institutions, corporate offices, universities, congressional offices, city streets and town squares. From the remote Trinity and Nevada test sites to the Golden Rule peace boat sailing off the coast of Hawaii, banners were unfurled declaring “Nuclear Weapons are Illegal”. (Check out an inspiring five minute video we produced showing photos of dozens of U.S. actions at vimeo.com/515883787)

So where do we go from here? Now that the Treaty has entered into force, how will we enforce it?

As nuclear resisters, we can incorporate the TPNW into our action planning: mail or personally deliver copies of the Treaty to elected representatives, nuclear war profiteers and military bases; deploy Nuclear Ban Treaty Compliance Teams; cite the Treaty in our action statements; and assert it as part of our defense when we’re on trial.

In addition to resistance actions, here are some more *continued on page 7*

Thanks

Thanks to Ruth for proofreading assistance. Many thanks to those who have subscribed, renewed their subscription and/or made a donation!

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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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!

Peace, Justice and Anti-Nuclear Activists

Roger Franklin
d. November, 2020



Fr. Bob Carney
May 30, 1943
– April 9, 2021



Christin Schmidt
November 22, 1959
– January 13, 2021



Gretchen Nielsen
July 24, 1932
– December 28, 2020

DRONE WARS WHISTLEBLOWER ENTERS ONE GUILTY PLEA

The week before his scheduled April 5 trial, Air Force veteran and former intelligence analyst Daniel Hale changed his plea to guilty on one count of violating the Espionage Act when he illegally obtained classified “national defense information” and give it to a reporter widely acknowledged to be Jeremy Scahill, co-founder of *The Intercept*.

At a March 31 hearing in federal court in Virginia, Hale affirmed he had printed 36 documents on a government computer while working for a private contractor, 23 of them unrelated to his work, and provided “at least 17 to a reporter and/or the reporter’s news outlet, which published the documents...” Eleven were classified Secret or Top Secret.

The information Hale shared revealed gross human rights violations in the preparation of target lists for deadly attacks where ninety percent of the people killed were not the intended targets.

Jesselyn Radack, Hale’s attorney, told *CovertAction Magazine* that Hale changed his plea because he “would not have received a fair trial because the arcane Espionage Act does not allow for a public interest defense. Meaning, Hale’s motive of wanting to inform the public could not be raised as a defense to the charge of disclosure of information.”

Judge Liam O’Grady permitted Hale to remain free under supervision of a probation officer until sentencing on July 13. The charge carries a maximum sentence of ten years in prison. Despite the guilty plea, federal prosecutors opposed a motion to dismiss four related charges.

Kevin Gosztola, reporting on the hearing at dissenter.substack.com, wrote that O’Grady “seemed to recognize the four remaining charges criminalize much of the conduct already covered in Hale’s plea. Often this is referred to as charge stacking. Yet the judge permitted the government’s extraordinary and unusual request, leaving open the possibility of a trial if prosecutors are unhappy with sentencing.” O’Grady also noted that the sentence he gives Hale would probably not depend on the number of convictions, and he would address the issue at sentencing.

Hale was arrested in May 2019, nearly six years after he first spoke out publicly against the U.S. drone warfare program at a CodePink Ground the Drones summit, and at least five years after the FBI was first aware that he was the likely source for classified disclosures at the heart of *The Intercept*’s 2015 Drone Papers series, and his appearance in the documentary film *National Bird*. In August 2014, two weeks after *The Intercept* first published an article based on his material and just days after he completed an assignment for the defense contractor Leidos with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency as a political geography analyst, FBI agents had searched his home and seized thumb drives containing at least one classified document, software used for anonymous internet browsing and communication, and contact information for Scahill.

In the Drone Papers, Scahill quotes his source saying, “This outrageous explosion of watchlisting – of monitoring people and racking and stacking them on lists, assigning them numbers, assigning them ‘baseball cards,’ assigning them death sentences without notice, on a worldwide battlefield – it was, from the very first instance, wrong.”

The week after Hale changed his plea, nearly two dozen people held signs and banners declaring “Free Daniel Hale” and “Daniel Hale Exposed War Crimes” as they vigiled and blocked the gates of Creech Air Force

base in Indian Springs, Nevada. Creech, commanded by Col. Stephen R. Jones, is the nation’s premier drone warfare training and covert operations base. Commuter traffic was disrupted on three mornings while some demonstrators chanted “Arrest Col. Jones for War Crimes, Not Daniel Hale for Whistleblowing.”

“Blockaders held their blockade for as long as they could, without risking arrest, to avoid the higher health risks that exist with jail detainment during the COVID pandemic,” wrote Toby Blomé, an organizer of the twice-annual Shut Down Creech action camps in the desert northwest of Las Vegas.



CodePink asks that supporters sign the petition to Judge O’Grady at www.codepink.org/danielhale. Supporters are also encouraged to write a letter to Judge O’Grady speaking to Hale’s character and the public importance of his disclosures. Directions for writing your letter and getting it to his attorney, who will present it to the court, are found at www.codepink.org/danielhaleletters.

For more information, visit standwithdanielhale.org.



Shut Down Creech photo

After ending their blockade on April 9, the final day of Shut Down Creech actions, two drone war resisters approach military police to hand deliver a letter for Col. Stephen R. Jones, commander of Creech Air Force Base. Their signs read “Prosecute Col. Jones for War Crimes” and “Free Daniel Hale - Exposed War Crimes”.

Peltier Eligible for Transfer, Release Sought

In February, Leonard Peltier was informed by his case manager that his security level has been lowered, making him eligible for transfer from Florida to the federal prison in Oxford, Wisconsin as he has long sought, and that the request had been submitted to the bureaucracy. However, he was also told that due to the pandemic, it could be six months or longer before the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) resumes such movement of prisoners. A few days later, the co-director of the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee was finally able to visit Peltier in person.

The Bureau of Prisons has directed its institutions to first offer the COVID vaccine to all staff before any prisoners receive it, and then prioritize prisoners with prison jobs in health care units before vulnerable prisoners of Peltier’s age and health condition. He has still not received the vaccine.

The Campaign is now pushing for an interim parole hearing as well as for release under the BOP’s underutilized COVID Release to Home Confinement

program, a move already endorsed by Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland.

For more information, to donate or to purchase campaign merchandise and Leonard Peltier’s original artwork, 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 Director (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



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 Box 161, Jeju City, Jeju Peace Island, Korea 63166.
(two years – in 3/20/20)
(Convicted of cutting the fence and entering Jeju Navy Base to pray for peace, 3/7/20)

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)

NUCLEAR RESISTERS

Clare Grady 01264-052
FPC Alderson, Federal Prison Camp, Glen Ray Road, Box A, Alderson, WV 24910.
(12 months + 1 day – out 9/10/21)
Martha Hennessy 22560-021
FCI Danbury, Route 37, Danbury, CT 06811.
(10 months – out 8/25/21)
Patrick O’Neill 14924-018
FCI Elkton, PO Box 10, Lisbon, OH 44432.
(14 months – out 11/21/21)
Carmen Trotta 22561-021
FCI Otisville, Satellite Camp, POB 1000, Otisville, NY 10963.
(14 months – out 11/23/21)
(Kings Bay Plowshares activists convicted of trespass, property damage, depredation and conspiracy at Kings Bay nuclear submarine base in Georgia, 4/5/18)

Leonard Peltier 89637-132
USP Coleman I, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521. (life)
(Framed for murder while defending traditional indigenous from threats including uranium mining on sacred lands, 6/75)

Please note: These prisons will not accept cards, only white paper letters with blue or black ink and envelopes using no crayon, markers, drawings or stickers. Include name and return address on all correspondence as it may be separated from its envelope.

**PREVIOUSLY LISTED/
RECENTLY RELEASED: Stephen Kelly**

NEW COMPUTERS NEEDED DONATIONS WELCOME!

We’ve been hobbling along for over a year with our “vintage” Mac Mini (that’s Apple’s designation!) and a long-discontinued MacBook Air model with a broken hinge. The operating system and apps can no longer be updated and the workarounds we’ve fashioned are really slowing us down. We need to replace the Nuclear Resister’s computers, and hope to soon visit the locally owned, independent Apple store just down the street that we’ve done business with (including repairs) for decades!

We have some money set aside, but all together, it’s a big investment. We also anticipate some expense for new software that’s compatible with the latest operating system (or a donation for open source software when we can use it). If you’re able to help us with a donation to make this upgrade now, we’ll be very grateful.

Checks can be made payable to the Nuclear Resister. Contributions of \$50 or more may be tax- deductible if made payable to the Progressive Foundation, with “Nuclear Resister” written on the memo line.

Thank you!!

STATEMENTS FROM THE SENTENCING OF THE KINGS BAY PLOWSHARES

Testimony of Defendant Mark Colville

I am speaking to you from a land that was taken from the Momauguins, members of the Quinnipiac Indian Tribe, here in what is now called the Hill Neighborhood of New Haven, Connecticut. So to begin, I wish to acknowledge them, and bow to the spirits of a people who treated this territory with reverence, as the sacred space that it is.

What I have to say today is simple, and it echoes the message that I have borne from the first time I walked into your courtroom three years ago. My neighborhood, my family and I have a right to live without a nuclear gun on hair trigger alert held perpetually to our heads. That right is ours, both by birth and by law. It is neither granted by courts, nor denied by them, but this court’s refusal to defend that right – or even to recognize it – has now, with no fewer than 28 convictions against me and my companions, placed it firmly in a posture of criminality. On this the world agrees, as the international consensus prohibiting the building and possession of nuclear weapons became law, by ratified treaty, on January 21st of this year. I bow then, also, to the vast multitude of neighborhoods worldwide – beginning with Hiroshima and Nagasaki – whose people have been demanding to be free of this scourge for more than 75 years, and who now await our nation’s compliance.

This court was given a responsibility to all of those people, to all of those neighborhoods, and to me. It was a charge that the times demanded and still demand; an obligation that emanates directly from the conscience of the human community, and which the court ultimately refused to accept. That responsibility was simply to allow the law to be applied beyond the fence at Kings Bay; that fence behind which this government, in its lawlessness, has hidden first strike weapons with enough firepower to kill 6 billion people; a fence that I and my loved ones, with much fear and trembling, freely answered the call of faith, the call of conscience, and the call of generations yet unborn, to breach.

I am no lawyer, but I have come to know enough about



photo by Stephen Kobasa

Luz Catarineau and Mark Colville

impunity to this government.

No wonder then, that when our jury – chosen from the very neighborhoods surrounding King’s Bay – asked this court if our testimony that nuclear weapons were being kept at the base was fact or speculation, the court refused to answer, asserting that the question was irrelevant. Indeed, maybe the greatest tragedy laid bare by these proceedings is that our federal courts have lost sight of one of the most basic concepts of justice, borne out time and time again in this nation’s history: ultimately, in the formation and the deconstruction of law, it is the conscience of the human community that determines what is relevant, not the whims of a corporatized government or the dubious demands of a terrified national security state. If ever there was a moment in history when we needed to recover this understanding, that moment has come. Sitting here under judgement today, what I grieve most about this trial has nothing to do with a verdict or a sentence. It is this court’s absurd logic, which in effect maintains that the only proper time to subject these omniscidal weapons to any kind of legal scrutiny is after they’ve been launched.

In a very real sense, then, this hearing today itself is irrelevant. The court has already pronounced a sentence on me, on my family, and on my neighborhood. We are hereby condemned to live as members of a rogue state, which, in the face of a global consensus that outlaws nuclear weapons, has budgeted what amounts to \$100,000 per minute over the next ten years to upgrade its stockpile of these useless, poisonous idols. We are sentenced to

the law, about politics and about history, to say with confidence that there were two decisions already set in place before this court ever met me. The first was that the secrecy that remains both the lifeblood of this murderous enterprise called nuclearism, and the most lethal cancer for democracy – would not be disturbed. The second was that the legality of nuclear weapons was never to be questioned. These two decisions essentially preordained the prospect that we would be subjected to a political trial, with little possibility of a coherent defense, before a jury that would be laboring under an enforced ignorance. The choice of this court to abide by those decisions has rendered it complicit in the crimes for which it has granted

bear quietly, obediently, the relentless human tragedy that this massive theft of resources wrecks on our community. We are ordered to disobey any faith or conscience-based command to substantively reject the false security that this standing threat to murder all of creation provides.

For my part, I declare to you today that we will not comply.

In closing, I wish to acknowledge with deep gratitude the large number of letters that you, Judge Wood, have received on my behalf. It is my sincere hope that you will consider them not as pleas for mercy, but expressions of the conscience of the community with regard to the words that Stephen and I have spoken here today. And, in that same spirit, I would like to add this prayer from Pope Francis to the pile...

A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, That we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

—Pope Francis, Laudato Si

Testimony of Character Witness Stephen Kobasa

Mark Colville doesn’t need me here. To have a character witness implies that something is not quite clear about the identity of the person who requires one. There is absolutely nothing about Mark Colville that lacks clarity. His consistency, passion, his charity, his fierce commitment to hope are completely apparent to anyone who has encountered him. No corroborating testimony is required, although you could find the voices of hundreds to give it.

But, I will testify that there is nothing in the world of more seriousness than what Mark and his companions in the Kings Bay Plowshares demand that we face. The weapons at Kings Bay condemn us to living each and every moment in fear of losing everything we believe matters, everything we love, in a single flash of unbearable light. Everything, your honor, including things that I know matter to you: the law itself, erased. Utterly.

At this very moment, there are a number of courtrooms in this country where cases of the most overwhelming importance are being decided. But even George Floyd’s murder in all its horror cannot compare to the mass murders our country is prepared to commit in a nuclear war.

In a society, ours, where hypocrisy is one of the defining characteristics of political life, quoting from George Orwell’s novel 1984 has become an almost tiresome cliché. But the curious thing about clichés is that there is something true about them, always, and that we are anxious to dismiss that. When Orwell describes a nation state where war is peace, freedom is slavery and ignorance is truth we have little difficulty in recognizing the content of our daily news reports.

But our society prefers ignorance when it guarantees that our comfort will not be disturbed, our privilege will not be challenged, that we can claim to have no obligations except to our own solitary selves.

For, you see, if Mark is right – and he is – then most of the rest of us have failed to tell the truth, even to ourselves about nuclear weapons because – if we did – we would have no choice but to do what he and his companions did and be standing alongside him here.

Thank You.

Colville Sentenced, cont.

continued from page 1

sincerely held religious beliefs. However, he was “not unwilling” to do community service in lieu of paying restitution.

The brief statement of Colville’s only character witness, retired New Haven educator Stephen Kobasa, and Colville’s own sentencing statement condemning the court as “complicit in the crimes for which it has granted impunity to this government,” are both reprinted in full on this page.

Colville concluded his allocution by reciting “A Prayer for Our Earth” by Pope Francis.

Without responding to what she just heard, Judge Wood pedantically proceeded to impose the sentence.

Kobasa had reminded her that the weapons at Kings Bay threaten the loss of “everything we believe matters, everything we love, in a single flash of unbearable light. Everything, your honor, including things that I know matter to you: the law itself, erased. Utterly.”

Wood was instead consumed by more mundane scenes.

“As I’ve remarked before in connection with his codefendants,” she intoned again for the record, “they loaded up with bolt cutters, an angle grinder, a pry bar, spray paint, hammers, sledge hammers, cut their way through a padlock, opened a gate, entered a U.S. Naval submarine base without authorization and then proceeded to disperse into three different areas, wreck up the signage, damage a statue, spray paint areas, give human blood, all of that. We simply can’t allow those kinds of things to happen without recourse.

“As I’ve remarked before, I do believe that all but the most blindly following anti-nuclear beliefs would understand that taking those actions, at that time, in that area, was dangerous, not just to Mr. Colville, not just to his co-conspirators, but those people, young men and women who were just trying to do their job.”

The only hint Wood gave that she may have heard Mark’s direct statement, “we will not comply”, came when she declared that, “Mr. Colville’s criminal history

is somewhat troubling and the court is not convinced that he’s going to lay these kind of destructive activities aside in the future.”

Three years ago, late on the night of April 4, 2018, the group of Catholic nuclear abolitionists entered the Trident nuclear submarine base at Kings Bay, Georgia. They took action on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who condemned the “evil triplets” of racism, militarism and materialism. After cutting the lock at a remote gate, they split up, two pairs and a trio, to deliver an indictment of the “omniscidal” Trident nuclear program and “beat swords into plowshares” by carrying out symbolic acts of disarmament using hand tools, paint and human blood. Arrested in the early hours of April 5, they were charged with misdemeanor trespass and three felonies: destruction of government property, depredation of government property on a military installation and the conspiracy to do these things. The seven were convicted on all counts after a jury trial in October, 2019.

Kings Bay Plowshares Prisoner Updates

While their codefendants Fr. Steve Kelly and Elizabeth McAlister have completed their prison sentences, Patrick O’Neill and Clare Grady reported to their designated prisons this winter, joining Carmen Trotta and Martha Hennessy, who turned themselves in last December. In the days leading up to O’Neill’s and Grady’s imprisonment, supporters from the U.S. and Europe gathered via video conference for two Festivals of Hope and group blessings of both prisoners-to-be.

Patrick O’Neill and his wife Mary drove nearly 600 miles from their Catholic Worker home in North Carolina to the Elkton federal prison in Lisbon, Ohio, where he reported on January 14. Clare Grady’s husband Paul and their daughters drove about the same distance from their home in Ithaca, New York to the federal prison camp for women in Alderson, West Virginia where she entered into custody on February 10. For Grady, it was a return to the site of her imprisonment 37 years ago as a member of the Griffiss Plowshares action group.

As with all prisoners entering the federal system, they

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WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from Danbury FCI
by Martha Hennessy
January 13, 2021

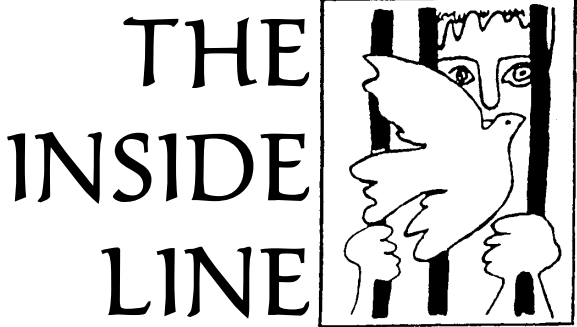
The Citadel of Calamity

I write to you, my dear readers, from Danbury FCI, sitting atop the most lovely hill on the western border of Connecticut. I don’t know who the first people were who walked this place before white displacement but I’m sure it was sacred, now desecrated with this prison complex. Many thanks go to Jack and Felice for their newsletter of hope and good news that goes out to the greater community. My first month here has passed. Twenty-four days in quarantine without much space and no phone or stamps was not easy. The COVID pandemic is here and there is a lawsuit against Danbury FCI for the early, neglectful handling of inmates’ health under these difficult conditions. Apparently the SHU was being used for quarantine, making life even harder for prisoners. But the human spirit is not easy to stifle; the chatter, small acts of support and love, and expressed indignation over petty injustice all work to counter the culture of “NO” here.

I have to say I am actually possessive of my monastic moments here. I keep a low profile, reading, writing and praying. Cells are not shared due to COVID. I am immensely grateful to have my own space. The cell is tiny, not enough floor space for two people to get dressed in the morning without bumping into each other. Yet the amount of space taken up with the complex is massive, many acres for roads, chain link fences, 80 foot tall lights of immense wattage, and a half dozen huge buildings. Water, power, septic, solid waste and oil consumption boggle the mind, similar to the Kings Bay Naval Base in Georgia. Same model of arrogant use of force against humans and nature, a revelry of pride, induction of fear and squandering of resources. It is unsustainable and pathetically unnecessary. We are in such disarray – the January 6 (Epiphany) assault on the Capitol in Washington, D.C. reveals the face of a people ungovernable. Is there any room for genuine dialogue or shall we proceed neo-Nazi style? Who will respond appropriately to the enraged statement, “This is my house”?

Meanwhile it is the “little way” here, sometimes taking days to get a comb or toothpaste for myself. The dynamic of being dependent, in the “care” of corrections officers, and having to ask for things like toilet paper, makes for interesting relationships. People try to be polite on both sides and that goes a long way for bearable living conditions. Not one person on the staff ever feels personally responsible for trying to meet basic needs. There’s always a problem with “someone else” who didn’t follow through, or had the information wrong. It becomes an institutional malaise, the opposite of anarchism where one is supported in taking on tasks that need to be done. Another aspect of prison reality is the fact that there is scant oversight of the quality of goods destined for the prison population. Shoddy, cheap, making a quick buck on these contracts is the order of the day. Bob Barker and his ilk cash in on the industry. I say, boycott the prisons and weapons industries!

A bright light in my prison readings is the book titled “Jackson Rising”. Here are the solutions to the global capitalist hegemony that has nothing to do with democracy or meeting basic human needs. Very similar to Peter Maurin’s Catholic Worker program, the proposals being a transformed culture to neighborhoods where the workers self organize to create economic changes. The model of cooperatives for many functions such as health clinics, childcare centers, public utilities,



local credit unions, food production, even composting revives community production. The four goals of a solidarity economy are worker controlled means of production, ecologically sound industries, democratic self-determination and a change in the political economy. These goals would make for a system that addresses climate collapse, inequality, monopoly, and avoidance of human suffering when basic needs go unmet. How and why have we tolerated such a “lousy, rotten system” for so long? Of course what is lacking in the discussion is the role of faith in peoples’ hearts, that we are dependent on God to help us do the right thing by the common good.

In this prison witness the picture becomes crystal clear, how the worst in human nature is reinforced through a violent, forceful system of acquisition of wealth for those most capable. The nuclear weapons stand at the pinnacle of this arrangement. In the next few years the U.S. military plans on spending \$100,000 a minute on “upgrading” the nuclear arsenal. This will surely bleed us dry as social needs go unmet. No heed is paid to the massive unemployment and increasing hunger that is happening in our country.

I will put one foot in front of the other in this time of incarceration. The women here know what is needed for themselves and their families, and they feel the mercilessness coming down on them. They busy themselves with the tasks of everyday living, pray to be united with their loved ones, and work hard to put back together the pieces of their lives. How much easier and sane it would all be if we could wrest back, in a spirit of nonviolence, the means of a basic livelihood from this currently absurd way of running our lives. James Baldwin, in his masterpiece “The Fire Next Time” asks, “What will happen to all that beauty?” if we allow man’s vengeance projected onto God to have its way with us. I believe it is only a matter of time before Danbury’s prison doors close forever, a failed experiment, an unwanted lie. Our vision of a better world will never die.

~ from Elkton FCI
by Patrick O’Neill
March 30, 2021

Leg Irons and Handcuffs

A Health Concern

On Tuesday, March 15, I was standing in my cubicle talking to my friend Mike and my cubemate Mark. Suddenly, I started feeling very hot and I took off my long-sleeved shirt and hung it up. But I kept feeling hotter and weaker, so I sat down on the seat at the desk in my cube. I started to feel even worse, like I might pass out, so I got on the floor with my back against Mark’s bottom bunk. Mark got me some water and I perked up a little, but was still wavering. Mark noticed my T-shirt was soaked in sweat. Three other guys walked by and

“Stamps are out. So is stationery and blank greeting cards. No electronic musical greeting cards, no padded cards, no two-sided Polaroid photos.

“‘If we don’t show up, they win.’ So, knowing the regulations, I hope you will be encouraged to write... If you’ve written already, write again. Remember that everything you write will be reviewed by prison staff. [The prisoner] won’t get your original letter – she will get a copy of it. So, write your address in the body of the letter so that [she] will see it.”



Letters of support should be sent to Clare Grady 01264-052, FPC Alderson, Federal Prison Camp, Glen Ray Road, Box A, Alderson, WV 24910; Martha Hennessy 22560-021, FCI Danbury, Route 37, Danbury, CT 06811; Patrick O’Neill 4924-018, FCI Elkton, PO Box 10, Lisbon, OH 44432; and Carmen Trotta 22561-021, FCI Otisville, Satellite Camp, POB 1000, Otisville, NY 10963.

~ from Otisville FCI
by Carmen Trotta
January 22, 2021

Statement on the TPNW
Becoming International Law

We certainly owe a debt of gratitude to those who conceived and advocated for this international obligation. An obligation, one would think for human beings, for human dignity and our actualization, our destiny.

For Americans, the timing of the treaty’s adoption into international law is interesting, as these are interesting times. It comes just as “The Indispensable Nation” has kicked off a new wave of nuclear proliferation, a bipartisan endeavor supported by both President Trump and Obama, and I’m sure Joe and Kamala will agree. If memory serves, we intend to spend 1.7 trillion dollars over the next 30 years to refurbish and enhance all of our nuclear systems. Which is to say, we have all but withdrawn from the NPT of 1970, now a 50-year-old lie. Meantime, the existential threat of nuclear annihilation is more fraught than ever.

Not a single NATO state, many under duress I would imagine, has signed onto the treaty. So, as ever, the arrogance and incompetence of the “principalities and powers” is on display, as is the perennial ignorance of the masses.

Moreover, the treaty comes as another existential threat has not been addressed in any meaningful way. Global warming has begun to ravish the Earth with hurricanes, wildfires, acidic waters, and hundreds of thousands of wildlife species exterminated. Again, the product of arrogance, incompetence and a cultivated ignorance.

So, we have reason to hope for a turning point in human and American history and we may hope that today will initiate that turning point. But to hope is not to wish. To hope carries with it a commitment. We must attempt to live this treaty into being.

Years ago, in 1965 the second Vatican Council noted that nuclear deterrence was “a treacherous trap for humanity,” as it leads to the permanent threat of genocide toward the enemy, making them unrecognizable as our brethren. And as the apostle Paul wrote: “All of creation waits in eager expectation for the revelation of the children of God.” The children of God, we are told in the Sermon on the Mount, are the peacemakers. That’s us, I hope. We have a long road before us.

noticed I was sick. Mark said I looked pale. Finally, Paul, my friend, said I should go to medical, so I walked to my counselor’s office (Mr. Marshall) and told him.

Elkton Medical

Medical came with a golf cart to carry me across the compound. By now I was feeling a little better and I was able to walk down the 24 steps and outside to the golf cart. At medical, they hooked up a heart monitor. There were about 4 women RNs and a male nurse. They seemed alarmed, and said I had a heart flutter. They brought a printout of the monitor to a doctor who was somewhere else (I actually never saw the doctor). She or he recommended I be transferred to the hospital. For a while, I was trembling with the shivers. The shaking went on for 10 minutes or more, but I had no pain of any kind and no longer felt sick as if I were going to pass

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Colville Sentenced / Kings Bay Plowshares, cont.

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were isolated in COVID-19 quarantine for a period of time.

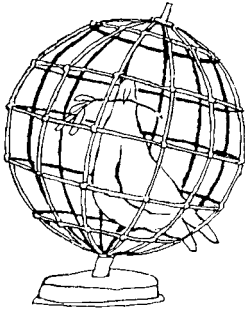
The prisoners are writing and being written about, and their essays from prison and articles about them are posted at kingsbayplowshares7.org. Some are included in this issue (see pages 5 and 7).

Writing to the Prisoners

Many supporters report their mail to the prisoners, particularly Grady, has been returned. Some for not meeting the increasingly restrictive rules regarding prison mail correspondence, and others for no apparent reason at all.

Quoting from the Alderson correspondence guidelines, supporter Arnie Matlin summed up the prohibitions with advice that increasingly applies when writing to any prisoner:

“‘Calendars, laminate pages or material, any photos that are on printer paper. Any substances [used] such as colored pen or pencil, lipstick, crayon, marker/highlighter, paint, stains/discoloration, stickers, address labels, glue, glitter, tape, a suspicious odor or any unidentifiable substance.’



France, cont.

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sentence for Löic Schneider. Prosecutors appealed for a custodial sentence, but dropped that appeal in March. On that occasion, several dozen protesters who pushed down a security fence around the research and administration complex outside the village of Bure were met with tear gas and flash-bang grenades.

For more information, visit bureburebure.info.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Netherlands

On Ash Wednesday, February 17, about thirty Catholics and Protestants, including members of Christian Climate Action Netherlands, formed a silent procession to the Ministry of Defense in the Hague. After Br. Gerard Mathijssen, OSB marked the building with ashes, others wrote calls for nuclear disarmament in charcoal on the building and on the sidewalk in front of it. The first generation of nuclear weapons came to the Netherlands in the 1960s without the knowledge of the public or Dutch parliament. A new generation is set to arrive in the Netherlands next year.

The protesters were aware that they might be apprehended. But their concern about new nuclear weapons and the preservation of creation exceeded their concern for arrest. Four people were arrested. Three had their personal details recorded by police for possible prosecution before being released. Turi Vaccaro was taken into custody for want of any identification, and released later the same day.

For more information, contact Jeannette Noëlhuis / Catholic Worker Amsterdam via facebook.com/noelhuis.



photo via Christian Climate Action Nederland
Dutch police carry the non-cooperating resister Turi Vaccaro away from an Ash Wednesday demonstration at the Ministry of Defense in the Hague.

Russia

Final arguments were heard in early April in the prosecution of Russian environmentalist Lyubov Kudryashova. Her opposition to injection leech mining of uranium in the Tobol River floodplain landed her square in the crosshairs of prosecution in military court.

“Unfortunately,” she writes, “propaganda in Russia feeds off the search for ‘external enemies.’ The destruction of nature by Dalur company is called ‘strategic interests,’ as if the uranium should be used to make bombs; in fact, uranium is simply sold for commercial gain.” Dalur is licensed to sell low-enriched uranium for commercial reactor fuel on the global market.

After the Russian state security service (FSB) raided her home and then had her involuntarily committed to a psychiatric hospital for a month in 2019, Kudryashova was charged last year with 12 counts of using the internet to promote terrorism. The charges are based on memes and videos that a FSB investigator testified she had posted on social media and he had downloaded on January 15, 2018, and that a linguist said under oath were advocating insurrection.

In her defense in January 2021, a computer forensic expert testified that his analysis showed 158 such images submitted into evidence were originally named “Drawing” plus a number from 1-158. All had been pre-dated, and were actually created in the two weeks following January 15, 2018. To bolster her defense as the victim of fabricated evidence, Kudryashova has applied to initiate criminal cases against the three officials her defense showed to have perjured themselves.

“Unfortunately,” she writes again, “in Russia perjury is not punishable by long terms, so the practice is common here. [...] What the court will accept and what pressure the FSB will put on the court – I don’t know.”

Kudryashova expects that a verdict may be rendered by the end of May.

South Korea

About 30 supporters of South Korean peace activist Dr. Song Kang-ho rallied outside the Jeju district courthouse on March 31. Waving placards, they greeted the prison bus he arrived on with shouts of “Free Song Kang-ho! The naval base is guilty!” He was there to hear the decision on his appeal of a two year prison sentence.

Brother Song, as he is known, had already served just over a year for the crime of cutting the fence and entering the naval base to pray at the remnants of Gureombi, the revered volcanic coast at the village of Gangjeong, on March 7, 2020. It was the 8th anniversary of its demolition by explosives to make way for the military port.

The government had also appealed the suspended sentence of Ryu Bok-hee, who had joined Song in prayer on the rock, asking that she be given real jail time. In her statement to the court, she remembered that for the people of Jeju Island, “Gureombi was a garden of the sea, Gureombi was a flower garden, Gureombi was a playground, Gureombi was healing water and Gureombi

France

The sweeping judicial investigation into opponents of France’s planned nuclear waste dump in the Meuse region, which began after an incident of protest vandalism including arson in June, 2017, was finally closed and submitted to the prosecutor last December. Four years of investigation was accompanied by omnipresent police harassment that was denounced by the League of Human Rights. The harassment included forced-entry raids of activists’ homes and seizure of computers, phones, etc., restrictions on travel and association affecting many in the region, dozens of phones tapped, tens of thousands of messages and calls intercepted and more than a thousand transcribed into a case file totaling more than 15,000

was a sacred place of prayer.”

Part of Dr. Song’s statement is included below in The Inside Line.

About 15,000 letters appealing for his release were submitted to the court when it began hearing the appeal in January, but to no avail. His sentence was upheld, as was Ryu Bok-hee’s suspended sentence. He has about a year left to serve.

For more information, visit savejejunow.org and download Gangjeong Village Story, the bi-monthly English newsletter of the Association of Gangjeong Villagers Against the Jeju Naval Base.



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

pages. In April, it was announced that seven people will face trial June 1-3 in the village of Bar-le-Duc. Daily rallies outside the court are being planned.

Also in December, the French Environment Authority issued a damning report on the planned dump. Nevertheless, the project is on track to be declared a matter of “public utility,” allowing expropriation of necessary lands and construction to begin as soon as 2022.

The only criminal case coming out of an earlier demonstration, in February 2017 ended with a suspended

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WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from Jeju Prison

by Dr. Song Kang-ho
March 25, 2021

Against the Naval Base!

Final Statement of Appeal


Your Honor, my hometown where I grew up as a child is a rural village by beautiful Soeun Mountain and the clear waters of the Hantan River. I used to hang out with my friends in the mountains and rivers, play until sunset, and then come home. It was a time when I was poor and hungry, but to me it was like heaven. However, my mother sent me to Seoul before I even graduated from elementary school. At an early age, I left my parents and spent my adolescent youth wandering through a desolate metropolis. In the diary of that time, tears shed while missing my mother remain as stained marks on the pen writing.

I didn’t know at the time why my mother had to let me go away at such a young age. It was only when I became a young man and returned home that I learned why. There were U.S. troops around my hometown. There were many brothels in the village. The friends I used to hang out with when I was young worked in a prostitution establishment, and most of the girls had to turn their backs on their hometown, saying that they could marry only if they hide their residence. That is my hometown, Dongducheon. The U.S. military base is now withdrawn, and a new campus of Tong Yang University is being built on that site. It’s a very happy and welcome change for me.

I studied theology in my country and in Germany. In the process, as we visited the battlefields of Africa and the Balkans, I realized that Jesus Christ is peace and that He has given us the charge of making peace. Following his teachings, I have devoted my life to caring for victims and making peace in areas of war and conflict. I think the military is evil and it is a sin to use force for national interest. I think war should never be done for any reason. Promoting Jeju Island as an island of world peace, while constructing a huge naval base and deploying warships and submarines armed with terrifying firepower and weapons is an obvious contradiction and defeat....

I am not against war because of the noble love of humanity. It is because of my selfish heart that my beloved wife and children could also become innocent victims of such wars. And, as my family is dear to me, it is because of the minimum of conscience that I can never see the wives and children of someone who lives peacefully in a neighboring country bleed from being brutally murdered by the army and soldiers of my country.

THE INSIDE LINE



The stereotype that armies and weapons protect our safety and peace is nothing more than an infused and brainwashed illusion. We must awaken from that vain hope that despairs us. In today’s reality where various catastrophes threaten human survival and the entire ecosystem of the global village due to the coronavirus pandemic and climate change, cooperation between countries is a natural demand of the times. Militarism, which is strengthened in the context of mutual distrust and confrontation, is the greatest obstacle in the way in this time.

Moreover, the military annihilates the humanity of young people. Although we criticize the Japanese government for the issue of comfort women in the Japanese military, our government also systematically managed and supported the comfort women of the U.S. military, and prostitution establishments are lined up everywhere in the regions where Korean military units are stationed. The military commits murder and rape during wartime and is the main culprit of prostitution during peacetime. Because in the military, young people are brainwashed to view humans as non-human objects. Without such a deterioration of consciousness, humans cannot be killed like cattle, raped as women, or live as commodities of pleasure. My experience and the Christian faith that teaches “no murder” and “love of enemies” both reject the army and war. How can I accept the fact that a huge military base will be built on Jeju Island, the island of world peace?

What’s more, I thought it was a terrible insanity to have that military base destroyed and built on a beautiful and holy rock like Gureombi...

I entered Gureombibawi Rock [the remnant inside the base] to mourn for the victims of militarism and pray to God for Jeju Island to become an island of peace with no military or war. I was forced to enter the naval base because the navy locked Gureombibawi Rock within the base ... I still think that Gureombibawi Rock belongs to all citizens. It is a natural heritage that should be passed on to our descendants in the same way we inherited it...

Your Honor, why do laws exist in our society? Is it

continued on back page

THE INSIDE LINE, cont.

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out. When a private ambulance arrived, I had a set of leg irons attached to my ankles. Except for a 20-minute stress test on a treadmill, those leg irons remained on my ankles until I was brought back to Elkton 4 days later. I transferred to the ambulance gurney and was wheeled out of the prison for the 45-or so- minute ride to Trumbull Regional Medical Center.

Handcuffs and Leg Irons

On the journey, I was in handcuffs and leg irons. A guard sat in the back of the ambulance with me. He was armed with a handgun, and said, “If you try to escape, I will shoot you, and it will hurt very much.” I got the impression he said this to every prisoner he escorted to the hospital. From that moment on, I was held under an armed guard and a second guard at all times while in the hospital. Both guards (they were working 8-12 hour shifts over the 4 days) would be with me at all times. I can’t imagine what all the other people (not staff) thought of me, but I’m sure they never expected that I was a nonviolent peace activist. Back in my room, I was always in chains, never allowed to get out of bed. I was in Room 402 in the cardiac unit. Once in bed, the guard would use a thick steel chain and padlock to attach my leg irons to the foot of my bed. Another chain and lock were used to attach my left arm to the bed by attaching the chain to the handcuffs. This arrangement made for very uncomfortable sleeping attempts.

Tangled Up in Bed Chains

The guards, some of whom were working overtime for hospital duty, were making close to \$50 an hour to “guard me.” All that was required of them was to watch TV, play on their phones and sleep. While I met several guards who treated me with dignity and respect, there were others who wanted nothing to do with me. When I asked a guard to unchain me so I could use the bathroom, he replied,” Do you have to do number 2?” It was expected that I use a plastic hand-held urinal if I had to do number 1! One of my low points was when I woke up in the middle of the night needing to urinate. Not wanting to wake the guards, I used the plastic urinal. Either I was too sleepy to concentrate or just too tangled up in my bed chains, but when I was done, I realized most of the urine had soaked the bedding and my hospital gown. Rather than create a scene, I decided to try to go back to sleep in a urine-soaked bed. The Federal Bureau of Prisons should not be allowed to chain nonviolent prisoners to their beds. It should be deemed a human rights violation. Elkton FCI is a “low security” prison and the vast majority of the men are nonviolent and represent no threat to escape. In addition, a prisoner charged with escape will likely have years added to his sentence, which is more than enough reason to deter escapes. I have not been able to document even an “attempted” escape from Elkton FCI. The men at Elkton want to do their time and get out; escape is out of the question.

Heart Issues

During my hospital stay I had an ultrasound of my heart, another test where I was under a giant machine for 15 minutes that took pictures of my heart. There were also problems. My cardiologist at the hospital, Dr. Woods, who also works for the prison, never received any of the initial test results from the prison when my heart was acting up. The tests showed my heart was fine (except that my sleeping pulse drops under 40, which is what it’s always done – I assume because I’m a runner). Dr. Woods wanted to inject me with a chemical that would artificially cause my heart rate to rise rather than allow me on the treadmill. I refused that test unless I was allowed to actually use the treadmill to get my heart rate above 132 beats. I desperately wanted to have my legs out of the leg irons for a short time and I just saw no reason to have my heart rate chemically raised. Woods agreed to my request, but kept me in the hospital for an extra day. Following the stress test on the treadmill, Woods said the results showed that I had some blockage and I might need a heart catheterization. All this news seemed odd to me since I was walking and running more than 50 miles a week all the time I have been at Elkton! Woods put me under the giant camera for an additional 15 minutes and that re-test showed no heart abnormality. Woods ruled out the catheterization, but he wanted to do yet another test that involved injecting me with dye and going under the giant camera for a third time. Luckily, Woods did get a second opinion from a woman cardiologist who was an expert in some other aspect of the heart. (I had her name, but my 6 pages of personal notes from the hospital were confiscated by a guard and I don’t expect to get them back.) This doctor didn’t want to directly contradict Woods, but she also did not get to see the paperwork from the prison exam (when I was initially seen). It was her hunch that my illness was likely caused by a sudden drop in my blood pressure

that she attributed to a new prescription I was recently given for high blood pressure. She seemed confident my heart was working okay. So, I refused the last test, spent a third night chained to my bed, and came back to prison on Friday afternoon, March 18. At one point, a nurse at the hospital said I was going to receive an injection of some drug to keep me from getting blood clots in my legs because I was staying in the bed all the time! There was, of course, no reason for me to be in bed in the first place! And certainly not in chains. I refused the drug.

Normalized evil

The practice of chaining “offenders” to hospital beds is not unique to federal prisons. This is a common practice by most – if not all – jails and prisons. At Wake Med, where I work as a volunteer chaplain, I often see police and correctional officers in patients’ rooms. Women who deliver babies while incarcerated have their newborns taken away from them. This practice is ungodly and cruel to both mother and child. To engage in this kind of practice, the jails and prisons must have the cooperation of the hospital administration. Such cruel practices seem to me to be in direct opposition to the Hippocratic Oath, which states, “Do no harm.” Most of the time, when a nurse came into my room, she would kindly ask, “Is everybody okay?” She was, of course, speaking to me and my captors. Sometimes I would reply: “I’m okay except for these chains on my arm and legs.” Unfortunately, the practice of chaining people to their beds is just normal procedure to hospital staff; it goes on without any question about its cruelty. The worst kind of evil there is the kind of evil that becomes “normal” in the eyes of otherwise “good” people. These are the hardest kinds of evil to abolish. A heartfelt campaign to abolish this practice would be a great humanitarian undertaking by all of you reading this account.

Back in Quarantine

When I got back to the prison, I was immediately strip-searched and taken to the SHU (Special Housing Unit, better known as solitary confinement). In the SHU, I was strip-searched a second time while locked in a steel cage in handcuffs. (That’s where the guard took away my hospital discharge papers and my 6 pages of notes.) I am now locked in a single cell with one small barred window with cloudy glass so I cannot see the outside world. I was put here straight out of the hospital and the door to my cell has remained locked and unopened for parts of 5 days. My food and “hygiene” (a razor once a week, which is 2 inches long and must be returned because the razor is a potential weapon, toilet paper, 2 inch toothbrush, liquid soap) are slid in through a door slot. My pen is about 4 inches long and made of rubber. I go through ink very quickly! I am allowed one hour of recreation per week; I have not received it yet. I am in solitary ostensibly because of COVID. This is supposed to be a quarantine for 2 weeks. However, the SHU is the prison’s disciplinary unit, so I am being held under the same conditions as someone who punched a guard or inmate (or worse). I’m experiencing the same terrible circumstances as everyone else in the SHU. In the compound, many buildings are closed and have not been used in more than a year because the prison has been locked down. Any one of those buildings could be used as a far more humane place to quarantine. But prisoners have no power to bring change. Everything that happens here is decided by the warden, who is the king of this terrible place. The lockdown means inmates have no visits, no library time, no indoor recreation (very few men go out to “Rec” in the snow and cold with the only option to walk or run), which is very unhealthy, no religious activities or services (the Catholic inmates have had no Mass or Eucharist and this will be the second Easter with no service), no 12-step programs. In my unit (FB or Fox Bravo), there are about 115-120 men in a room with 64 cubicles of bunkbeds. We are all locked in this room 24-7 with constant noise, continuous movement, and no privacy. It is like existing in a giant Ms. Pacman maze full of human beings.

Evil Sacred Cows

Some of the men in this room have been here for more than 10 years, many have 10 years to go! And almost all for charges that warranted placement in a “low security” prison that has cubicles instead of cells. That means the Bureau of Prisons finds all the men in Elkton are low risk for any kind of violence, which begs the question – why are they here? Why didn’t they get compassionate home confinement due to COVID? Why didn’t they get some alternative sentence to years in prison? Answer: because the U.S. Prison-Industrial-Complex is a self-perpetuating institution that employs thousands of people doing unnecessary jobs, such as watching TV in Patrick’s hospital room. The BOP, CIA, and the Pentagon are all evil sacred cows that exist without accountability in the U.S. Empire. Incidentally, I have still not received the COVID vaccine and I turned 65 on March 27.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Because of COVID-19, it is uncertain at this time whether nonviolent actions that risk arrest will happen this summer, including those traditionally occurring in August to commemorate the anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. You can check the Future Actions page on our website at nukeresister.org/future-actions from time to time for any updates.

And please email us at nukeresister@igc.org if your group is planning such an action, so we can add that information to the website!

Resistance Reflections, cont.

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opportunities to get involved –

Building on the organizing for public actions on January 22 initiated by Nukewatch, the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA), the Nuclear Resister and the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA), there are now seven U.S. working groups that are starting to meet with this mission: “Collaborating to fulfill the promise of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to press the United States to sign and ratify the Treaty.”

- Affected Communities (downwinders, uranium miners, atomic veterans, hibakusha)
- Days of Action
- Divestment from nuclear weapons/Don’t Bank on the Bomb
- Faith Communities
- Localities and Legislators – TPNW
- Policy/Advocacy Work
- Schools of Mass Destruction (Are you near one of the 50 universities involved in nuclear weapons work listed in the ICAN report, or perhaps a student, professor or alumni? See a map at universities.icanw.org)

If you are in the U.S. and interested in actively participating in one or more of these working groups, contact Ralph Hutchison at orep@earthlink.net.

In addition, NuclearBan US has just launched two projects focused on the TPNW:

- Building Political Support for the Nuclear Ban Treaty in Congress and at state and local levels
- Pressuring the Nuclear Weapons Profiteers (planning and coordinating campaigns to pressure the nuclear weapons companies to put an end to the nuclear weapons business – join a strategic planning zoom meeting on May 15).

Learn more at www.nuclearban.us.

You can also find information about the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at the website of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) at icanw.org.

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THE INSIDE LINE, cont.

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to defend justice? Or is it to keep the social order? To protect the military organization, the first trial court sentenced me to two years in prison for breaking the fence and entering the base. However, the court is silent about the fact that the military has taken the land and public waters of Gangjeong Village through illegal and expedient methods. The Jeju Court is also silent about the fact that the Gangjeong Village community is being destroyed due to the enforcement of the naval base construction and is suffering severe conflict. More than 1,000 citizens have been punished by law for this illegal construction and more than 30 people have been imprisoned. They were innocent citizens such as farmers, fishermen, pastors, students, and Catholic priests and monks. These were good citizens with no record of being punished as unscrupulous or miscellaneous criminals. Citizens were sacrificed in the process of the state’s compulsive construction of bases for the benefit of the military, but prosecutors were neither angered nor did judges punish the government’s criminal acts. The hopes of our residents, who expected the law to uphold the justice of the unfairly weak, were ultimately frustrated...

Your Honor, I believe that the law must count together not only the consequential actions of individuals brought to court, but also what their motives, purposes and intentions were, and what their dreams and hopes were...

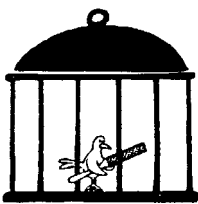
To support and encourage citizens who are struggling to realize the hope of creating a peaceful world with no wars or military bases on these border islands, I made a plan to ship young Korean, Chinese and Japanese young people on sailing yachts together. To this end, in September of last year, I got a yacht from Tokyo, Japan, and took the boat to Gangjeong, Jeju Island. Now, in Gangjeong, young people are waiting for me to sail for peace aboard that ship. Your Honor, rather than spending another year in this old age in prison, I will take a voyage of peace with these young people who are waiting for me to cruise the islands of this militaristic border and spread the dream of a world without war. Please give me freedom now so that I can.

Update Files

BÜCHEL: On February 1, the trial of Nukewatch co-director John LaForge began in Cochem on charges of aggravated trespass and damage to property for his part in two “go-in” actions in the summer of 2018 at the German airbase where U.S. nuclear bombs are stockpiled and German pilots train to drop them. German court process permits the defendant to speak at length, uninterrupted, and the American activist read from his prepared testimony for over two hours before the court was adjourned, to be continued at a date yet unknown. In another case, the appeal trial of Dr. Thuy Linh Pham and Dr. Brigitte Hornstein, both members of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), took place in Koblenz on March 8. The court affirmed their conviction for trespass during an April, 2019 “go-in” action, and their sentence of 30 days wages was upheld. On March 15, Dr. Ernst-Ludwig Iskenius was in the same court for his role as registered “meeting leader” for IPPNW’s week of protest at Büchel in 2018. The judge said even though two blockades of the base were carried out after the meeting was over, he was still responsible for the civil disobedience and the sentence of 70 daily wages should serve as a deterrent to others...

GÜZ COMBAT TRAINING CENTER: Prosecutors in Bonn, Germany have fined one of the people who occupied the huge complex near Altmark in a 2019 protest. The activist amplified the €500 fine by asking supporters to pay no more than €5 towards his fine, *and* write a letter to the prosecutor stating the action had also been taken on their behalf, and in support of such civil resistance actions against war in the future...

KITSAP-BANGOR TRIDENT BASE: Sue Ablao was in court on March 9 for a mitigation hearing on her state citation for obstructing traffic entering the base in March, 2020. Eight codefendants had either already paid a fine or mitigated by mail, but Ablao wanted to appear in person. After three COVID-19 postponements, she was in court but the judge appeared by video. Ablao, in her second such appearance before Judge Clare Brady, read a short statement. Brady then dismissed the charge “in the interests of justice”...



KOODANKULAM: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has said the state government will “sympathetically consider” a petition by the People’s Movement Against Nuclear Energy to finally withdraw 105 cases still pending in the wake of the massive protests from 2011-2014 against construction of the nuclear power project near India’s southern tip. More than 220,000 people had been registered then as possible offenders, and all movement beyond their villages in the shadow of the reactors was tightly controlled. Only 350 cases ever moved towards prosecution, and already in 2014 most of those had been dismissed. But the movement controls and lingering prosecutions have greatly affected the young defendants’ ability to find work or travel...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

... **Activism for Life**, a memoir by Angie Zelter, reflects on four decades of activism and nonviolent protest and shares lessons learned from actions in many different countries that led to over 200 arrests and more than two years in prison. Includes insights into mobilizing for effective, sustainable nonviolent protest actions, and dealing with security, police and courts across issues that are closely intertwined. Use code AFL2OFF & get £2 off the £12.99 price. Order from www.luath.co.uk/product/activism-for-life. £3.50 overseas airmail postage for one book, £1/each additional. Free overseas delivery for orders over £30.

...**DePaul University’s inaugural Berrigan McAlister Award** will be presented to the Kings Bay Plowshares in a ceremony on May 5. The award will be given annually to “a person or organization whose active Christian nonviolence, like that practiced by Fr. Daniel Berrigan, S.J., Philip Berrigan and Elizabeth McAlister, resists injustice, transforms conflict, fosters reconciliation and seeks justice and peace for all.” This inaugural award commemorates the centenary of the May 9, 1921 birth of Fr. Daniel Berrigan. Free registration online at BerriganMcAlister.eventbrite.com includes screening and discussion with filmmaker Susan Hagedorn of *The Berrigans: Devout and Dangerous* on Tuesday, May 4, 6:30 p.m. Central, and the Award Presentation on Wednesday, May 5, 6:30 p.m. Central.

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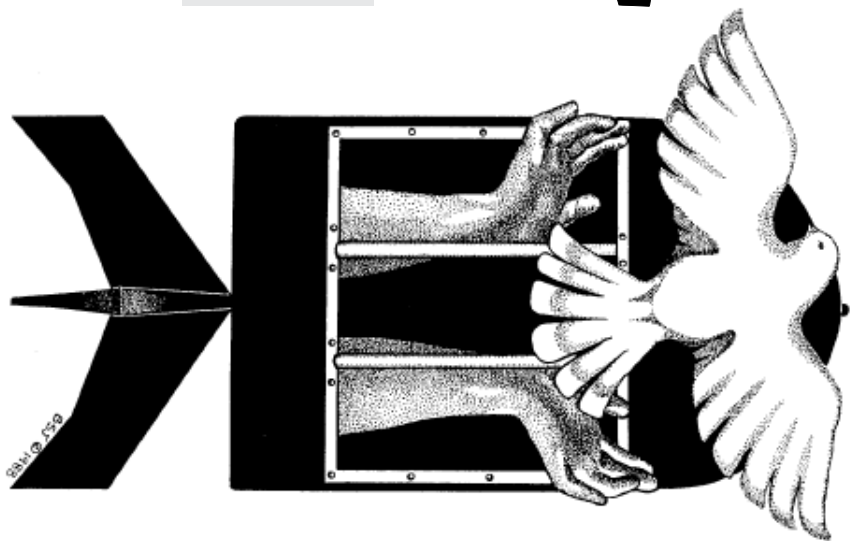
“A Chronicle of Hope”

Mark Colville Sentenced,
Fr. Steve Kelly Released

French Activists Face
Fines and Jail

Drone Wars
Whistleblower
Pleads Guilty

Leonard Peltier
Eligible For Transfer



INFORMATION
ABOUT AND
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