

the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

No. 200!

September 10, 2022



photo by Ed Hedemann

NUCLEAR ABOLITIONISTS BLOCKADE U.S. MISSION

Thanks to Ed Hedemann for much of this report.

On August 2, for almost four hours on a sunny and rather hot Tuesday, the New York City War Resisters League along with several other peace, social justice and environmental organizations were part of a nonviolent sit-in at the U.S. Mission during the second day of the U.N.’s month-long Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference (RevCon). About 100 participated in the demonstration, eleven of whom were eventually arrested while blocking the two doors to the U.S. Mission.

Their goal was to disrupt “nuclear diplomacy” as usual — which for decades has meant talk talk with little to no action — to demand the United States and other “nuclear countries” get rid of their nuclear weapons, especially in this time of increased nuclear saber-rattling around the war in Ukraine.

Sally Jones, chair of Peace Action Fund of New York State, said, “World leaders talk about the need for getting rid of nuclear weapons in endless meetings but those with nuclear weapons are modernizing and inventing new models. World leaders with nuclear weapons have been talking in public about their use on the battlefield in the war in Ukraine. This is against common sense for the survival of life on Earth. That is why I am protesting for a nuclear-free world with all my heart, mind and soul.”

The demonstration began at the U.N.’s Isaiah Wall with the holding of signs and banners, vigiling, singing, and street theater before marching two blocks up First Avenue to the U.S. Mission, which sits directly across the street from the United Nations. That’s when the

sit-in began, which managed to shut down the Mission for a couple of hours until the police arrested all the demonstrators.

Inside the Mission during our demonstration, there was an announcement directed to employees that because of “civil unrest” outside, employees needed to “shelter in place”! Until the arrests were completed around 2:30 p.m., no one entered or left the Mission. Those arrested were charged with disorderly conduct and released by 4:30 p.m.

Despite that over-the-top Mission warning, the demonstration attracted a lot of visitors, including reporters, tourists, delegates from the U.N. conference, a Japanese hibakusha from Hiroshima who was nine-months-old when he survived the bombing, and even “Miss Teen Pacific” in her tiara who joined the sit-in long enough to hold one of the signs and pose for a selfie.

Forty years earlier, one million people marched and rallied in New York City demanding an end to nuclear weapons and nuclear war, and 1,700 people were arrested during acts of nonviolent civil disobedience outside the U.N. missions of the seven nuclear states. Some of those who participated in the 1982 actions also participated in the August 2 protest.

The 2022 RevCon ended without a joint statement among state parties, affirming the observation of Zenon Rossides, who was Cyprus’s ambassador to the U.N. and the U.S. in 1970: “These negotiations are a stagnant pretense deceiving the people that something is being done about the nuclear arms race, which is a galloping reality.”

silently with our banner and signs through it all. Oddly, the Buncombe County police officers were fairly chill, chatting us up and asking if we really wanted to get arrested (not especially) or if we intended to resist arrest (not at all).

Our friends, 20 to 30 of them, were accompanying us from the bridge above, waving, taking pictures, and singing along with the Brass Your Heart band up there. It felt like being in an extended, slow-motion time-out in a field contest of David vs. Goliath. It got hot out there in the sun, but we couldn’t have been more delighted to be left standing there, surrounded by the stalled forces of a land baron, war corporation and associated security and police groups.

Why didn’t they just immediately arrest and take us away? We didn’t fully realize it at the time, but we had chosen to stand in the very spot in the road that was not owned by Biltmore Farms or deeded over to Pratt & Whitney. We were in the National Park Service buffer zone that exists on both sides of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The road into the plant went under the Parkway bridge that spans the French Broad River and we were right

continued on page 4

Büchel Resisters Choose Jail Over Fines

Three more Europeans have gone to prison in Germany this year for their protests inside the Büchel air base, where U.S. nuclear weapons are deployed. They are the 27th, 28th and 29th resisters to choose prison over payment of a fine during the long campaign to send those nukes back home. COVID had delayed the imposition of their sentences.

In May, Ria Makein, 70, surrendered to serve 30 days for her April, 2019 arrest. She chose prison because she wanted to “continue our campaign.” Asked after her release what gave her the strength “to swim against the tide,” she replied, “Through all the mail I received during those four weeks, I became aware of this great network.”

In July, Amsterdam Catholic Worker Frits ter Kuile reported and served 30 days. (Read his letter from prison on page 4).

Holger-Isabelle Jänicke lost her appeal for taking part in the April, 2019 action at Büchel, and began serving her 30-day sentence in mid-August. The legal aide worker dedicated her arrest to the late Fr. Carl Kabat, noting that, “In 1983, he also took part in the ploughshares campaign in Schwäbisch Gmünd, in which a tractor for the Pershing II [nuclear missile] was damaged. From 1987 to 1995, I lived in Mutlangen in a community of peace workers. We named our house after Carl Kabat.”

Next in lockup for actions at Büchel may well be American activist John LaForge, who refused to pay the fine and has been ordered to serve 30 days in a German prison starting January 10, 2023.

Last spring, following his conviction in district court for twice entering the base in 2018, LaForge appealed to the Constitutional Court. However, in Germany imposition of sentence is separate from the legal appeal. The appeal argues that two lower courts erred by refusing to consider his defense of “crime prevention,” thus violating his right to present a defense. LaForge argues that Germany’s stationing of U.S. nuclear weapons is a criminal violation of the 1970 Nonproliferation Treaty, which forbids transferring nuclear weapons to other countries. He also asserts that attempting to stop their use is not unlawful but a justified act to prevent the crime of threatening vast, disproportionate and indiscriminate destruction from the U.S. nuclear weapons.

While LaForge may become the first U.S. activist to be jailed in Germany for protesting the U.S. nuclear weapons there (Kabat having been released on his own recognizance and never returning to Germany for trial), at least two more Americans, both Catholic Workers who have joined the international protests at Büchel, could follow him into prison next year if they refuse to pay. Susan Crane from Redwood City, California was convicted on January 18 on four counts of trespass from 2019 and fined €1,000 or 200 days in jail. Once again, the Cochem court rejected her defenses of international law and competing harms, instead focusing for the record on the cost of hardware to repair the fence she’d helped to cut through. Crane will return to Germany soon to appeal the trial court’s refusal to consider her defenses for this conviction as well as a prior conviction for twice entering the base in 2018.

While vigiling at Büchel in July for this summer’s international week of protest, Brian Terrell from Maloy, Iowa was served papers to appear in court on November 23 for the appeal of his conviction from a 2019 fence-cutting action there. He is weighing his options.

A final update: Uwe Lutz-Scholten was summoned to court in his hometown of Korbach, three hours drive from Büchel, on September 8, charged with inciting an illegal act. His name was on the website for the July, 2021 Digging for Life action at Büchel as manager of the solidarity account to support the activists who were arrested.

continued on page 5

Earth Day 8 Walk Away With a Win

by Ken Jones

We planned for the direct action, then we planned for the trial. The first came off great, the second didn’t come off at all. Which was also great – all charges were dismissed. We won, twice.

We had four expert witnesses lined up who were going to testify as to the illegality of Raytheon’s war profiteering and ecocidal business plan, according to international law.

Back on Earth Day, April 22, eight of us from Reject Raytheon had stopped traffic on a dirt construction entrance to the Pratt & Whitney plant. We were mostly elders, 65 or older. The plan was to shut down a steamroll operation to get the new military-industrial factory up and running, if only momentarily and symbolically. But we ended up blocking the way for two whole hours! It was a moment to savor, standing there with trucks backed up for as far as the eye could see, in both directions.

We had done our nonviolent direct action preparations and it was a good thing because quickly confronting us were some mighty irritated truckers, private security officers and management types from landlord Biltmore Farms and Pratt & Whitney. Mostly, we just stood

where we're at

*For everything, turn, turn, turn,
There is a season, turn, turn, turn,
And a time to every purpose, under heaven.
A time to be born, a time to die
A time to plant, a time to reap...*

Thank you to Pete Seeger for turning words from the Book of Ecclesiastes into such a beautiful song!

September is here. We are brining many pickles thanks to an abundance of garden cucumbers, and planning our winter garden as we finish this issue of *the Nuclear Resister*. And we are so happy to have the new stamps honoring Pete Seeger to mail this issue to you!

We wrote in December 2021 about the profound impact that COVID 19 has had on the anti-nuclear and anti-war resistance movement. We concluded that it made sense to put the print edition of *the Nuclear Resister* on hold for awhile. Now, there is enough news about new actions, trials and people going to prison to publish a new issue. So here's issue #200, even as we can't predict now when we'll have news enough to fill the next issue. Meanwhile, be sure to follow the Nuclear Resister on Facebook and Twitter and visit www.nukeresister.org for up-to-date prisoner addresses, new action reports, a listing of future actions and to sign up for occasional e-bulletins.

In the months since we published issue #199, the sad

news has reached us about many nuclear resisters who have died, all of them involved in multiple nonviolent actions reported over the years in this Chronicle of Hope.

British campaigners Anni Rainbow and Bruce Kent, Canadian activist Joanne Young, Bob Rabin, who visited Vieques, Puerto Rico and stayed for decades to help kick the Navy out, and from the U.S., Womanpriest Georgia Walker, missile-designer turned nonviolence champion Bob Aldridge, Plowshares activists Donna Howard and Fr. Carl Kabat, and Judy Ross and Sr. Mary Dennis Lentsch, anchors of decades of resistance at the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant in Tennessee. Some we never had the opportunity to meet in person, and others we crossed paths with at actions, in courtrooms and in prison visiting rooms. We are grateful for their activism and their lives!

Carl was a member of the inaugural Plowshares Eight action in September 1980. He spent a total of more than 17 years behind bars for multiple direct actions for nuclear disarmament, among the longest of any nuclear resister in history.

Also, some beloved Tucson peace and justice activists have died during this time. Chuck Kaufman, Jon Miles and Bob Phillips, Presente! You are deeply missed.

Together let us remember these good people, and hold up their spirit, dedication and persistence as we carry

forward the struggle for a peaceful, just, nuclear-free world.

Peace,
Felice and Jack

Issue #200!

by Felice and Jack Cohen-Joppa, coordinators

Two hundred issues of *the Nuclear Resister*. Newsletters filled with stories of anti-nuclear and anti-war resistance around the world. Keeping track of who's been arrested, who is in court and who is "Inside & Out" of jails and prisons. Telling the history of this movement through the acts and voices of the resistance. Chronicling hope.

Meeting 200 deadlines has involved a good deal of writing, editing and proofreading. Many hours discussing tactics and typefaces, graphics and nonviolence, column inches, Oxford commas and prisoner support. Countless letters, phone calls and now emails to gather information about actions and find out what happened in court and behind bars. An impressive amount of all-nighters and intensely focused days, and the coffee, chocolate and all manner of support that have helped keep us going.

To all of you who have written articles, sent updates, proofread, helped at a mailing party, been arrested at a peace or anti-nuclear action or supported those who have been, subscribed, donated, written to and provided support for activists in jail – thank you for being part of this accomplishment!

We hope that you will join us on Zoom on December 3 to celebrate 200 issues - see page 8 for details. Updates will be posted on the Nuclear Resister website, www.nukeresister.org.

Thanks

Thank you to the James R. and Mary Jane Barrett Foundation for their two-year grant to the Nuclear Resister for "carrying on the commendable work for peace".

Thanks to Ruth for proofreading assistance.

A special shout out to nuclear resister Catherine Morris, who is celebrating 50 years at the Los Angeles Catholic Worker... Thank you for five decades of steady and illuminating service, faith and resistance!

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

Four-issue 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

¡Presente!

*We give thanks for the lives of these nuclear resisters
and advocates for peace, justice and nonviolence.*



**Fr. Carl
Kabat**
October 10, 1933 –
August 4, 2022



**Robert
Aldridge**
April 15, 1926 –
April 29, 2022



Joanne Young
July 11, 1927 –
January 9, 2022

Judy Ross
June 5, 1922 –
August 14, 2022



**Sr. Mary
Dennis Lentsch**
January 15, 1937 –
August 13, 2022



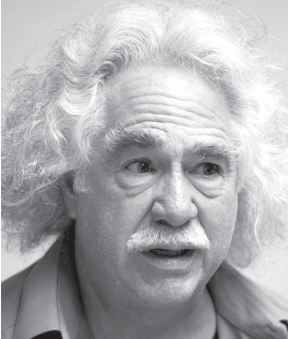
Bruce Kent
June 22, 1929 –
June 8, 2022



Donna Howard
July 3, 1946 –
July 30, 2022



Anni Rainbow
June 22, 1949 –
June 24, 2022



**Robert
Rabin**
March 7, 1954 –
March 38, 2022

RUSSIAN WAR RESISTERS

Since the Nuclear Resister began reporting on anti-war arrests in 1990, we’ve mostly focused on resistance to U.S.-led wars, military alliances like NATO and bases abroad. We leave it to the anti-war activists in other countries to report on actions that hold their own government and war industries to account.

As an exception to our norm, because of the thousands of people who have been detained, we’re reporting on the anti-war – and sometimes including anti-nuclear – resistance that has erupted and been suppressed within Russia over the last six-plus months.

The primary source for information about anti-war arrests in Russia is OVD-Info, “an independent human rights media project dedicated to ... [helping] those who are being persecuted for exercising the right to freedom of assembly and other basic political rights.”

The group staffs a 24/7 hotline, monitors scores of active cases and provides legal support services. They are dedicated to human rights and open documentation. Since the invasion, they have launched antiwar.ovdinfo.org alongside their other Russian-language websites, ovdinfo.org and ovd.news. Many internet browsers and search engines provide free machine translation into English.

By last account (8/17/22), the “targeted persecution of activists in different regions” since the invasion of Ukraine began on February 24 has resulted in 16,437 anti-war related detentions (one person can be detained several times). Most occurred during the first month of the war, for street actions such as rallies, posting flyers or sporting anti-war clothes or accessories. Others were detained later, in part due to the use of facial recognition technology. In some cases, “excessive cruelty” of detainees has been noted.

Of these, 3,807 are cases of “discrediting the army,” and another 234 criminal cases have been filed.

At least 61 people are still in pre-trial detention, which can last for years during an investigation. Many have already been sentenced to prison and house arrest. Two examples: The first criminal defendant was 22-year-old Moscow student Anastasia Levashova. She was filmed at a rally February 24 rather aimlessly throwing a molotov cocktail which failed to ignite. She apologized and was sentenced March 28 to two years in prison. In July, Aleksey Gorinov, a municipal deputy in a district of Moscow, was sentenced to seven years in prison. His crime was calling the war a war at a public meeting, in violation of a new post-invasion law.

Raytheon Blockade

Inspired in part by the recent roof-top occupations of Israeli arms suppliers by Palestine Action in the U.K, a New England anti-war group took direct action last spring to again protest Raytheon corporation’s war profiteering and the widespread civilian casualties resulting from the weapons it sells to Saudi Arabia, Israel and beyond.

In a multi-front action on the morning of March 21, members of RAM INC (Resist and Abolish the Military Industrial Complex) blocked the parking garage of Raytheon’s Cambridge, Massachusetts plant. Others went inside to disrupt the work day while some climbed up on the roof to bring more attention to the protest. The activists launched flares from the rooftop while chanting and dropping fliers down to workers as they arrived at the facility. Several banners were also unfurled from the roof, reading “End All Wars, End All Empires” and “Raytheon Profits From Death in Yemen, Palestine & Ukraine”.

The action was carried out one day after the 19th anniversary of the second U.S. invasion of Iraq. The group expressed hope that the protest would honor the lives of the hundreds of thousands of Iraqis killed during the war, and galvanize a broader movement that opposes all wars.

“We took action today to condemn all wars and all colonial occupations. The new anti-war movement that has grown in response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine must grow to call for an end to Israel’s occupation of Palestine, an end to Saudi Arabia’s war on Yemen, and an end of the U.S. military industrial complex,” said one of the rooftop occupiers.

As police arrived and made their way to the roof, the five activists locked on to one another with reinforced PVC pipe and U-locks. Five hours elapsed before police extracted the activists and arrested them.

The five were released that night, charged with eight criminal counts each including two felonies. At a court hearing the next morning, all the charges were dismissed. Raytheon declined to make any comment to the press.

Raytheon, headquartered in Waltham, Massachusetts, is the second largest weapons contractor in the world and the largest global producer of guided missiles. Raytheon’s CEO Greg Hayes sparked controversy in January when he declared to shareholders that, “I fully expect we’re going

Political Prisoners Seek Commutation of Sentences

Leonard Peltier

Forty-five years after his wrongful conviction for killing two FBI agents, Leonard Peltier and the international campaign for his freedom were in the news in late January after the 77-year-old political prisoner tested positive for COVID. Peltier is also diabetic, with a chronic heart condition and abdominal aortic aneurysm.

The list of prominent people supporting Peltier’s petition asking President Biden to commute his sentence and send him home continues to grow, now including at least four current U.S. Senators and eleven Representatives who have recently written to the President.

When Peltier was released from COVID isolation, Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) was able to talk to him by phone, and the prison later allowed NBC news and Jennifer Benders, a *Huffington Post* reporter who has written about his case the last two years, to speak with Peltier. She asked him what he’d like to tell President Biden.

“I’m not guilty of this shooting. I’m not guilty,” he said. “I would like to go home to spend what years I have left with my great-grandkids and my people.”

The American Indian Movement’s Leonard Peltier Walk to Justice stepped off from Minneapolis in late August, and will reach Washington D.C. for rallies on November 14 and 18. Follow their progress at facebook.com/LeonardPeltierWalkToJustice.



Beyond his actual innocence of the crime, Peltier fits the criteria for COVID release as well as for a clemency request. The International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee asks supporters to constantly write, email or call the White House to voice support for the commutation of his sentence and release to his family and community.

Letters of support should be sent to Leonard Peltier 89637-132, USP Coleman I, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521. Plain white paper and envelope, blue or black ink only, no labels, crayon, markers, drawings, stickers or scents. Use full name and address on both letter and envelope.

One year ago in August, RAM INC shut down access to Raytheon’s facility in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. In February, the two people who locked themselves onto a junk car used to block the entrance were ordered to pay over \$3,000 in fines and fees.

For more information, follow RAM INC on twitter @resist_abolish.

Daniel Hale

Drone warfare whistleblower Daniel Hale formally filed his petition for commutation of his sentence on September 8. One month after he pled guilty to one count of violating the Espionage Act, Hale was jailed by surprise in April, 2021 during a scheduled check-in prior to his sentencing in July, 2021. He was sentenced to 45 months in federal prison, and is due to be released in July, 2024.

Hale writes that he is “making do in the CMU” (Communications Management Unit) of the high-security Marion, Illinois federal prison. He, like Leonard Peltier, also survived a bout with COVID late last winter.

Hale has recently been able to receive visits from friends but correspondence in the CMU remains problematic, with some letters taking eight weeks or more to reach him.

For more information, visit standwithdanielhale.com.



Letters and calls of support to the White House for Daniel Hale’s clemency petition for commutation are encouraged.

Write to Daniel Hale 26069-075, USP Marion, U.S. Penitentiary, P.O. Box 1000, Marion, IL 62959. Plain white paper and envelope, blue or black ink only, no labels, crayon, markers, drawings, stickers or scents. Use full name and address on both letter and envelope.

KINGS BAY PLOWSHARES UPDATE

Last winter, federal authorities seized more than \$30,000 from the account of Carmen Trotta as payment in full for the outstanding restitution the seven Kings Bay Plowshares defendants were ordered to pay, individually and severally, following conviction for their 2018 disarmament action at the Trident nuclear submarine base at Kings Bay, Georgia. The money was part of Trotta’s inheritance after his father passed away before Carmen was sent to prison.

Mark Colville had been summoned to a probation compliance hearing in Connecticut last winter because he refused to submit to drug testing or to hand over personal financial information to his probation officer. After the restitution question became moot with the seizure of Trotta’s inheritance, Colville wrote to the judge explaining his refusals. The Connecticut judge then canceled the scheduled hearing, agreeing that Colville need not disclose his financial status and could forgo drug testing because drugs were not part of his “crime.” Fr. Steve Kelly remains at large, a warrant still outstanding for his arrest for not reporting to probation officials after his release from prison in April 2021.

For more information, visit kingsbayplowshares7.org.

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)

NUCLEAR RESISTERS

Holger-Isabelle Jänicke
JVA Billwerder, Dweerlandweg 100,
22113 Hamburg, Germany.
(30 days – in 08/17/2022)
(Refused to pay fine for trespass protest of U.S. nuclear weapons stockpiled at Büchel Air Base, April 30, 2019)

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

ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS

Daniel Hale 26069-075
USP Marion, U.S. Penitentiary, P.O. Box 1000, Marion, IL 62959.
(45 months – out 7/5/24)
(Drone warfare whistleblower pled guilty 3/31/21 to violation of Espionage Act)

Please note: Most U.S. prisons no longer accept cards, only white paper letters with blue or black ink and envelopes using no labels, crayon, markers, drawings, stickers or scents. Increasingly, correspondence is photocopied for the prisoner and the original is destroyed. Include name and return address on all correspondence as it may be separated from its envelope.

PREVIOUSLY LISTED, SINCE RELEASED: From home confinement, Rafil Dhafir

Earth Day 8, cont.

continued from page 1

in the shadow of that bridge. We had chosen that spot because it was easy to get to unobserved and it provided a good photo op from above.

As it happened, none of the authorities converging on us seemed to know who had jurisdiction there. It took them a while to figure it out, with lots of comings and goings and phone calls. (Protesters in the road, who “owns” this piece of Mother Earth? Who’s in charge? Talk amongst yourselves.) It was kind of fun to watch.

Eventually the National Park Service, not having the capacity for multiple arrests, asked the Buncombe County police to take charge, or so we were told later. A Buncombe County police captain arrived and very politely offered the eight of us options: we could just walk away with no charge, walk away with a citation for criminal trespass, or get cuffed and go to jail and get the same charge. We decided to take the citation, not the free pass, because we hoped to get a trial. We were prepared to go to jail, but when offered the option, we thought, nah, we don’t need that kind of abuse.

And so we hung around with the friendly police officers, while three of them wrote out our tickets. It was a little surreal, this all being treated so lightly, as if it were a scene out of the movie Alice’s Restaurant. Soon, we happily walked away, escorted by the captain, through some pretty sullen truck drivers, to the welcoming arms and water of our friends and supporters up on the bridge.

We had gone into this action agreeing, as many activists do, to see this through to a trial. The point was to extend the action as much as possible in order to shed more light on the issue through the added publicity of a trial. In the trial we would plead not guilty on the grounds of what is called a necessity defense. This defense argues that, when faced with a greater evil, people have a responsibility to take action, even if that action violates some lesser law. It’s like breaking into a neighbor’s burning house to save the people inside. Indeed, with wars and fossil fuels burning up people and planet, this is exactly how we felt. The Pratt & Whitney plant would be one more profit-making enterprise pushing us all over an existential cliff.

We were prepared to mount such a necessity defense. We sincerely felt that we had no other recourse than to commit this act of civil resistance because of the secrecy and complicity of elected officials and the business community in making this deal. It was a done deal before we ever knew it was happening. The system is corrupt; there is no process for meaningful public engagement that resembles democracy.

In particular, we planned to explain the two-fold greater evil of this Pratt & Whitney plant to a judge and jury: (1) likely half of the engine components produced at this plant will go into fighter jets used in illegal and immoral U.S.-supported wars; (2) all of the engine components produced will contribute greatly to the climate emergency we are facing, despite company claims that these engines will be more energy efficient.

The messaging on our signs, banner and even the shirts we were wearing was to stop the war industry and to build wind turbines, not war machines. This was in sync with that of a national movement led by the War Industry Resisters Network to convert the war economy through a peaceful, just and green transition.

It was this prophetic call that we wanted to bring to the judicial system. While the prosecution would undoubtedly be focused on the immediate question of whether we trespassed, we wanted to defend ourselves by saying our violation was trivial compared to the crimes of Raytheon. We would flip the script, putting Raytheon on trial. But alas, we didn’t get to do that when our charges were dismissed.

Still, we count this as a victory.

The system didn’t want to have the trial and that in itself is telling. Who knows why? Maybe the district attorney’s office looked at the jurisdictional issue and decided it was too messy to deal with.

Or maybe they looked at our preparations for a real trial and decided it wasn’t worth it. We had four expert witnesses lined up who were going to testify as to the illegality of Raytheon’s war profiteering and ecocidal business plan, according to international law. And two of us were also going to take the stand to testify as to the necessity, in fact the moral imperative, to intervene.

Or maybe Jack Cecil and Biltmore Farms didn’t want the bad publicity for its ongoing plan to replace another 1000 acres of trees with an aerospace industrial park. As we know, Pratt & Whitney is just the start, the anchor for further development devoted to military-industrial businesses. The Chamber of Commerce and Buncombe County commissioners are pushing this agenda too, so there is a lot of power invested in keeping the news positive, all about jobs and such.

Or maybe we just got a “lucky” draw of the cards in an

WRITINGS FROM PRISON

~ from JVA Wittlich
July 14, 2022

Dear Jack and Felice,

Greetings from Wittlich Prison. I was missioned into prison from a vigil outside the gate with a reading from Dan Berrigan’s “Terrible Disease of Normalcy.” Dan writes how our plans and hopes must march on schedule. I reflected how I am like that, too, even with planning prison time in my plans. Usually I knew there was a warrant out for me and I knew how much time. I would join an action and keep my agenda free after the action because I knew the police would take me in.

Now it went different. When the prosecutor’s office wrote I’d have to pay €1,400 for entering Büchel Air Base and praying with Susan Crane and Stefanie Augustin an Our Father on top of a nuclear bomb aircraft shelter, I replied I wasn’t going to pay but do the time. Then I got a letter from Frau Burkowski, “carer for justice” (Rechtspflegerin, sort of a social worker), writing it really wasn’t the idea I go to prison. She offered to help me paying in terms.

I replied states not only have benevolent sides, but also darker sides. That the German government breaks the German constitution (which forbids nuclear arms), the 2 + 4 Treaty for the Unification of Germany, the NPT, the Geneva war laws and the Nuremberg Charter by having nuclear weapons in Germany. And that to shed some light on these crimes it might be good if I go to prison. So for the care of justice I asked her to help me enter prison.

May 18th I got her response dated April 7th: I have to report at this prison before May 23rd. That was too much disruption of plans for me. I wrote back her letter took six weeks to reach me. If she gives me another six weeks I would report on July 4th. She agreed and so, after we concluded the vigil and Susan Crane gave me a blessing, this time I did not enter prison in a police car but on my two feet.

I tested negative for COVID, but still, two weeks quarantine. When the hatch opens at 6 a.m. for hot water or coffee and at 6 p.m. for bread and tea: “Maske Auf!”[“Mask on!”]. With the help of God and by nature I manage, even like, being a hermit. The almoner got me a Russian and German Bible so I can freshen up my Russian and I do get mail. But for other inmates, being ruptured out of their lives, I can imagine a cold start

THE INSIDE LINE



with 14 days lock down can be hard.

One hour a day I get air and often there are others in quarantine. I jog half an hour with a mask on and then walk, stand or sit with others. I learn a lot and maybe I give something in return, too. After this outdoor exercise we quarantinos are put into the shower where we take off our masks, enjoy real faces and chat while we shower ...

I hope by being in prison I can warn society about the new atomic bombs that are made in Kansas City, and about the enormous increase in military spending and the building up of armies since the invasion of Ukraine. And I hope to point to the alternative. Do not greet the occupier with Molotov cocktails or missiles or grenades, but go the extra mile if a Roman or whatever soldier presses you to go one mile, if he’s hungry, share a meal, while at the same time lovingly resisting the occupying system he’s trying to impose. To win over your enemy and work together on peace, justice and the safeguarding of creation. That struggle brings suffering, too, as Dan Berrigan words it so well. But it is a suffering that is a lot more “beautiful” than the suffering brought on by trying to kill the other and destroy the lands. Because of my thirty days I was interviewed by a paper with a wide and receptive audience and I got this message across. Already that makes the 30 days well worth it. Though sometimes I do think, “What am I doing in this cell when outside the summer is so beautiful, there’s plenty to do and I wouldn’t miss my son’s high school graduation.”

But those thoughts are minority thoughts and I am mostly thankful I get to do this little stint of prison time for

Peace!

Frits

[Frits ter Kuile lives in Amsterdam at the Jeannette Noël House Catholic Worker community.]

Sacred Peace Walk to the Nuclear Test Site

by Brian Terrell

On Thursday, April 14, Ray Cage of Tucson, Arizona and Catherine Hourcade of Stockton, California entered the Mercury gate of the Nevada National Security Site and were briefly detained by Nye County sheriff’s deputies and National Nuclear Security Administration police. The evening before, Cage, Hourcade and about a dozen other activists with the Nevada Desert Experience (NDE) arrived at the historic “Peace Camp” across Highway 95 from the site after walking more than 60 miles from Las Vegas. This land, formerly known as the Nevada Test Site, was commandeered by the United States government from the Western Shoshone nation after World War II, and has since become the most bombed and poisoned place on the planet.

For 40 years, NDE has organized protests of nuclear testing and other preparations for nuclear war at the site, including the annual Sacred Peace Walk that brought the activists to the site on April 14. In October 2018, Nye County authorities ended a three decades long tradition of detaining protesters and releasing them with citations that were subsequently never filed. Over those years, permits to be on the site issued by the Western Shoshone National Council were accepted by the police for identification purposes. At an Indigenous Peoples Day protest organized by NDE that year, three people were detained at the site – two had state issued photo IDs and were released with warnings and the third, Marcus Page-Collonge, identified himself with the permit from the Western Shoshone and was taken to the county jail in Pahrump. Marcus was subsequently convicted of trespass and sentenced to community service.

overcrowded and under-resourced court system.

Whatever the case, we look at all the positives that have come from this action and our move to have a trial, including raising local awareness of the murderous devil in our midst and helping to generate a national movement against war corporations like Raytheon. We may not have gotten all we wanted in this action, but we do feel successful and even blessed to walk away unscathed.

Nice win this time. It’s almost enough to want to do it again.

At NDE’s next event at the test site, the Sacred Peace Walk in April, 2019, 33 people were arrested at the test site. Two were charged with making a “public nuisance” for blocking the road, and were taken to the county jail and later released. Of the 31 arrested for trespass, 25 presented ID issued by governments other than the Western Shoshone nation and were released on site with warnings. Six others offered only their permits from the Western Shoshone, legal owners of the land, for ID and were charged with trespass and held on bond in the jail in Pahrump. Four of the protesters remained to celebrate a glorious Easter in jail before bailing out. All charges from that event were eventually dropped.

COVID-19 concerns became a factor as county and federal “law enforcement” were changing their strategies, so in spring 2022, NDE limited participation in the Sacred Peace Walk to just over a dozen. Due to the fact that social distancing is not possible in jail and the protocols of the police for jailing protesters were not clear, this year NDE did not encourage risking arrest at Creech Air Force Base or at the test site. Early Thursday morning, Lt. Jordan of the Nye County sheriffs visited Peace Camp with the gift of a dozen donuts, a friendly gesture, even if reinforcing a stereotype. With Lt. Jordan’s explanation that no one with a state issued ID would be taken to jail and that those who had been arrested and warned in 2018 or later would be released with citations to appear in court later and those not previously so warned would be given a warning ticket, Cage and Hourcade decided to take the risk.

Cage, as expected, had his ID taken and was released with a warning. Hourcade was initially cited to appear in court on a charge of trespass, a citation that was soon voided as an error. As COVID restrictions are lifted and the calculated legal ramifications of nonviolent direct action at the test site are better known, it is hoped in this most dangerous point in history that anti-nuclear activists will return to the scene of the world’s greatest crime and, if need be, clog the courts and fill the jails.

For more information, visit www.nevadadesertexperience.org

GOOD FRIDAY AT LOCKHEED MARTIN

At noon on April 15, the Brandywine Peace Community held their annual Good Friday Stations of Justice, Peace and Nonviolent Resistance at the Lockheed Martin facility in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Crosses were placed between banners and signs, while a bell of peace tolled. Tom Mullian sang two peace songs. Next, at each Station a reading was presented, appropriate for being at the site of the world’s largest nuclear weapons contractor and war profiteer.

When the readings concluded, a number of those present risked arrest by walking onto the driveway of Lockheed Martin and blocking the entrance. Eventually, three of those in the driveway moved forward onto Lockheed Martin property in an attempt to deliver a copy of the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to officials in the main building. They were stopped by Lockheed Martin security and Upper Merion police. A copy of the Treaty was handed to the head of Lockheed Martin security, and the three were then arrested for trespass. Tom Mullian, Fr. Patrick Sieber, OFM and Paul Sheldon were charged and released on site.

While protesters are typically taken to the police station after being arrested there, they were told there would be no trip in the police van this time, because COVID requires a complex decontamination of the van after any use.

State, Federal Arrests at Trident Sub Base

The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action has resumed their pre-pandemic calendar of nonviolent resistance at the Trident nuclear submarine base Kitsap-Bangor, located on Washington state’s Puget Sound, with direct actions to observe Mother’s Day and the August atomic bombing anniversaries.

Over 50 people were present on May 7 for the Mother’s Day demonstration. Nine demonstrators carrying a large banner stating, “The Earth Is Our Mother—Treat Her With Respect”, blocked the main highway entrance into the base for about 10 minutes. They were cited for being pedestrians on the roadway by the Washington State Patrol, and released at the scene.

Those cited were Sue Ablao, Carolee Flaten, Brenda McMillan, Margarita Munoz, Ramon Nacanaynay, Rev. Gilberto Perez, Tom Rogers, Michael Siptroth and Caroline Wildflower.

Early on the morning of August 8, about 40 activists met at the Ground Zero Center to remember the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 77 years ago and to call for the abolition of nuclear weapons. On the grounds of the Center in Poulsbo, Washington, Nipponzan Myōhōji monks and friends are constructing a Peace Pagoda. The Trident base is just over the back fence.

A local Unitarian Universalist minister led the group in a blessing before they walked to the Main Gate of the naval base carrying banners, signs and flags to greet arriving sailors and workers.

At the gate, while others vigiled on the roadside, at least two dozen activists entered the roadway. A few held up a banner to face the arriving traffic. Others, wearing color-coordinated t-shirts with large nuclear disarmament (peace) signs on the front, quickly formed a flash mob that

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Germany

On May 3, half a dozen climbing activists occupied two large steel power pylons on the line that supplies the Urenco uranium enrichment plant at Gronau. The climbers hung anti-nuclear banners from both towers and were equipped to stay for awhile. Police had other ideas and, after assembling their own less experienced climbing

Faslane, Scotland

The Faslane Peace Camp celebrated its 40th anniversary in June. The narrow village of rescued caravans (trailers) tucked in the trees alongside the A814 north of Helensburgh, Scotland has been continuously occupied through two generations, sometimes by only one or two residents, but always with enough community support to persist as an anchor for nonviolent direct action at HM Naval Base Clyde, just across and up the road a bit. Better known as the Faslane base, it’s the homeport for Britain’s four nuclear missile-launching submarines.

On Monday, August 8, two peace campers live-streamed their Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemoration protest as they locked themselves together and lay down to block the north entrance. Police eventually arrested both, holding them overnight. They were released from jail the next afternoon without charges.

Kansas City Nuclear Resisters on Trial

In February, the five men who crossed the line in May, 2021 at the nuclear weapons parts plant in Kansas City faced bench trials for trespass in Kansas City Municipal court. The trial of Henry Stoever was separated after the prosecutor warned two judges against having the retired attorney in the dock with the others. That left Jim Hannah, Tom Mountenay, Br. Louis Rodemann and Brian Terrell up first, representing themselves on February 18 in front of Judge Ardie Bland.

All four men told the court of their lifelong Christian commitment to active nonviolence. Mountenay, a minister in his later life, referred to Romans 13:10, where the apostle Paul writes that “Love does no wrong ... therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.”

“I was taking a step of love towards a future with justice and without war. We can learn together the way towards peace,” he told the court.

Br. Louis Rodemann, 82, testified as a member of the Catholic Christian Brothers religious order. He spent his life in service to people with special needs, and informed the court that:

In addition to providing these services to this at-risk population, we felt called to educate about, call to attention, advocate for and protest against systems, structures and institutions which contributed

danced to the funky peace beats from a boombox blasting Edwin Starr’s classic recording of “War (What is it good for?)”.

It was an encore of the August 2019 flash mob performance at the same gate before the pandemic. Both were led by Ground Zero member Susan Delaney and her family members Adrianna and Anteia.

When the dance was over, two large banners that read “Abolish Nuclear Weapons” and “Nuclear Weapons Are Illegal: Get them out of Kitsap County” plus some dancers remained. Eleven activists were removed from the roadway by Washington State Patrol officers and cited for being pedestrians on the roadway. Two more activists crossed the blue boundary line painted across the road and were detained by Navy personnel. They were cited for trespass on federal property and released.

Those cited by the state are Sue Ablao, Philip Davis, Susan Delaney, Sean Foley, Anne Hall, David Hall, Elizabeth Murray, Gilberto Perez, George Rodkey, Michael Siptroth and Caroline Wildflower. Macknight Johnson and Victor White were issued federal citations.

The morning vigil, flash mob and nonviolent direct action were the culmination of a two-day remembrance of the atomic bombings at Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action. Mary and Jim Aldridge joined the remembrance, representing their father, Robert C. Aldridge, peacemaker and guiding inspiration for Ground Zero Center and Trident resistance who passed away on April 29. Mary spoke about her father’s last book, *The Goodness Field*, and his work on the creation of a Global Constructive Program leading to a world with justice, sustainability and peace for all of humanity.

For more information, visit gzcenter.org.

team, began evicting the activists that evening. With the assistance of the protesters, the operation was without incident, but what transpired thereafter for the most notorious among the climbers was not.

Cécile Lecomte is a well-known French political climbing activist and freelance journalist living in Germany. Climbing is also physical therapy for her severe rheumatoid arthritis, now requiring use of a wheelchair when she’s not on the ropes. The climbing police had respected her disability and not touched her painful joints during the eviction from the tower.

But police alleged trespass, and then claimed the activists had not complied with the eviction order so their ID would have to be confirmed at the police station. After driving over 100 miles per hour on the autobahn to the station in Ahaus, police insisted on confirming Lecomte’s ID with fingerprints, a process particularly painful late in the day given her arthritis. Police called her the “ringleader” because they recognized her from television. Yet despite this, and her possession of ID documents including a disabled person’s pass, they insisted the procedure had to be completed. The trespass complaint was in fact without merit and dropped, but Lecomte has now been criminally charged with resisting police during what was an invalid ID check. She has filed an administrative complaint against the police, but must still defend herself on the criminal charge in October.

For more information, visit blog.eichhoernchen.fr.

significantly to the poverty and disenfranchisement of the people we were committed to serve. How and why was there such disabling, dehumanizing poverty in the United States, arguably the most powerful and richest country in history? How was this overwhelming power and wealth distributed? One of the answers pointed overwhelming to our military industrial complex.

Hannah seemed to move the judge when he said that, “Regardless of the outcome of today’s proceedings, in actuality I plead my case to two higher courts for recourse – the court of global humanity, and the court of Divine justice. It is my conviction that neither of these courts would find me or my co-defendants guilty for witnessing against nuclear weapons. More likely, they would judge us wanting if we had done nothing.”

Delivering his sentence, Judge Bland acknowledged that, “These are the hardest types of cases to judge over, because they cover many thoughts and ideas. It is before these cases that I take the time to pray and ask for the right direction... While in the eyes of the law you are guilty, I recognize that there is a higher power compelling you to act. I encourage you to follow that compulsion and continue to fight for what you believe is right.” He gave each of the men a suspended 180-day sentence, and asked for their prayers for the judicial system and himself. “It has been an honor to have you all in my courtroom,” he said.

Brian Terrell, with 45 years experience of numerous local and federal jurists, observed that “Judge Bland’s lenient and creative sentence, our post-trial conversation with him and his appeal for our prayers were genuine and our trial was a deeply human encounter in a venue where too often ‘justice’ is churned out cruel and cold. It would be an overstatement, though, to say that justice was done. Even if it were not a condition of probation, I will be praying for Ardie Bland.”

Five days later, Henry Stoever stood before Judge Katherine Emke. In addition to his testimony, he submitted a 36-page brief asserting his defense under the U.S. Constitution, First Amendment and the 1948 United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. Emek said it was irrelevant to the charge. Stoever objected, commenting, “I find it amusing that here we have officers of the court, and they choose to ignore the Bill of Rights, the Constitution.” He was found guilty and sentenced to two years probation and a suspended 180-day sentence plus court costs. Stoever has appealed to the next higher court, where his case will be heard by a jury on February 23.

On Memorial Day, May 30, 2022, 65 people marched to the plant from a mile away, carrying 60 flags of the nations that had by then ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. After a rally at the gate, five people crossed the line and were detained only until their ID was recorded for possible prosecution within one year.

For more information, visit www.peaceworkskc.org.



Photo by Hanna Poddig

Occupying activists including Cecile Lecomte, left, hang anti-nuclear banners from the electric towers supplying the Gronau uranium enrichment plant. The banner translates, “nuclear phase-out is manual work.”

Büchel, cont.

continued from page 1

Last winter the prosecutor discontinued the investigation of those arrested at the scene. Lutz-Scholten, drew a young judge who expressed interest in the issues, admitting she didn’t know anything about them before the trial but had learned a lot in preparation. She allowed him to speak at length about the consequences of nuclear war and the weapons stockpiled at Büchel, and at the end simply terminated the proceedings with no judgment or penalty.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Coulport, Scotland

Thanks to Angie Zelter for much of this report.

Trident Ploughshares (TP) was weakened by old age and COVID, and felt under capacity to organize a summer disarmament camp but there had not been one at Peaton Wood for five years. The usual protest activity had stopped. But this was the year and the month that the first meeting of states parties of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was to be held in Vienna and the war in Ukraine had suddenly brought the threat of nuclear war unimaginably close and high up on the political agenda. People were being scared back into the old false thinking that nuclear deterrence was necessary and could work. It was time to protest once more in Scotland; time to ensure that Scotland, at least, would not go back on its anti-nuclear promises; time to encourage the U.K. government to join the TPNW process. Coincidentally, it was the 40th anniversary of the Faslane Peace Camp on June 12.

Extinction Rebellion Peace (XR Peace) still had ownership of a large, colorful Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (peace) symbol, more than 6’ tall and mounted on a trailer that had been used to make the links between the existential crises of nuclear catastrophe, climate change and biodiversity loss. It was time to use it again and to plan for joint actions including both XR Peace and TP. So Rowland and Angie, with the help of Kim, planned a route from Bristol to Coulport and

Australia

Early morning Monday, November 30, 2020, Jim Dowling, Greg Rolles, Fr. Peter Murnane and Shae Anderson entered Swan Island, the highly secretive training base near Melbourne where Australian special forces (SAS) train. Carrying a banner reading “Stop Training Killers – Abolish the SAS,” they walked down the main road to offer ongoing witness and resistance to Australia’s war crimes in the Middle East, following the release 11 days before of the redacted public version of the Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force Afghanistan Inquiry Report.

Also known as the Brereton Report, it culminated more than four years of inquiry into war crimes committed by the Australian Defence Force (ADF) during the War in Afghanistan between 2005 and 2016. Among other crimes revealed were the murders of at least 39 unarmed Afghan civilians by Australian special forces (SAS), some as initiation rites called “bloodings.”

This was a return visit for Greg Rolles who in 2014, along with other nonviolent peace activists Tim Webb, Sam Quinlan and Dave Sprigg, was brutally assaulted by SAS soldiers. They were hooded, stripped naked, threatened with rape and drowning, dragged along the ground, kicked and walked upon.

Ireland

compiled from reports by Ellen Davidson and Shannonwatch

Dublin Judge Patricia Ryan sent a clear warning to protesters objecting to illegal U.S. military flights through Shannon Airport. On May 4, she fined the Shannon Two €10,000 after they were convicted on the single charge of interfering with the operation, management and safety of the facility.

The day before, a jury found Tarak Kauff and Kenneth Mayers not guilty on the two charges of criminal damage and trespass at Shannon Airport, but guilty (by a vote of 10-2) of the unusual charge of interfering with the airport operation, management or safety, which was added to the case two years after the fact. Mayers and Kauff had pleaded not guilty to all charges. Their defense of “lawful excuse” under Irish law was credited for the split verdict.

The two U.S. military veterans and members of Veterans For Peace were arrested on St. Patrick’s Day, March 17, 2019 at Shannon Airport after they cut the fence and walked onto the airfield. They carried a banner that read, “U.S. Military Veterans Say: Respect Irish Neutrality; U.S. War Machine Out of Shannon.” More than three million armed U.S. troops have passed through Shannon Airport since 2001 on their way to illegal wars in the Middle East, in violation of Irish neutrality and international law. Kauff and Mayers were attempting to either inspect the planes or to get Irish authorities to do so, but they were instead arrested. Shannonwatch plane spotters documented three aircraft associated with the U.S. military at Shannon that day.

After their arrest, the men spent 13 days in Limerick Prison and their passports were confiscated, forcing them to spend a further eight months in Ireland before the court permitted their return home to the United States.

When Kauff, now 80, and Mayers, 85, flew into Ireland just before the trial, the immigration officer noted

Faslane Action for the Bomb Ban (FABB) was born.

Departing on June 6, we were hosted overnight by supporters along the way and gave evening talks about the TPNW. After arriving at the Glasgow Friends Meeting House on the 9th, we gave a six-hour workshop about the



Three Peace Pirates lock down to block the gate of the British nuclear weapons depot at Coulport, Scotland, June 13.

This year, maybe in the light of the Brereton Report, they received a very different response. When they were finally spotted by a security guard in front of a gate, he calmly told them the police were coming. Soon they heard over the loudspeakers, “There are peace protesters on the base. All personnel are to remain in their quarters till further notice.”

It took almost two hours for police to come and escort the protesters off the island. They were greeted by Fr. Peter Murnane, who quietly informed the police that they were “just here to shut down the base” because of the terrorism perpetrated by those who train there.

Rolles live-streamed all of their activities. No attempt was made to stop him and he continued to record in the back of the police van. They were released at the gate, to be summoned to court at a later date.

The four men were eventually tried and convicted of trespass in the spring of 2022. Shea Anderson, Jim Dowling and Greg Rolles were fined \$500 each plus court costs, while Fr. Peter Murnane’s case was found proven but dismissed.

For more information, visit facebook.com/wagepeaceau/.

that “When you were here the last time you caused some trouble. Is there going to be any trouble this time?”

In the meantime, their case had first been moved up to the Circuit Court, assuring that they would get a jury trial, and then the venue was changed from County Clare, where the airport is located, to Dublin.

The men stipulated to most of the facts of their action, while the prosecution put a dozen witnesses on the stand over the two days, mostly to prove what the pair had already admitted.

In cross-examination, the defense barristers focused more on the issues that had caused Mayers and Kauff to enter the airfield – the transport of troops and munitions through neutral Ireland on their way to illegal wars – and the fact that the two were clearly engaged in protest.

“Our purpose was in our own way, to put the government and the U.S. military on trial for killing people, destroying the environment, and betraying the Irish people’s concept of their own neutrality,” said Kauff. “U.S. war-making is literally destroying this planet, and I don’t want to be silent about it.”

Said Mayers, “The most important thing to come out of this trial would be a greater recognition on the part of both Irish elected representatives and the public of the importance of Irish neutrality and the great threat presented by the U.S. manipulation of governments around the world.”

In the course of the trial, not a single Garda (Irish police) or airport security officer could point to a U.S. military plane having ever been inspected for weapons while at the airport. Indeed, John Francis, chief of security at Shannon, testified that he “wouldn’t be aware” if weapons or munitions were moving through the facility. Despite a prohibition on the transport of arms through the airport unless a specific exemption is granted, Francis also

FABB camp for more than two dozen people planning to attend. The workshop included a chance to explore the meaning and practice of nonviolence.

Most arrived at the Peaton Wood camp the next day, pitching tents, setting up a kitchen, digging a latrine and compost pit, and settling in under banners and flags. We began daily morning and evening vigils at the close-by Coulport nuclear weapons storage base, and some at the Faslane submarine base, just over the hill on the next loch. On June 12, we visited the Faslane Peace Camp to celebrate the camp’s 40th anniversary.

On Monday, June 13, banners were hung all around the Coulport gate. Five women from Greenham Women are Everywhere poured fake blood on themselves and lay down to block the road. While the women had the attention of police, Brian, Willemien and Gillian of the Peace Pirates

affinity group locked themselves together and lay down in the road. The Peace Pirates were all arrested, charged and taken away in police vans to be released later that night on a promise to return to court. The Greenham women chose to leave the road without being arrested, free to act again.

The next day an action on the water saw one double and four single canoes set off to see how far they could get and if they could get into the Coulport base by sea to do a nuclear weapons inspection. Military police kept telling them to stop but they continued, and eventually Ginny Herbert broke through the loch corral, canoed away fast and landed on the shore well inside the base. She got out, raised the peace flag and then evaded police coming over the rocks to arrest her. She safely paddled back to join her friends.

Glasgow Catholic Workers arrived on the morning of June 15 for their monthly vigil against nuclear weapons. They attached pictures of the atomic bombs’ destruction in Japan on the roundabout fencing, put up their Nagasaki Cross, and then conducted a very inclusive religious service. Even the police seemed moved.

Three women then poured fake blood on themselves and tried to lie in the road. Gillean Lawrence and Ros McEwan succeeded but Ali was caught in the act and arrested. The other women left the road when given a final warning before arrest. When Lawrence was arrested two days earlier, she had been coerced into signing a promise to appear by the denial of her heart medication for nine hours while in custody. A formal complaint is being made.

On the last active day of the FABB camp, after intense discussions with the police liaisons over several days, we managed to arrange a demonstration at the gates of Coulport to hand over a letter to the base commander. The CND symbol was then driven around to Faslane where it was placed right in the bell mouth by the main gate.

The same letter was handed to an MoD Police Sergeant who came out to receive it. Angie read out the letter as she had at Coulport. The demonstration and letters were part of a coordinated European-wide protest of the refusal of the European nuclear powers (Russia, France and the U.K.) to engage with the TPNW.

For more information, visit www.xrpeace.org.

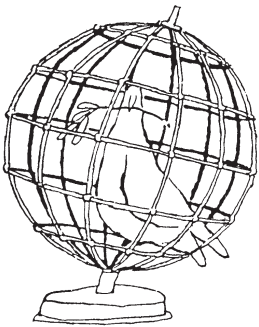
said he was unaware if any such exemption had ever been granted. And besides, troop flights were “not scheduled,” and “they can show up any time.” Don’t look, don’t find.

The final prosecution witnesses were the Garda who oversaw the interviews with Kauff and Mayers after their arrest. One testified that when Mayers was asked about whether his actions put people in danger, he’d replied, “I recognize that [by] unauthorized access to the airfield I created a small but finite element of danger, however, I know by allowing U.S. military and CIA aircraft to pass through Shannon, the Irish government is certainly putting many innocent people in serious danger.”

Kauff was equally clear on his priorities. When asked if he understood what “criminal damage” was, he responded, “I think so. It is something that the United States military have been doing for a long time in massive amounts.” He described his “lawful business in Shannon Airport” that day this way: “As a citizen of the United States and also as a veteran who has taken an oath with no expiry date to defend the Constitution against all enemies

continued on page 8

France



In July, the government of France issued a Declaration of Public Utility for the Cigéo nuclear dump project near the village of Bure and declared it to be an Operation of National Interest. Together, the pair of critical decisions clear the way for the French nuclear authority to begin forced displacement of residents and the expropriation of land and buildings above and around the planned deep underground vaults and related facilities. They also grant the national government certain powers over local planning and development decisions.

The much-anticipated declarations have only deepened the resolve of the entrenched local opponents. Now the barricades are going up as well and arrests for threats of sabotage against a major dump contractor have occurred.

The rehabilitation of an abandoned railroad line to connect dump-related sites to the nuclear waste transport grid is an early government priority. In 2004, anti-nuclear activists purchased the property of an old railway station on the line at Luméville. This July, between 200 and 300 people took part in a *fête des barricades* (feast of barricades) in order to transform the old station and two adjacent buildings into “a real bastion of resistance” to any government attempt to seize the

strategic property. It has become a place of welcome to all Cigéo opponents, last month hosting the third annual *Festival les BURE’lesques*, where nearly three thousand opponents, many camping there, took part in three days of educational events and cultural celebrations with a focus on organizing opposition to the dump on all levels, from legal intervention to direct action, “physical barricades next to paper ones.”

In 2020, a call went out for autonomous direct actions against Poma, the leading manufacturer of cable transport. Poma has the contract to build the funicular to bring radioactive waste caskets into the buried waste bin, and is now building a prototype in the forges at nearby Froncles.

That September a message posted to a left-libertarian website took credit for unspecified sabotage to Poma cable car pylons in resorts in the Alps. Later, anonymous letters denouncing the dump and Poma’s contract were also mailed to Poma, the French nuclear agency Andra and the media. One letter included a locknut and another a washer.

Police in Savoie arrested two men, ages 29 and 51, last March and charged them with threats of depredation, theft in meetings and criminal association. The hardware was identified as coming from a pylon supporting a gondola lift in Arêches-Beaufort, but the magistrate noted this singular removal had not endangered the line. Nevertheless, the men are also under investigation for “endangering the lives of others” and await trial under supervision, forbidden from meeting together and from going to Bure or any Poma offices.

That investigation through the winter, along with an increase in graffiti and anonymous minor property damage to offices and vehicles, could be linked to the resumption of random ID checks in the area.

Two people were taken into custody following a tense check near the Resistance House in Bure in April. One

was released the next day with no further action, while the other was held for two nights and charged with contempt and violence against a person responsible for public order. While his case is pending, he is barred from the Meuse and Haute-Marne and was released to stay with a friend in Normandy, where he must report to police three times a week.

For more information, visit bureburebure.info.

FUTURE ACTIONS nevada test site

Justice For Our Desert, October 14-16, is a weekend event and cultural happening in Las Vegas, at a nearby desert wildlife refuge, and with peaceful witnesses at Creech Air Force Base and line-crossing at the Nevada National Security Site, formerly the Nevada Test Site for nuclear weapons. For more information, visit nevadadesertexperience.org, phone 702-646-4814 or email info@nevadadesertexperience.org.

creech air force base

The Shut Down Creech peace camp begins October 15-22, as Justice For Our Desert concludes. More information at www.ShutDownCreech.blogspot.com.

land forces 2022

Following on the successful 2021 disruption of the Land Forces weapons expo in Meanjin, Yuggera and Turrbul Country (aka Brisbane), Wage Peace – Australia will return for Disrupt Land Forces 22 (or #DLF22) from 1-7 October. Beds are available for those who need them and a community kitchen will be at the heart of the action. Anticipated activities include “disruptive direct actions” and “sneaky inside things.” More information and registration at disruptlandforces.org.

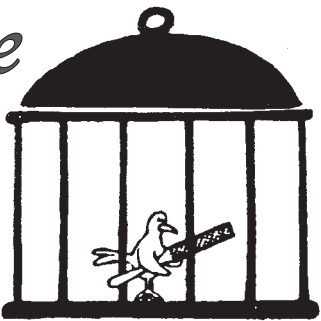
GRONAU URANIUM TRAIN: “Once again, we got away with it!”, crowed German activists last May when prosecutors settled a 2017 criminal case for blocking a train transporting uranium hexafluoride for processing into nuclear fuel. Six activists had locked onto the tracks, some in front and then others behind the special train, holding it up for 16 hours until police cut off their restraints. Previously, they had been paid compensation when their detention after the arrests was found to be illegal. Now, they agreed to fines of €500 each...

DSEI ARMS EXPO: Following a two day trial, nine people were found not guilty of obstructing the highway in the lead-up to the biennial London weapons bazaar. The judge found that despite missiles and armored vehicles being delayed from entering the ExCel convention center during the set up of the event, the protest carried out by the defendants was proportionate and therefore lawful under Articles 10 and 11 of the Human Rights Act, the rights to freedom of expression and assembly. Defense attorneys had built their defense around last year’s Supreme Court ruling on the Ziegler case (also a blockade protest at a previous DSEI) which concluded that some disruptive protests should be acceptable within the law...

JEJU ISLAND: Four people charged with obstruction of business during the protests of naval base construction in 2013-14 had their initial acquittals overturned by the South Korean Supreme Court last October. It was a rare reversal by the court in the 15-year struggle against the base. The case was returned to the Jeju local court for sentencing, and, in December, Lee Hyung-lae was fined ₩1.5M (\$1,100) and Kim Gug-sang ₩1M (\$730), plus one year probation for each. Co-defendants Kim Kuk-nam and Br. Yang Un-gi had already been sentenced for the same charges as part of prior trials, so did not face a new sentence...

JORDAN: The prosecution of pharmacist and environmental activist Basel Burgan for cybercrimes has finally come to an end this summer, with his payment of a fine equivalent to about \$70. In 2019, Burgan posted on Facebook regarding a report on a failed leak test at the country’s only nuclear reactor, a small research model, questioning its safety. He was arrested and jailed for a week under a new and controversial cybercrime bill, accused of spreading fake information online to damage the image of a government institution, punishable by mandatory imprisonment of up to six months. The Jordanian author whose report about the test sparked Burgan’s post, who lives in the United States, was also charged in absentia. The drawn-out trial began in late 2020, and last February the judge acquitted the report author and found Burgan guilty on a lesser charge of publicizing invented news with the intent to spread fear, punishable by fine or up to a month in jail. On appeal, Burgan again claimed his innocence, while the government argued for his guilt on the original charge. The appeals court upheld his conviction in July and Burgan paid the fine. The appeals court also reinstated charges against the vocal but expatriate physicist who wrote the report. Since the cybercrime laws were introduced, hundreds of Jordanian political activists have been detained under various provisions, sometimes for months before trial...

Update Files



HANCOCK AIR FORCE BASE: “In the interests of justice,” DeWitt, New York Judge David Gideon dismissed charges against Mark Scibilia-Carver and Tom Joyce for blocking the gate at the drone war base in 2019. Over the 13-year civil resistance campaign to expose the lethal role of Hancock’s Air National Guard unit piloting armed drones, and after 150 arrests, Gideon has presided over many trials and jail sentences. After the April 28 court hearing, longtime Hancock drone resister Ed Kinane reports that, “...Judge Gideon talked about how his views have changed regarding our civil resistance campaign at Hancock. Given the increasing perilousness of the world these days, he acknowledged that he had ‘learned from Upstate Drone Action’s decade-long series of DeWitt court trials.’”...

PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER PLANT: On May 9, after all the prosecution witnesses failed to show up for trial, a Plymouth, Massachusetts judge dismissed trespass charges against Diane Turco, director of Cape Downwinders, a nuclear watchdog group in the Cape Cod region. The charge was lodged in 2018, when two National Public Radio reporters asked to interview Turco at the soon-to-be-closed reactor. They drove through a broken gate beyond the “No Trespassing – Armed Guards” signs and parked within sight of the spent fuel building, where she was interviewed for half an hour about the threat posed by the *de facto* nuclear dump. Unaccosted in the supposedly secure area, they drove to the nearby employee entrance building. They walked inside, continuing the interview about the potential consequences of such poor security for the spent fuel in the pool and dry casks on site. Finally, Turco hailed, “Hello, anyone here?” Two guards soon appeared and asked the trio to leave. A month later, Plymouth police called Turco to confirm that she had been present at the plant that day. She said yes, and was told she would be charged with trespassing. Another month later, Turco was summoned to court on the now dismissed charge. She writes, “I did not ‘blatantly ignore’ the ‘No Trespassing’ and ‘Armed Guards’ signs but acknowledged them as being useless. The posted signs are only suggestions to keep out the most timid.”...

LAND FORCES ARMS EXPO: Public nuisance and littering charges against Jim Dowling from the May, 2021 Festival of Resistance were dismissed in February, when prosecutors said they could not locate the truck driver delayed by Dowling and Andy Paine. They had climbed up on top as the truck waited to enter the Expo, and Dowling, dressed as the Grim Reaper, began throwing fake money on police and protesters below. Refusing bail,

he’d been held until the Expo ended later that week. Paine pled guilty soon thereafter and paid a \$1,000 fine. Another charge against Dowling, from a roof-top protest at the arms maker Thales just before the Expo, was dismissed in March. Most of the other three dozen people arrested during the week of actions pled guilty to reduced charges and paid small fines...

KOODANKULAM: A decade after the height of the mass popular movement against the completion and start-up of the Koodankulam nuclear power plant, India’s largest, the Supreme Court has suspended a colonial-era sedition law under which nearly 9,000 area villagers were charged. Over the decade, the thousands under investigation were treated as pawns in political contests. Many cases have since been dismissed, but several dozen people remain under threat of prosecution under various sections in the law for their participation in the protests, some on hundreds of individual counts. Now it is up to the Indian Parliament to overturn the law. The drawn-out prosecution on serious charges have kept the defendants from employment and educational opportunities they would have otherwise taken...

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September 10, 2022

THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

Page 7

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More information to follow on
the Nuclear Resister Facebook page and website (www.nukeresister.org).
Newsletter subscribers will receive an update in the mail closer to the date.

Ireland, cont.

continued from page 6

both foreign and domestic, and under international law, the Geneva Convention, I am legally mandated to oppose criminal activity of my own government, as were the Germans, who didn’t during World War II and the Nazi regime.”

Edward Horgan of Shannonwatch said, “No senior U.S. political or military leaders have ever been held accountable for war crimes committed in these Middle East wars, and no Irish officials have been held accountable for active complicity in these war crimes. Yet over 38 peace activists, including Mayers and Kauff, have been prosecuted for carrying out fully justified nonviolent peace actions at Shannon Airport in order to expose and try to prevent Irish complicity in these war crimes.

“This peace action by Kauff and Mayers is a small

but significant step towards getting some accountability for war crimes by the U.S. and other countries, including recent Russian war crimes in Ukraine. The world and humanity are now on the brink of World War 3 combined with catastrophic climate change, partly caused by militarism and resource wars. Peace by peaceful means was never more urgent.”

Kenneth Mayers concluded, “Our justified peace actions at Shannon Airport were just one of many such peace actions by us and many other peace activists around the world. These actions are like the drops of water that gradually created the Grand Canyon in our home country.”

Irish supporters attending their sentencing answered the judge’s warning shot with solidarity. With €5,000 already on account in the bail fund, they dug into their pockets and went to their ATMs to pay the remaining €5,000 in cash within two hours, which “visibly disappointed” the judge, by one account.

For more information, visit shannonwatch.org.

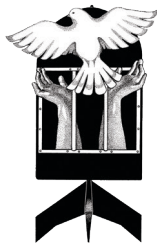
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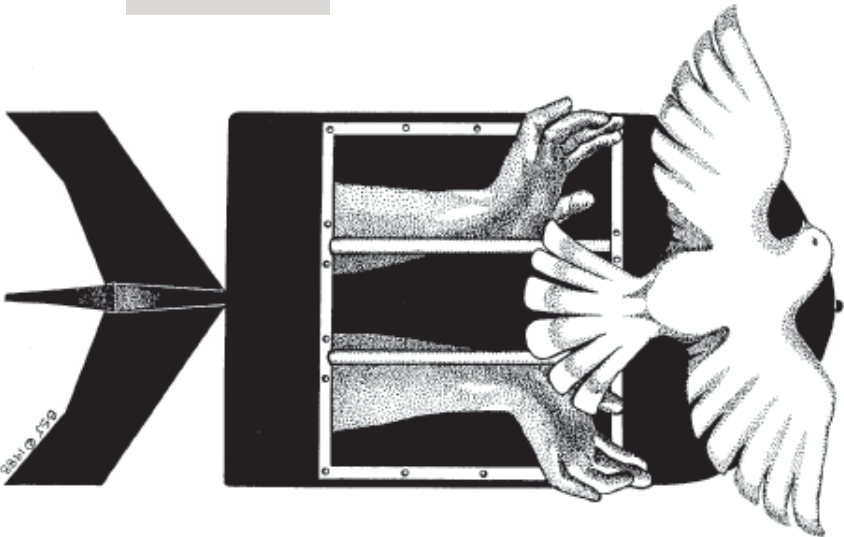
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#200 September 10, 2022

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inside this issue...
Prisoner Addresses, p. 3
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