

the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

No. 201

June 5, 2023

BÜCHEL AIR BASE, GERMANY

Germans Block Runway Upgrade

In a harbinger of summer protest and resistance to come, seven opponents of war entered the Büchel air base on May 8, the day Germans commemorate the end of a fascist regime and the end of World War II. Their action disrupted preparation for nuclear war by nonviolently obstructing construction work for a new runway. It was a sign for life on the anniversary of the end of the “Great War” and demanded an end to the ongoing threat of mass destruction. The new runway is a prerequisite for the deployment of new nuclear weapons to replace those now at Büchel. The participants from all over Germany, ages 43 to 75, were arrested and taken to the police station in Cochem before being released.

“Germany’s nuclear sharing violates the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and the human right to life,” said Miriam Menzel-Krämer, a peace worker from Aalen.

“The risk of nuclear war is already extremely high. The planned nuclear arms buildup is exacerbating tensions related to the war in Ukraine further and heats up the nuclear arms race in Europe,” added Gerd Büntzly, a musician from Herford.

For more information visit www.atomwaffenfrei.de and nukewatchinfo.org.

Americans Jailed for “Nuclear Sharing” Protests

Two nuclear abolitionists recently made history as the first Americans jailed in Germany for nonviolent anti-nuclear direct actions there. The United States stockpiles nuclear bombs at an air base in Büchel, where German pilots train to deliver them as part of more than six decades of front-line NATO nuclear provocations of first the Soviet Union and today Russia. Both Germany and the United States assert that this “nuclear sharing” agreement stands outside international law because it predates the 1970 Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which explicitly prohibits any transfer of nuclear weapons or nuclear weapons technology to other states.

Beginning in 2017, with a hiatus during the pandemic, a small number of Americans have traveled to Germany



photo by Michelle Shiloh

American Veteran for Peace Dennis DuVall carries a bouquet from supporters as he enters the prison in Bautzen, Germany.

each summer to join German abolitionists and others for international demonstrations at the base. Arrests occurred each year following fence-cuttings, occupations and bunker sit-ins. Subsequent trials, convictions and appeals finally caught up with John LaForge, co-director of Wisconsin-based Nukewatch, and Dennis DuVall, a Vietnam veteran living in Germany since 2017. Both men refused to pay fines in lieu of jail time.

LaForge reported to JVA Billwerder on January 10 to serve a 50-day sentence. Before entering the prison, LaForge told a circle of supporters, “U.S. and German Air Force plans and preparations, currently ongoing, to use the nuclear weapons stationed here in Germany are a

continued on page 7

Mother’s Day at Ground Zero

Activists blocked the entrance to the U.S. Navy’s west coast nuclear submarine base in a nonviolent direct action the day before Mother’s Day.

Eight peace activists from the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, holding long banners reading “The Earth is Our Mother, Treat Her With Respect” and “Nuclear Weapons are Immoral to Use, Immoral to Have, Immoral to Make,” briefly blocked all incoming traffic at the Main Gate at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor in Silverdale, Washington on May 13 as part of the group’s annual Mother’s Day observance.

They were followed into the road by the 15-member Seattle Peace Chorus Action Ensemble, who set up behind the banner, facing into the base. Under the direction of Doug Balcom, they sang his original composition, “The Lucky Ones,” to the assembled guards and Navy personnel... The group then led the assembled activists in singing traditional protest songs while the State Patrol arrested the demonstrators.

Sue Ablao, Lee Alden, Carolee Flaten, James Manista, Brenda McMillan, Bernie Meyer, Tom Rogers and Michael Siptroth, who range in age from 29 to 89 years old, were cited for being Pedestrians on Roadways and released at the scene.

Rogers, a retired Navy captain and former nuclear submarine commanding officer, said, “The destructive power of the nuclear weapons deployed here on board Trident submarines is beyond human imagination. The simple fact is that a nuclear exchange between the great powers would end civilization on our planet. I understand

this. If I fail to protest the existence of these evil weapons, then I am complicit.”

Mother’s Day was first proposed in the United States in 1872 by Julia Ward Howe as a day dedicated to peace. Howe saw the effects on both sides of the Civil War and realized destruction from warfare goes beyond the killing of soldiers in battle.

Bangor Court Updates

by Mary Gleysteen in the Ground Zero newsletter

Seven people arrested on state charges at the naval base last August 8 had their day in court during two mitigation hearings last fall. On September 27, Br. Gilberto Perez, Michael “Firefly” Siptroth and Caroline Wildflower were present in the Kitsap County District courtroom, while Anne and David Hall appeared via Zoom. They were the first cases involving Ground Zero activists that Judge Piper Thornburgh had presided over. She toyed with the idea of an administrative dismissal, but realized that would not be possible because prosecutors did not have sufficient notice.

She then allowed each of the defendants to present their testimony for the record, relating their reasons for resisting.

Rev. Anne Hall spoke of a lecture she heard 40 years ago by Dr. Judith Lipton about the consequences of a nuclear bomb hitting Seattle – the fireball, the destructive winds, the vaporized human beings, the children at school who “would die without their parents ever reaching them.”

SHUT DOWN DRONE WARFARE NEW MEXICO

Drone warfare missions are multiplying across military bases around the world. Formal training of MQ-9 Reaper drone aircrews recently expanded to New Mexico’s Holloman Air Force Base when it outgrew the facilities at Creech Air Force Base in Nevada. Recognizing a need for protest to proliferate as well, organizers of the Shut Down Creech peace camps took their week-long program of creative daily vigils, community events and blockades on the road this spring to southern New Mexico.

More than 40 people from eight states participated in the convergence from April 15-22, which was co-sponsored by CodePink, Veterans for Peace and Ban Killer Drones and based at a nearby state park campground. Twice-daily themed protests with costumes, signs and banners greeted rush-hour traffic at the base and connected the dots from U.S. global drone warfare dominance to the climate crisis and environmental destruction. Evening programs in Alamogordo, the small city closest to the base, included films, a panel discussion with New Mexico downwinders from nuclear weapons and depleted uranium ammunition testing, and live music by Emma’s Revolution. An Earth Day rally on April 22 concluded the week’s events.

Wednesday, April 19 was the designated day for non-violent resistance. About 18 people blocked the entrance to the base that morning. Deputies soon gave warning of imminent arrest, and all but five of the blockaders withdrew from the road. Traffic was re-routed to a secondary gate for about 20 minutes until Toby Blomé, Ken Mayers, Elliot Adams, Michael Kerr and Richard Bishop were arrested by Otero County deputies and the road was cleared. The five were charged with misdemeanor obstruction of a roadway and taken to the sheriff’s office for booking. They appeared for initial arraignment before a judge the same day. All entered a not guilty plea and were released on their own recognizance. Their motion for a joint trial was granted and a pretrial hearing is set for mid-July. They plan to represent themselves.

The organizers plan to return to Holloman next spring. For more information, visit www.shutdowndronewarfare.com.

NEVADA

Drone warfare foes returned to Nevada October 17-21, 2022 for the latest Shut Down Creech protests at the original drone warfare training base north of Las Vegas. On the morning of the 19th, during the daily roadside vigil to greet the stream of traffic arriving from Las Vegas, the entrance was blocked by protesters. Hoping to motivate Air Force personnel involved in the U.S. drone program to follow their conscience and no longer participate, they held life-sized cardboard cut-outs of four of the seven Ahmadi family children who were killed by a U.S. drone attack in Kabul in August 2021. They also held two signs that read: “A Call To Conscience” and “Can You See, You Are Murdering Me.”

After backing up dozens of cars along the highway for nearly 30 minutes, three elder women including two grandmothers were arrested. Toby Blomé, Denise Sellers and Edwina Vogan were briefly detained, cited for “assembling to disturb peace” and released.

“My children were small. I couldn’t bear that. I couldn’t bear it happening to my children or to any parents or their children, in any country,” she told the court.

“So, I called and wrote to the Congress and the President. I met with my Senators and Representatives. I spoke at public events. I joined Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action. We leafleted, asking workers on the base to leave their jobs. We walked into the base attempting to speak to the commander. We sat on the tracks to stop trains bringing nuclear missiles to Bangor. We blocked cars at the base gate, always trying to spread

continued on page 5

Resistance Reflections

Robert Ellsberg’s Statement to the Jefferson County Court – May 27, 1978

I live in a community in New York called the Catholic Worker, which was begun 45 years ago. And the message of the Catholic Worker could perhaps be summarized by saying that faith and action cannot be separated. If we are made in God’s image, then each life is holy and precious and endowed with purpose. If God in love took on our humanity and gave His life for us, then our lives belong to our brothers and sisters; to free them from hunger and suffering and oppression. Each person bears God’s image and so to love God means to feed our neighbors when they are hungry, shelter them when they are homeless - not to kill them, not to hurt them. And indeed Jesus said what we do to the least of his brethren, we do directly to him.

And so the Catholic Worker consists of houses of hospitality in poor - often skid row - areas around the country that offer shelter, clothing and food to those in need. And we believe we must go further - we try as best we can to withdraw from and resist the forces, institutions and values in our society responsible for war, for the poverty, injustice and oppression we see around us. For we believe that the Gospel teaches us that we must each of us take personal responsibility for the conditions we find around us, and equally, the task of building a new world. And more than this: no change, no new life ever comes unless some one, or some people, voluntarily accept to pay the price through personal sacrifice.

Our world is now facing an unprecedented crisis - we are living in an age that is absolutely unique - an age in which we have developed the capacity to destroy all life on earth. And each of our actions must take on and reflect the special nature and the urgency of this moment. For we are now all implicated in the possibility of an unprecedented holocaust. Whether it comes by accident or design, the effect will be the same - and it will be the result not so much of our evil hearts, our insanity, our suicidal pride - but simply our complacency, our tepid imaginations and our deep fears.

The Catholic Church has stated that the arms race is to be “condemned unreservedly,” describing it as a wrong, a folly, a crime, a sin, and a “machine gone mad.” We are here because we have tried to use our bodies as a physical brake on that machine - trying to give humanity a moment’s respite, and to give to the American people something we’ve never had: the realization that we as a people can and must make decisions for ourselves about the most fundamental issue concerning our future and our survival. For 35 years of nuclear history, entirely in secret, essentially outside of any public discussion, our leaders have consigned us to a road that is leading to Hell. I believe they have not served the interests of the American people, nor the interests of humanity.

By sitting on railroad tracks at Rocky Flats - one dozen, two dozen, even a hundred people - we ourselves may not actually be able to stop the production of pluto-

nium triggers there. But we are trying to show that we as a people, if we wish and if we are determined, have that power - the power to change ourselves and history - we as a people can close Rocky Flats, and in fact that is what we must do. It would mean not building any new nuclear weapons - as we are currently doing at the rate of three a day - not adding new weapons to our stockpile of 30,000 warheads. We do not deny that the goal of the world-wide disarmament is a complicated one and filled with risks - but it is time that we begin accepting the risks of peacemaking as we have for so long lived under the risks of war. Closing Rocky Flats would only be the beginning of our work. But we believe it is a logical beginning, and it is an absolutely necessary place to begin.

Perhaps I didn’t need to come to Colorado to say this - to say that peace will come when we will translate our faith into action. I could have stayed home and written a letter to my congressman. I could have collected signatures on a petition. I could be saying all this from the comfort and security of my own apartment, having just enjoyed a delicious breakfast and looking forward to an even more delicious lunch.

Instead I am speaking to you now having spent 16 days as a guest in your county jail. Nine days of that time in solitary confinement, which is a six-by-six foot concrete cage with no bed, chair, light, window, toilet or sink. I speak to you after having fasted for 16 days. For 16 days I have eaten no food.

And I am grateful to the court for this. I am grateful to the court for allowing me the opportunity to dramatize in such a small way the life and death seriousness of the matter that brings us here today.

And now I face a possible year in jail. From what has happened this morning I suspect the court will not be so severe. Perhaps in the future the stakes will be higher for us. But it is a risk I am willing to face. This is not because I enjoy the possibility of being separated from my friends, my family, and those I love; the possibility of being returned to my cage, in which I would not want to put any person. But I am prepared if this is what must be. Because we are living in a dark age, and many men and women will have to face greater risks than these if we are ever to see any light.

And I sincerely hope that for you, Judge, as for every-one in this courtroom, there is something, some one, some cause for which you would willingly face these risks. For that is what makes our lives precious and beautiful. Whether we give our lives for freedom, love, peace - or money, power and war - we have it to give only once.

For us, the choice is clear.

Rocky Flats is the Auschwitz of our time. Behind that barbed wire and those locked doors, intelligent, decent, family men in their white suits and their security badges are implementing the technological preparations for the

Final Solution to the Human Problem. In each bomb prepared at Rocky Flats is another Holocaust - perhaps for the children of Moscow, Peking, Hanoi - those who build them don’t know.

At one of the German concentration camps - I believe it was Dachau - the American troops who liberated it forced the townspeople to tour the camp - to see the huddled, emaciated survivors, the piles of corpses, the ovens that had disposed of the dead. And of course they were numbed and shocked and they said “we didn’t know - we didn’t know what was in those boxcars - we didn’t know what came out of those chimneys.”

We would like to spare the people of this county, this state and our country, that kind of experience - so we are shouting, we are trying to warn the people what kind of cargo goes over those railroad tracks in sealed boxcars and is killing and mutilating your unborn children by increasing levels of cancer, leukemia and genetic mutation - even if the bombs never go off.

And we are doing more than that. There are people right now who are blocking those tracks. There is a group of people - someday they will be thanked, now they are jailed - who are saying, “build your bombs, continue your business as usual in this death camp - but I’m sorry that I must withdraw my consent - you will have to do it over our bodies.”

They are saying, no longer should nuclear bombs be made in this country without Americans being arrested. And when I heard that in Colorado there were people who were willing to say this and act on it, I had to come here - because I knew these were people I wanted to know and to join and to be with.

I don’t know what you will do with us - I know some face more serious charges. But I must say how very happy and proud I am at this moment. How proud I am to have had a small role in this action. And I thank you for listening so patiently and for helping make it possible for me to be here today in such beautiful company.

Thank you all.

Robert Ellsberg

• • • • •

Thank You! to all who joined us on Zoom in December for the wonderful Nuclear Resister celebration of 42 years and 200 issues of the newsletter! The program included inspiring photos, songs and stories from decades of direct actions and more, honoring our resistance history and drawing inspiration for today’s movement for a peaceful, nuclear-free future. You can watch the video online at bit.ly/NR200Celebration (on the World BEYOND War YouTube channel).

the Nuclear Resister

POB 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733

520-323-8697 nukeresister@igc.org ISSN #0883-9875

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

where we’re at

The first months of 2023 have passed quickly. Lots of winter rain (and even some snow here in the Sonoran Desert!) brought an abundance of desert wildflowers. Now, the majestic saguaro cacti are in bloom, and the tree in our garden is giving us sweet, ripe and juicy peaches!

From our office at the end of April, we attended a hybrid in-person/Zoom 45th anniversary reunion gathering of the Rocky Flats Truth Force.

It was at Rocky Flats, the now-closed plutonium bomb plant outside Denver, that Jack began his anti-nuclear activism in the spring of 1978 and was arrested for the first time in June of that year. In a high-profile trial in November, 1978, Jack was one of the representative defendants along with Nancy Doub, Daniel Ellsberg, Rev. Peter Ediger, Rev. Bob Hill, Skye Kerr, Elena Klaver, Sr. Anna Koop, Roy Young and Jean Zimmerman.

Shortly before Jack’s first arrest (see photo on page 7), he had purchased credentials as a minister in the

Universal Life Church, which allowed him a pastoral visit with Brian Terrell and Robert Ellsberg (Dan’s son) in jail in Golden, Colorado, both then members of the New York Catholic Worker community.

In this issue of *the Nuclear Resister*, the Resistance Reflections looks back to that time: Robert Ellsberg’s compelling statement to the Jefferson County court, where he appeared in front of a judge after his arrest and 16 days of fasting in jail (published in the June 1978 issue of *via pacis*, newsletter of the Des Moines Catholic Worker). Reading it brought tears to our eyes, as we reflected on the thousands of nonviolent actions, powerful courtroom testimonies and the years spent behind bars by a constant flow of nuclear resisters reaching back to the beginning of the nuclear age.

The experience of visiting jailed activists, and conversations with another jailed Truth Force activist and friend, Allyson Hunter, planted the seeds for a support

continued on page 7



Jerry Ebner

5/23/1950 – 4/13/2023

¡Presente!

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



Louis DeBenedette

4/13/43 – 10/22/22

Drone Whistleblower Daniel Hale Feted in Absentia

Daniel Hale, still imprisoned at the notorious Communications Management Unit of the federal prison at Marion, Illinois, was the recipient of the 2021 Sam Adams Award from the Sam Adams Associates for Integrity in Intelligence. The online ceremony, hosted in December by the World Ethical Data Forum, featured testimonials from formerly imprisoned CIA torture whistleblower John Kiriakou, documentary filmmaker Sonia Kennebeck, NSA whistleblower Thomas Drake, and Hale’s friend and support team member Noor Mir, who accepted the award on his behalf.

While presenting Hale with the Corner-Brightener Candlestick award, given since 2002 in recognition of those professionals who shine a light in dark places, Kiriakou read from the award citation:

Sam Adams Associates are proud to honor Mr. Hale’s decision to heed his conscience and give priority to the Common Good over concerns about his own personal future. In doing so, he displayed the kind of moral heroism seldom seen in history.

Daniel’s patriotism, heroism and loyalty to the Constitution parallels that of Pentagon Papers whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg and the late CIA analyst Sam Adams, whose legacy this award commemorates. Both demanded of U.S. military and CIA leaders that they cease their lying to the American people during the Vietnam War.

We can only hope that others with similar moral fiber will be inspired by Mr. Hale’s exceptional public service in exposing U.S. war crimes and violations of U.S. law, which have placed the human rights of free citizens everywhere in serious jeopardy.

By heeding the dictates of conscience and patriotism, Mr. Hale knowingly sacrificed his freedom in order to reveal to the public that in one five-month period in Afghanistan, 90 percent of those killed by U.S. air strikes were not the intended targets, but included women, children, and other non-combatants. In addition to classified documents about the U.S. global assassination program, Hale also disclosed unclassified but still publicly unavailable guidelines for the U.S. Terrorism Watch List. As a direct result, many innocent individuals were able to successfully challenge their placement on the so-called “No-Fly List”.

At his mockery of a trial, Mr. Hale explained: “This outrageous explosion of watch listing — 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...”

Mr. Hale was well aware of the cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment to which other courageous officials have been subjected — and that he would likely suffer the same. And yet — in the manner of his famous ancestor Nathan Hale — he put his country first, knowing what awaited him at the hands of those who serve what has become a repressive Perpetual War State wreaking havoc upon much of the world.

Noor Mir provided this update on Daniel and his situation:

Daniel wishes that he was able to express his gratitude for this recognition and honor with you all. As others have mentioned, Daniel is very humble and upon learning that he was receiving this award stated clearly to me last week that he feels like there are far more deserving people in the

Turi Vaccaro Taken Back To Prison

The Italian pacifist Turi Vaccaro, known for his ascetic lifestyle and numerous barefoot and silent protests against war, was arrested at the train station in Florence on December 2, 2021 and again imprisoned. When last released from prison in April, 2020, the anti-war activist anticipated his eventual return to jail “because I’ll break some law to stop the war.”

His repeated acts of principled noncooperation with war making, police and the courts led to his arrest that day. Authorities said that he still had five months left to serve from earlier convictions, plus two more months for good measure. His most recent arrests were during widespread protests of the American-run MUOS military satellite ground station in Sicily.

Friends concerned over the 72-year-old’s declining health arranged for Vaccaro to serve any remaining sentence with the Comunità delle Piagge in Florence, and he was released to the community on July 25, 2022.

PROTEST SHUTS DOWN UNIVERSITY RECRUITING EVENT

Protesters disrupted a University of Michigan career fair in Ann Arbor on February 9, in solidarity with the movement to Stop Camp Grayling. At 230 square miles, Camp Grayling is already the largest National Guard training site in the country – larger than the cities of Detroit (139 sq. mi.), Grand Rapids (45 sq. mi.), and Lansing (37 sq. mi.) combined. The massive facility is used not just by the Army and National Guard, but by police departments, private security forces and foreign military units.

A number of military, police and surveillance recruiters were among those assembled in the Michigan Union that afternoon when someone in the crowd suddenly shouted: “You have blood on your hands!” and squirted red liquid “blood” on the tables of both the National Security Agency (NSA) and the U.S. Navy. Police on the scene responded to this nonviolent disruption by tackling two protesters outside the hall and then arresting them. The pair were cited for trespass and released a few hours later.

Informational fliers appeared on tables throughout the afternoon event. These connected the violence of the National Guard’s desired Camp Grayling expansion with murder and surveillance committed at home and abroad by the NSA and Navy — the two targets of the disruption.

The NSA recruitment table was unable to regain its bearings for the three remaining hours of the career fair. Their table became the epicenter of a flurry of police, military personnel and university workers that cast the entire event with an edge of paranoia and distraction. One NSA recruiter lamented that they were unable to discuss career opportunities because their recruitment materials had been destroyed.

Another action after the initial disruption helped complete the recruitment stoppage. During the rally at the front of the building, a group of protesters made it into the recruitment hall, pushing past the event organizers who tried closing the doors as they approached. These protesters threw fliers and distributed zines while carrying a banner that read “No Camp Grayling Expansion.”

They chanted “Stop Camp Grayling!”, “No Grayling, no borders, fuck your law and order!” as well as “Fascist, racist all the way, U.S. Army go away!” The group weaved their way through the ballroom fomenting chaos, then departed and joined a demonstration that had quickly coalesced on the front steps of the building following the arrests.

In late April, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources turned down the proposed expansion, which was also widely opposed by environmentalists and outdoor enthusiasts in the state.

Thanks to whatsleftypsi.com and river valley revolt.

Inside & Out



Name ID# (if needed)
prison or support address
(sentence – in/out date if known)
(action & date)

NUCLEAR RESISTERS
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)

world. I disagree.
...The U.S. government decided to send him to this unit in this prison far from his chosen family in D.C., Virginia and Tennessee against the recommendations of the judge... and to the dismay of all of us, his core support team, who had envisioned and planned for caring for him at least a little bit closer to home.

Daniel is a writer, a thinker, and a dreamer at heart. Expressive, curious, furious and interested in everything. His current unit restricts him to two 15-minute phone calls a week that are live monitored by U.S. government officials and often rescheduled at the behest of officials that he will never see or know. His letters are read and monitored by a designated unit. Many of them don’t make it in or out. He has a small list of contacts that he is approved to speak to. Daniel had hoped that he would be able to write much more to you all, to explain his drive for justice and truth. Unfortunately, it can take a lot more time for him to get approval to write back to people, so we ask that you be patient for a response, but do write to him anyway!

Daniel spends his time keeping his head down, is learning Spanish as well as American Sign Language, and also brushing up on his Chinese. He is reading most serious works such as Tolstoy and also completing more lighthearted series like *The Wheel of Time* and sometimes is able to watch films with the people he is incarcerated with, although he definitely does not look forward to the ones about superheroes. He is making do and often can’t believe that there are people outside his unit that still care that he is alive and breathing and excited to be on the other side.

It is our understanding that the state of his current incarceration is informed only by an attempt to crush his bright voice and spirit even while he is behind bars. But his light continues to shine through, and will continue to shine through once he is free.

In the meantime, I want to share his most recently expressed wishes. He wants to desperately see Julian Assange free. He wants to see Leonard Peltier free. He is angry about the growing power of the U.S. elite siphoning more and more away from the poor and working class. He is dismayed by the clamoring for and funding of war by the Democratic establishment. He is distressed that Guantanamo Bay is still open and that drone strikes still rain on the poorest people around the world. He’s enraged about poverty and the lack of access to health care and the attacks on abortion across the country, the issue that first galvanized and politicized him when he was young.

All he and I can do is hope that if you are listening to this, pursue truth and justice at every turn for there is no greater good than taking personal risk for our collective futures. Thank you again so much from Daniel.



Daniel Hale had expressed that letters of support, particularly including photos and a good story you can share, are most appreciated. Letters should be sent to Daniel Hale 26069-075, USP Marion, U.S. Penitentiary, P.O. Box 1000, Marion, IL 62959. For more details on what and how to mail him, visit standwithdanielhale.org.

Please refer to nukeresister.org/inside-out for current addresses before writing.

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: Holger-Isabelle Jänicke

SACRED PEACE WALK IN THE NEVADA DESERT

The Nevada Desert Experience (NDE) 2023 Sacred Peace Walk drew more than 40 people, with others meeting the walkers on the road. The Holy Week pilgrimage began Palm Sunday at the Atomic Museum, down the Strip and through the west side of Las Vegas past the extremes of wealth and poverty. On Monday, the weather changed and walkers were surprised by falling temperatures, with squalls of rain, hail, snow and sleet. Roadside camping plans were abandoned, and the pilgrims shuttled to Cactus Springs in support vehicles. With a warm welcome, their hosts for Tuesday and Wednesday nights at the Goddess Temple took the pilgrims in a day early.

They walked to Creech Air Force Base on Tuesday and returned Wednesday morning, when 15 of their number blocked the entrance. Some of their signs read “The War is Over - Time to Go Home,” “Caution: Moral Injury Ahead,” and “Go Back! Wrong Way!” Two, Lor Breyley and Sylvester Pondolfino, remained in the roadway after the police warning and were arrested by Las Vegas Metro police. C.J. Preston was also arrested for amending

the stop sign at the intersection with the word “drones.” The three were held for a few hours at the Clark County Jail before being released.

On Thursday they were welcomed by Western Shoshone National Council member Johnny Bobb at the Peace Camp by the gate of the Nevada Nuclear Security Site (formerly the Nevada Test Site, where hundreds of nuclear weapons were detonated over five decades). The next morning, Good Friday, eight walkers who came from seven states across the country entered the site. Despite permission from the Western Shoshone owners of the land, Nye County deputies took them into custody as they crossed the line in the road. Mark Babson, Richard Bishop, Tessa Epstein, Catherine Hourcade, Theo Kayser, George Killingsworth, Jacques Linder and Sylvester Pondolfino were cited for trespass and released onsite. They’re set to be arraigned on July 10 in Beatty Justice Court.

That’s the same day set for the trespass trials of Sacred Peace Walkers John Amidon and Brian Terrell, arrested at the test site in October, 2022 during NDE’s Justice For Our

Desert event. Their pretrial hearing took place in Pahrump on Monday, April 10, when Amidon and Terrell were still in Nevada from the Walk. At the Bill Sullivan Justice Center, Judge Gus Sullivan, the late Judge Bill Sullivan’s son, refused to rule on the defendants’ motions, including a motion in limine that seeks in part to exclude testimony about the U.S. government’s ownership of the land and to admit testimony about unceded Western Shoshone ownership. The court has been asked to reconsider, and to join their now-separate trials together.

On June 5, the men filed their motions for discovery, particularly including information establishing the identity of the victim of the alleged trespass. The language on their citation is not specific to that critical point - who’s land were they on when they were arrested? Terrell writes, “The DA believes, and Judge Sullivan agrees, that they can prosecute a trespass case without determining the owner of the property trespassed on and without saying exactly where that property begins...”

For more information, visit nevadadesertexperience.org.

WRITINGS FROM PRISON

~ from Bautzen

April 9, 2023
Easter Sunday

To the Nuclear Resister,

I’m a U.S. citizen serving a 60-day sentence in Bautzen Prison, Germany for protesting to stop preparations for nuclear war at Büchel NATO base in Germany.

Today, Easter Sunday, I’m reflecting that nuclear weapons are an abomination to Nature, Humanity and all Creation! Nuclear weapons are a nightmare that only war makers, war profiteers and weapons makers want to live in.

Today, Easter Sunday, I am writing to German Chancellor Scholz, Foreign Minister Baerbock and Defense Minister Pistorius for them to reflect on their responsibility to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to ensure the prompt removal of B61 hydrogen bombs from Büchel NATO base and their return to the United States for dismantling and disposal.

I remind them that they are still obligated by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty to negotiate “in good faith” the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Last week friends from the Dresden Peace Initiative visited me before the Dresden Easter Peace Walk on Easter Monday. I will join them in a “Peace Walk behind bars.” Their “Call for Peace” reminds us of Chancellor Helmut Kohl’s oath during German reunification in 1990 that “Peace must always emanate from German soil in the future – Never again war, never again violence!”

The Dresden Easter Peace Walk is worried that Helmut Kohl’s oath is being broken. Today Germany is a leading supplier of weapons in the Ukraine war and the hub for coordinating arms shipments to Ukraine. The U.S. military’s European Command is in Stuttgart, and Stuttgart is the control center for AI targeting of hypersonic missiles. Germany recently increased military spending by €100 Billion, and Germany is the fourth largest global arms dealer.

The Dresden Easter Peace Walk believes Germany’s foreign policy is based on the false perception that weapons create peace. The fact that German weapons are helping to prolong the Ukraine war – even risking nuclear war – is proof that weapons do not create peace!

On April 4, Finland joined NATO and U.S./NATO is pushing hard to bring Sweden into its nuclear alliance. Enlarging NATO, claims NATO’s Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, proves “The door to NATO remains firmly open.” Eurovision asked, “Ready for the next threat?” A likely next threat in Europe will be U.S. machinations to fast-track Ukraine into NATO. This will be a very dangerous provocation!

The Dresden Easter Peace Walk demands a new peace policy in which Germany has a say in its own security and relations with its neighbors. But a common European security policy is not possible as long as U.S./NATO makes all the decisions. U.S./NATO’s disingenuous claim that it is a “defensive” military alliance must be debunked and delegitimized because U.S./NATO is a first use/first strike nuclear alliance. NATO must be abolished because it is U.S./NATO’s stated intention to bring Ukraine into its nuclear club. This is hugely dangerous for peace in Europe and must not be allowed to happen!

The Dresden Easter Peace Walk reflects growing dissatisfaction with German war policy, increased military spending and deeper involvement in the Ukraine war. A common security arrangement proposed by

THE INSIDE LINE



people of the Dresden Peace Walk is an alternative to the geostrategy of U.S./NATO guaranteeing European safety under the U.S. “nuclear umbrella”.

A common European security plan must necessarily include a European Nuclear Free Zone! This is in contrast to U.S./NATO’s aggressive nuclear ambition and increasing militarism along Russia’s western border.

This is also a compelling reason for Germany to lead a new European peace initiative, honoring Helmut Kohl’s oath: “Peace must always emanate from German soil – Never again war, never again violence!”

Dennis DuVall

[Dennis DuVall served a 60-day prison sentence for refusing to pay fines imposed following convictions for fence-cutting actions in 2018 at Germany’s Büchel air base.]

~ from Glasmoor

Around February 28, 2023

My incarceration in Germany was short compared to the other prisoners I met and got to know. The “open prison” at Glasmoor, 45 minutes from Hamburg, was a great relief from the conditions at the U.S. jails and prisons I’ve experienced...

The six weeks in the very-minimum security Glasmoor prison camp, after my first week of corona quarantine in solitary at the regular prison at Billweder, were challenging because of my terribly poor German language skills. It was difficult to follow orders, but in my defense, I’m not so good at that in any language. Luckily, most of the official commands were meant for others and were merely annoying to anyone trying to read or sleep. After a while, I learned to recognize the drift of what was being demanded, or, alternately, understood that that message was gibberish.

My first eight days at Billweder were strangely quiet and contemplative, since the Covid rules required a five-day “quarantine”. This meant solitary confinement, which meant at this time a 3rd-floor cell with no books or reading materials. Why books were forbidden was never explained. The prohibition seemed ridiculous, since the authorities allowed me to wear my own clothes and bring in paper, pens, stamps, and envelopes. So, for a week in a very modern and well furnished cell, I wrote notes and letters, gazed out the window overlooking the prison yard, did some light exercise, made countless cups of tea using the provided electric hot pot, and (as our teacher Mr. Albert Fenske used to suggest to his students), contemplated the nature of reality.

Garbled announcements in German blared from the intercom, and I missed most of the fine points. On the first morning I thought that I’d lost out on breakfast by not responding to what sounded like “gzhwaunschmaltschtz” over the air. It turned out that no breakfast is delivered. The food was delivered once a day in a presentation that included a hot meal in a tin-covered tin around 11:30 a.m., and a plastic bag full of sliced bread, cheese, condiments, packaged jelly, sugary

yogurt or pudding, and a piece of fruit. The bagged items constituted our evening meal and the following day’s breakfast.

In my roomy single cell, I had a writing desk, a big window, a closet, two book shelves, a semiprivate washroom set behind a pair of knee walls, and an electric hot pot. The window was inside a set of steel bars, but opened to the inside and accessed some outside air. The outer window sill between the glass and the bars was good for keeping cheese and yogurt chilled.

I was annoyed that I’d gotten no fresh air time out of the solitary cell in three days, when, on the third day, I was escorted to a 36’-by-60’ pen that had poured concrete walls about 15’ high, for a one-hour bit of outdoor time. I walked around and around by myself, kicking pebbles off the concrete walk and thinking of my old dad who would argue about the absurdity of my chosen style of protest and resistance. There was no denying at that point that he was on to something about the absurd. Beckett wrote, “We always find something to give us the impression that we exist”, but maybe he could have written “we usually” do.

Between 10 January and the 17th, that was the only time I was outside in the air. This is officially some sort of a rule violation since a few people have told me that regulations stipulate every prisoner is supposed to get one hour out of the cell every day. I penned a note to our friendly attorney in Bonn, but in the big scheme of things my stay was not bad for an introvert. I told my friend, A. Powell, that there was no torture, but that they do try and reduce the prison population by boring us to death.

On Tuesday the 17th I was transferred by bus to the very-low-security JVA Glasmoor “open prison”, so-called because the place allows prisoners a certain amount of time, between Friday and Sunday afternoons, off the grounds to be with family or friends. Designed for prisoners at the end of long sentences and preparing to return to the streets, this co-ed joint (250 men, 20 women) is modern, clean, humanely administered and conscientiously respectful in its treatment of inmates. Everyone is addressed as Mr. or Ms., and the guards seem well adjusted rather than sour, angry, distrustful and full of spite like in the U.S. slammer I’ve been to.

The four-person cells in Building 1 where I was assigned each have a private shower, and a small kitchen with little fridge, and a hot pot for tea and coffee, and two cells with two beds each, and doors that close with keys given to us. The police can come in with universal keys and make unannounced “control” searches (and do so on a seemingly random basis), but don’t seem overly bent on finding anything other than the seriously verboten cell phone...

The open prison system is a major improvement over the half-way-house system in the U.S., and far better than minimum security joints run by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. Having been to 21 such U.S. institutions in my life as an anti-war crime fighter (I made a list during my Billweder solitude), I can say with some confidence that the program at Glasmoor is better than any in the U.S. It does sorely lack educational programs. It has no music or art programming, and the light hand-work factory system is not representative of real world, time-clock settings where crew bosses crack the whip...

Thank you for all your letters and cards of support and concern over these last weeks. I am grateful for our extended Anti-Nuclear family!

Cheers,

John LaForge

[John LaForge served a 50 day prison sentence for refusing to pay fines imposed following trespass convictions for 2018 go-in actions at Germany’s Büchel air base. His entire letter can be read at bit.ly/LaForgeGlasmoor.]

CodePink Returns to Congress

The pandemic is in the rear-view mirror of official Washington and congressional hearings are again open to the public.

On March 22, Secretary of State Anthony Blinken was testifying before a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing titled “American Diplomacy and Global Leadership: Review of The FY24 State Department Budget Request.”

Members of CodePink showed up with signs and messages reminding the committee members and Blinken that the United States should actually start practicing diplomacy before they discuss how to fund it.

One by one, five of the protesters stood up holding signs referencing key areas where Blinken is failing as a diplomat including:

- “Ukraine: Peace Talks Now!”
- “China is Not Our Enemy”
- “No \$\$\$ to Israeli Apartheid”
- “Cuba Off Terrorist List”
- “End Cuba and Venezuela Sanctions” and
- “No War!”

As soon as each person stood to deliver their message, Capitol police moved in to push and pull them from the room even as they continued to speak out for diplomacy.

Despite the grip of a burly cop lifting her out of the room, Medea Benjamin calmly told the diplomat, “Secretary Blinken, we need peace talks with Ukraine now. The American people don’t want to keep fueling a proxy war with Russia that could lead us to World War III or a nuclear holocaust. You’re supposed to be a diplomat. Start negotiating. You know, if you don’t like the Chinese proposal, where is your peace proposal? The American people want you to negotiate. Be a diplomat, do your job now…”

The five were charged with “incommoding” a public event and each paid a \$50 fine before being released two hours later.

Two months later, the Secretaries of Defense, Commerce and State testified at a May 16 hearing to review the President’s Fiscal Year 24 Budget Request:

Ground Zero, cont.

continued from page 1
the alert that these disastrous, illegal, immoral weapons must be abolished everywhere. Over the last 40 years, this work has brought me many arrests, court appearances, convictions, a few acquittals, and occasional jail time. I am a Christian pastor, a follower of Jesus. I do my best, in my small way, to walk where he would walk. Amen.”

Her husband, Dr. David Hall, explained that, “We were engaged in a ritual protest, part of a 40-year effort to bring public attention to the presence and danger of nuclear weapons and to offer our prayerful hope for the future... We have worked for years to prevent this possibility, but our voices have been drowned out by the military industrial complex. We support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which many nations have signed but the U.S. has campaigned against. We want to be able to tell our children and grandchildren that we did not go quietly.”

Buddhist Br. Perez said, “I am a simple monk. We crossed the road to prevent nuclear destruction. We have used nuclear weapons and seen the devastation in the past and Russia is now talking about using them. We do not want the subs at Bangor to go to war; instead we work for one happy, compassionate planet. We should all love one another.”

Siptroth confessed that, “I did stand in the roadway leading to the Trident submarine base to protest the making and preparation for use of nuclear weapons which are illegal under international law. I had an obligation under the Nuremberg Conventions to stop weapons of mass destruction. Because of the billions of dollars spent on the military in the name of national security, our government can’t find the money to house the homeless. This is the greater crime. With real national security, no one in this country would be hungry or without health care and a decent place to live.”

Recalling how reading *Hiroshima* by John Hersey when she was 10 years old had set a course for her life, Wildflower told the court that, “In 1975, I learned that the Trident base was being built at Bangor and that the missiles armed with nuclear weapons were equipped for specific targets making them first strike weapons. Since then I have gone onto the base to plant gardens, I spent 30 days in jail in 1977, and in 1982 in a small boat I attempted to stop the arrival of the USS Ohio, the first Trident sub at Bangor. The situation is more urgent now, with the threat of use of nuclear weapons more likely than ever before. On August 8, we went into the roadway and danced, commemorating the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945. We stayed in the road because this is such an important issue.”



CodePink photo

Retired diplomat and Col. Ann Wright stands in protest before being removed and arrested by Capitol police, March 22, 2023

“Investing in U.S. Security, Competitiveness, and the Path Ahead for the U.S.-China Relationship,” and the invited witnesses prioritized war preparations over de-escalation and cooperation.

Three CodePink activists wore t-shirts saying “China is Not Our Enemy.” Wearing a shirt and holding a sign that both read “\$\$\$ For The Poor Not War,” CodePink organizer Olivia DiNucci stood up and said, “We don’t need more money for the military industrial complex. We need money for the poor and the planet!”

“We don’t want to go to war with China,” she continued, “and we want to end the war in Ukraine.”

When all had completed their testimonies, Judge Thornburgh presented her findings. “This is a mitigation hearing. Your eloquently stated testimony is not a defense,” she began.

“You have admitted the infraction and I have found that it was committed. I am reducing your fines to zero. There will be no fines.”

At the second mitigation hearing on October 25, Susan Delaney and Elizabeth Murray appeared before Judge Pro Tem Susan Caulkins.

In an unusual turn of events, the judge, upon reviewing their traffic court cases and accepting the women’s written statements and a copy of the Ground Zero newsletter, said, “This is a ticket I don’t see everyday. I am dismissing it because there is no officer’s report.”

When Delaney asked if the judge wanted to hear her testimony, the judge questioned whether Delaney wanted to risk the fine just for the judge’s entertainment. Susie accepted the challenge, telling the judge,

I am a practicing Catholic who takes Pope Francis seriously when he says that the manufacture, possession and, of course, use of nuclear weapons is immoral and sinful.

The Archbishop of Seattle, Paul Etienne, has directed Catholics in our area to take immediate action to avert nuclear disaster.

Archbishop John Wester of Santa Fe says we must start a public conversation to find a new path toward nuclear disarmament before it is too late.

These leaders are all correct. Nuclear weapons are immoral and we need a conversation and a new path now. This requires making people aware of the dangers that we all face. Raising local awareness has been my motivation for organizing and participating in the peaceful, nonviolent dancing-musical blockade at the entrance to Bangor...

The judge responded, “I respect your exercise of the right of free speech and applaud your willingness to come tell us. The matter is dismissed.”

Elizabeth Murray spoke next. She introduced herself as a retired CIA political and media analyst who has “chosen peace work as the most meaningful way to spend my remaining years.” She acknowledged that now is “a time of unprecedented nuclear tension between the United States and Russia.”

With Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor a likely target in any nuclear confrontation with Russia, members of our community here in Kitsap County want to know what they can do to stop this dangerous game of brinksmanship and say “no” to war. And that is where we at the Ground Zero Center come in. For nearly 50 years the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action has sought the reduction and destruction of nuclear weapons.

Memorial Day at the Nuclear Bomb Plant

Thanks to Kristin Scheer and Jane Stoever

PeaceWorks Kansas City held its 13th annual Memorial Day event this year at the Kansas City National Security Campus (NSC), where parts for nuclear weapons are made and procured. That day, May 29, was warm and sunny, and 63 people gathered to march, mourn, rally, protest and picnic to object to the work that happens there. At the end of the rally, 14 of the activists crossed the purple line onto NSC property. Eleven of the 14 retreated when warned by police of arrests. Kimmy Igla, Rylan Scott Keeling and Ann Suellentrop remained. They were arrested, taken to a police station, processed and soon released. Their Kansas City, Missouri Municipal Court hearing is June 28.

Igla, a board member of PeaceWorks Kansas City, remarked afterwards, “I was struck by the support of people who’ve come together for years for this event, and people who were there the first time. The newcomers came to learn more about the dangers of nuclear weapon production, and others came to keep supporting the peace work over the continuing years... Crossing the line is an act of resistance that binds us to the resisters that came before us and the resisters yet to come.”

The youngest line-crosser, Lexi Heckerorth of the First Central Church of the Brethren in Kansas City, Kansas, said, “I am only 18 years old. Why am I scared that there may not be a future for me?”

For more information, visit peaceworkskc.org.

Security immediately told DiNucci to sit down and issued her a warning. Consequently, when she went to leave she was ultimately arrested for peacefully and quietly holding up her sign as she walked out the door.

For more information, visit codepink.org.

With the U.N.’s adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2017, that goal is no longer just a dream – it is a reachable destination and a practical matter of life or death. Nuclear weapons are illegal and nuclear states must disarm. The risks inherent in nuclear disarmament pale in comparison with the risks inherent in an all-out nuclear war. As all of us here know, such a war would yield no winners. We all stand to lose.

So turning back to the matter before the Court today, sometimes an injured party has to step into the roadway to draw attention to a grievous moral harm, Your Honor. Sometimes a higher moral law outweighs what is, under the circumstances, a lesser law.

We at Ground Zero believe that no change can occur in our country’s present first-strike nuclear policy without first drawing the public’s attention to a dire situation that rightly should provoke profound alarm in all of us.

Your Honor, I have done nothing less than stand against the criminal existence of nuclear weapons and the ever-present threat of their use against not only our adversaries, but anyone and anything within their range – whether they be mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, our ecosystems on land and at sea, or perhaps even just a tiny, newly hatched baby bird.

In closing, I would like to recall the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German theologian executed by the Gestapo for taking a stand against Hitler and fascism:

“Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”

The judge dismissed Murray’s charges as well, saying, “Thank you for coming. Go forth and have a great day.”

Just before Murray testified, a young woman in uniform had entered the courtroom and taken a seat behind Ground Zero supporters. She looked stricken at the conclusion of Murray’s presentation and thanked her for her testimony. Others in the courtroom were also visibly moved.

The two men charged in federal court for crossing the line during the August, 2022 protest have had their charges dismissed. In November, both Mack Johnson and Victor White received a notice to appear for arraignment by video conference in December, when they pled not guilty. While preparing for a March, 2023 trial, family health issues moved White, who lives in southern California, to change his plea to guilty and avoid travel back to Washington for trial. Meanwhile the federal court, nearly two years behind on their trial docket due to the pandemic, sent notice in February that charges against both men were now dismissed, voiding White’s guilty plea.

For more information, visit gzcenter.org.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Australia

compiled from reports by WagePeaceAU.org

A broad spectrum of Australian activists returned to Meanjin (Brisbane) during the first week of October, 2022 for a Festival of Resistance and nonviolent actions to disrupt Land Forces 2022, the largest weapons expo in the Southern Hemisphere at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (BCC). As they had the year before, organizers welcomed many diverse constituencies – radical youth, Quaker grannies, Aboriginal leaders, refugees, climate activists, veterans, a clown army, musicians and more – into the action planning.

It was a festival of ideas, story telling and culture with the voices of First Nations and West Papuan people central. The stated goal was to “disrupt, interrupt, and obfuscate [the arms dealers’] efforts to generate conflict as the by-product of profit.” The organizers invited all who shared that goal to participate and plan Festival events according to just two rules:

1. Do no harm to other living beings.
 2. Respect everyone else at the festival, including (or especially) when you don’t understand what they are doing and/or why they are doing it.
- “We call this radical respect. Radical respect is a core working principle of Disrupt Land Forces, together with active solidarity, creative disruption, community care and revolutionary love.”

A nearby Aboriginal community center served as the base for festival organizing, prop and banner making and community meals for about 100 people actively engaged in the disruptions. After last year’s protest success, a much larger police and private security force was also present.

Even before the Festival of Resistance began, two young women, Claudia and Ash, climbed onto a small robotic combat tank being towed into the convention center on September 29, forcing it to stop while they live-streamed the action on Facebook.

“We’re standing in solidarity with the First Nations people of this land and for those in the Northern Territory who are currently calling for a cease-fire to disarm the police in their communities. First Nations people were the first to experience militarized violence on this continent and they’re still the most victimized by it today here and all across the globe,” said one of the women.

The other concluded, “War is pollution of our minds, our relationships and the earth. The military machine is burning our home directly with these weapons and through the vast consumption of fossil fuels. The military oppresses culture, takes land that is not for the taking, by force, by fear, leaving all the people to pick up their lives in rubble.”

They refused to leave and held a banner declaring “War Crimes Start Here” before they were carried off and arrested.

Claudia pled guilty and was given a four month good behavior bond. Ash refused to enter a plea and was given a later court date.

France

The appeal by seven opponents of France’s proposed radioactive waste dump at Bure known as Cigéo was heard last November in Nancy. The seven were prosecuted for “criminal association” and lesser offenses after a three-year, €1 million investigation into the June 2017 arson at the project hotel’s restaurant and two other demonstrations that year. During the entire investigation, the defendants were prohibited from contact with one another and barred from parts of the region. One spent eight months in prison on remand.

The nuclear state’s targeting of these few among the many opponents began to implode in 2021, with acquittals on the most serious charge and convictions for organizing an undeclared demonstration and possession of items alleged to possibly make incendiary devices. The state did not appeal the criminal association acquittals, yet still sought suspended terms of six to nine months for six of the defendants and asked for a year in prison for the seventh. Two months later on January 27, the appeals court decision completed the near-total collapse of the investigation. Four defendants were completely exonerated and the other three were sentenced to four months, suspended, for failure to disperse during an August, 2017 demonstration. Defense attorneys argued that “undeclared” is being wrongly likened to “illegality.”

In March, a new investigation was launched with the indictment of one person for property damage during a demonstration in August, 2021 at the site of a future train depot required to bring in the nuclear waste. For more information, visit bureburebure.info.

The Festival opened the next night around an international solidarity fire, sharing stories of resistance to militarization. Over the weekend, a variety of educational and hands-on workshops included training for “Mobile Unwelcoming Teams” (MUTs) and “Space Invaders” to go out in small groups and explicitly unwelcome the “harms dealers” (easily identified by their lanyards and business or military attire) as they dined and walked about Brisbane’s West End. Tactics focused on making the conference an unpleasant scene with an unpleasant sensibility for those attending: noise, disruption, unwelcoming demeanor. One person was arrested harassing weapons merchants. On Monday, a festive crew held their forks high for an Eat the Rich protest outside a hotel hosting expo delegates.

Outside the BCC, barriers were being erected to funnel delegates into the center and away from a plaza where the daily protests would be centered. Before the expo opened on Tuesday morning, October 4, the walls of the Centre were marked with water-soluble anti-war graffiti. Clowns, Vikings and more in colorful costume caused chaos as they danced among the cars backed up to enter the parking garages. Police shoved some demonstrators off the road rather than make arrests.

One man was arrested while marking the walls with a washable “blood,” and another for willful damage and obstructing police after using the “blood” to paste a picture of the horrors of war on a lamp post. City Councilor Jonathan Sriranganathan, monitoring the protest in his district, was arrested for trespass when a Convention Centre worker came out and started installing a fence around where he was standing by the building. The charge was later dismissed when prosecutors recognized that one cannot trespass on a public footpath.

Over the weekend, activists had transformed an old car into “Skanky Tanky, the militarized love machine,” in hot pink and armored with a pink fake gun turret and large shields declaring “Disarm the Police,” “Stop the War Machine” and “Earth Care not Warfare.” Placed on a trailer and covered in tarps, it was stopped by police who unwittingly unveiled it just outside the BCC. The road was blocked for an hour while Bassi Brown was extracted from Skanky Tanky and arrested.

Over the next two days, the pro-planet, anti-militarist activists called out, disrupted, blocked and booed the “harms dealers” from all angles. Among the many protests, a tour of local weapons merchants visited some of Brisbane’s worst warmongers: NIOA, Thales, Elbit Systems and Boeing. At the last stop, Boeing’s Insitu Pacific drone facility, two brave grandmothers climbed atop the entrance awning and occupied the space, hanging banners demanding justice and an end to exported, automated killing.

On Wednesday, delegates were greeted by eight activists lined up behind a low fence along the sidewalk

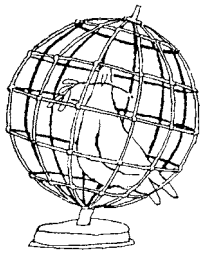
continued on page 8

Scotland

Faslane peace campers Margaret Burns and Willemien Hoogendoorn were greeted by name when they arrived at the north gate of Britain’s nuclear submarine base at Faslane, Scotland on January 22. They were there to celebrate the second anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by locking together and blocking the road.

At least seven police vehicles and a score of officers responded, and a few hours later the women were cut loose and arrested. They were then de-arrested, Burns writes, “after a police conference, when the words ‘peaceful protest’ were used frequently by the Inspector, with the agreement of the MOD Inspector (fitting in with the Scottish government’s stance on opposing nuclear weapons). And, unusually, we were able to bring our lock-on accoutrements back with us (quickly scooped into a bag) to use another time. Really, the police (and courts) [were] showing they do not share the U.K. government’s stance that peaceful protests are illegal, and that protesters are terrorists, etc.”

The lock-on devices came out next on April 5, when two teams of three – each a pair of blockaders and a support person – set out from the peace camp to block both the north and south gates in protest of the British government’s decision to send depleted uranium tank ammunition to the war in Ukraine. Burns and Hoogendoorn first blocked the north gate, and their support person was immediately detained so they could not signal the others at the south gate. Nevertheless, a short time later the blockade of the south gate was confirmed by the loud alarm that blares across the base on such occasions. The four blockaders, including Finlay Hobson and Alexander at the south gate, were cut loose a couple of hours later, and summoned to court the next day. After the day spent waiting in court for missing paperwork, the proceedings were postponed to a later date.



Germany

One of the men arrested at Büchel air base on May 7 (see page 1), Ernst-Ludwig Iskenius, better known as Elu, served a 20 day prison sentence last December. He’d been one of about 30 people arrested in September, 2020 when they entered Europe’s most modern military training facility near Magdeburg. Elu refused to pay a fine of €500, giving the money instead to an organization supporting conscientious objectors and military deserters.

Elu wrote that, “[I] have consciously decided for this step, in order to point to the aggravated drama of our military policy. It is now becoming increasingly clear, for example, that the immense rearmament (100 billion in special funds for the [armed forces]) is clearly failing to achieve the goals we have set ourselves for combating climate change. It is scandalous that the CO 2 emissions caused by the military are not even considered in the calculations... You are welcome to spread my protest, but please do so in such a way that my protest behind bars is nothing extraordinary, but part of the nonviolent civil resistance that is practiced all over the world, for many with greater consequences than for me.”

Canada

Thanks to World BEYOND War

On May 31, the opening of CANSEC, North America’s largest military weapons convention in Ottawa, was again disrupted when more than 100 people marched in protest. Ten thousand attendees were expected to gawk at the goods and services of nearly 300 exhibitors.

Activists carrying 50-foot banners saying “Stop Profiting from War,” “Arms Dealers Not Welcome” and holding dozens of “War Crimes Start Here” signs blocked multiple vehicle and pedestrian entrances. Attendees trying to register and enter the convention center were held up and the keynote address by Canadian Defense Minister Anita Anand was delayed for over an hour as police worked to remove the protesters, grabbing banners and arresting one protester who was taken away in handcuffs and later released without charges.

The protest, sponsored by World BEYOND War, was convened to “oppose CANSEC and the profiteering from war and violence it is designed to support” and “make it impossible for anyone to come anywhere near their weapons fair without confronting the violence and bloodshed these arms dealers are complicit in.”

Turkey



Worker’s Party of Turkey candidate Dr. Hakan Güneş (in glasses) and marchers are confronted by police shortly before he and two others were arrested.

Turkey’s only commercial nuclear power plant at Akkuyu, on the southern Mediterranean coast, has received its first shipment of nuclear fuel and was officially commissioned in a ceremony on April 27. The four reactors at the site are Russian-made and, while the presidents of both Turkey and Russia attended the ceremony virtually, grassroots anti-nuclear activists set out early in person for a march of several miles to the plant, though they were not invited.

At least six times the marchers were stopped by police to check their identities. A scuffle broke out shortly after authorities finally blocked the march, 4 kilometers from their destination. Three people were arrested, including Dr. Hakan Güneş, a Parliamentary candidate from the Worker’s Party of Turkey. They were later released from custody, pending possible prosecution.

where we're at, cont.

continued from page 2

network for imprisoned anti-nuclear activists that later became the Nuclear Resister.

It was wonderful to have Dan Ellsberg join the Rocky Flats Truth Force reunion via Zoom. Just a couple of months earlier, he had shared the news with friends and fellow activists about his terminal diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.



photo by Chuck David

At left, a sheriff’s deputy arrives to arrest Henry Raibourn, Jack Cohen-Joppa (with flag on tipi pole) and Thomas Johnston on the railroad tracks serving the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant in Colorado, June 13, 1978.

Americans Jailed, cont.

continued from page 1

criminal conspiracy to commit massacres with radiation and firestorms. The court authorities in this case have prosecuted the wrong suspects.”

He was moved to a halfway house a week later, and a few days after that was on his first furlough for ten hours, enough time to attend a peace demonstration in downtown Hamburg. By the end of January, LaForge was at the Hamburg flat of his wife, typing his own jail letters while on 32-hour “work release,” the first of several before completing his sentence on February 28. LaForge writes of his experience on page 4.

In May, 2020, Dennis DuVall became the first American convicted for protest at Büchel, charged with trespass and property damage from actions in 2018. On March 16, 2023, the 81-year-old was finally summoned to report for his 60-day sentence. He surrendered at the gate of JVA Bautzen one week later.

In refusing to pay a fine, DuVall explained to the public prosecutor that “it is a matter of conscience I share with many other U.S., Dutch, and German Büchel defendants not to pay money to those who willingly protect weapons of mass murder deployed at Büchel NATO base.

“It is my right and my duty to work toward the

abolition of nuclear weapons, and it is the responsibility of the German government to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to ensure the prompt removal of American B61 thermonuclear weapons from Büchel NATO base.”

At least a dozen German and Dutch resisters have previously been sent to jail for protest at Büchel, a few more than once.

Two more American participants in the Büchel actions, both part of Catholic Worker communities, are also being prosecuted. Last September, Susan Crane returned to Germany from California to appeal two lower court convictions to the Koblenz regional court. Her appeal covered six separate arrests in 2018 and 2019. Her attorney asked the court to hear the testimony of three international legal experts but this was refused. Crane was left to make the international law arguments in her own testimony, even as the court also rejected any defense of necessity. While Crane testified to the poverty she works to alleviate every day at the Redwood City Catholic Worker, the judge instead addressed at length the itemized cost of all the bits and pieces needed to repair the severed fence around the base.

“I guess it comes as no surprise that the Koblenz black robes decided that my arguments about the illegality of nuclear weapons were a ‘subjective legal opinion,’ Crane wrote afterwards. “Despite omissions and mistakes, the court did get one thing right: I ‘intend to proceed [in resistance] in the future.’”

FUTURE ACTIONS

see more at nukeresister.org/future-actions

bangor

The Ground Zero Community for Nonviolent Action will host their annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemorative events August 5-7, beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday with keynote presentations at the Ground Zero center in Poulsbo, Washington, and afternoon rally at the nearby Kitsap-Bangor nuclear submarine base. Nonviolent action preparation and banner-making on Sunday for early Monday direct action at the Bangor gate. For more information, visit gzcenter.org.

peace camp volkel

Activists from the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and the United States are planning to join the August 4-10, 2023 peace camp with a focus on the climate and nuclear weapons at Volkel air base in the Netherlands, where U.S. nuclear weapons are stockpiled. Training for nonviolent action (in English), with direct action plans including a blockade on Monday, August 7 and a pink-shovel digging-for-peace action on Nagasaki Day, August 9. For more information, visit noelhuis.nl/peace-camp-volkel-2023.

dsei

DSEI, one of the world’s largest arms fairs, returns to London’s Docklands this September. Stop The Arms Fair is again coordinating protests and nonviolent direct action connecting militarism to other issues (Migration, Climate Justice, No Faith in War, etc.) during the set-up week, September 4-11, and during the exposition itself, September 12-15. For more information, visit stopthearmsfair.org.uk/join-in/.

climate camp against nukes

The German chapters of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and others will host a protest camp against nuclear weapons sharing from July 4-9 in Nörvenich, where German pilots who would deliver shared U.S. nuclear weapons are temporarily being trained while Büchel airbase is being upgraded for the latest U.S. nukes. Nörvenich borders one of Germany’s largest lignite mining pits and is a symbol for the successes of the climate justice movement. For more information, visit nuclearban.de/climate-camp-against-nukes/.

As always, Dan’s words were illuminating. In talking about nuclear weapons and the climate crisis, he said, “We’re on the road to hell, I would say – and that deserves every bit of obsession and determination and dedication and self-sacrifice, everything that has ever been seen on a mass basis. It’s an emergency. I think of Greta Thunberg all the time who makes it so clear, that her message is: ‘This is an emergency. The house is on fire.’

“Is it worth risking one’s life, one’s freedom, in company with others, simply to avert greater disasters? And I would say yes, absolutely, of course it is.”

Thank you, Dan: for spending half of your life speaking truth to power, accompanying and supporting fellow whistleblowers (such as Daniel Hale, Chelsea Manning, Julian Assange, Mordechai Vanunu and so many others), sharing your knowledge, wise analysis, encouragement and solidarity, taking risks and acting tirelessly for a peaceful and nuclear-free future.

Also in this issue of *the Nuclear Resister* newsletter you’ll find inspiring reports of recent actions in Canada, Turkey, the U.S., Germany, Australia and Scotland, at nuclear sites, drone warfare bases, Congressional hearings, a university career fair and arms bazaars.

On page 4, we publish the writings of two recently imprisoned activists and friends. John LaForge, co-director of Nukewatch, began a 50 day prison sentence in January for two actions protesting U.S. nuclear weapons based at Büchel air base. He was the first American to serve time in a German prison for an anti-nuclear action. Soon after, Dennis DuVall became the second American to serve time in a German prison for actions at Büchel. He finished his 60 day sentence on May 19. On May 8, while Dennis was behind bars, seven German activists were arrested for entering Büchel and disrupting preparation for nuclear war by obstructing construction work for a new runway at the base (see story on page 1). The resistance continues - onward!

Peace,

Felice and Jack

P.S. Summer is a very slow time for donations, and so if you’ve been thinking of sending a contribution this would be a great time - and THANKS to those of you who have sent a donation recently!

The court also “took into account the defendant’s advanced age [79], which is associated with an increased sensitivity to punishment” and fined her €1,150 or 230 days in prison. The German constitutional court denied her appeal in May, so Crane is taking her case to the European Court of Human Rights. She awaits word from the court about when to pay up or go to jail.

When Iowan Brian Terrell got to Germany for the Büchel protests last summer, he was served papers to appear for trial in Cochem on November 23, 2022, over a 2019 Büchel action when he and others cut a hole in the fence and entered the base. In October, his attorney in Germany was notified that “the defendant’s whereabouts are unknown” to the court, and so his trial would not proceed. Terrell is not hiding or evading, and later communication from the court implied it understood he will likely return to Germany at some time in the future. That is Terrell’s plan, and he expects the German authorities to be waiting for him then.

For more information, visit nukewatchinfo.org.

SUBSCRIBE!

____ Please enter/renew (circle one)
my subscription for four issues.
____ \$25 Regular ____ \$15 Low Income
____ \$50 Sustining ____ US\$30 Canada
____ \$100 Sustaining ____ US\$35 Foreign

____ I can keep *the Nuclear Resister*
informed of local actions.

\$ ____ DONATION ENCLOSED

Make checks payable to: **the Nuclear Resister** and
send to P.O. Box 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733

We are unable to accept checks drawn on Canadian or other foreign banks. Payment must be in US\$ by cash, money order or check drawn on a U.S. bank, OR secure online payment via Paypal at nukeresister.org.

Contributions of \$50 or more are always welcome and may be tax-deductible by check or money order made payable to: the Progressive Foundation.

ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS MAILED FIRST CLASS.

FREE TO PRISONERS, OF COURSE!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP/POSTAL CODE _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Your information will not be shared.

#201

Australia, cont.

continued from page 6

entrance, their bared breasts and backs bearing the slogans “Boobs Not Bombs”, “Nudes Not Nukes” and “Fuck War”, with middle fingers and raised fists in the air.

On Thursday afternoon, the last day of the expo, the arms dealers were escorted out by the ferocious noise protest of the clown army, who then swarmed into the lanes of the parking garage exit ramp. A tall ladder was set up to block both lanes, and Marge Pestorius climbed

Great-Grandmother Arrested at Lockheed-Martin

Every 4th Friday, South Bay activists vigil for peace at the main gate of Lockheed-Martin’s sprawling air-and-space warfare campus in Sunnyvale, California. They hold signs and pass out leaflets, and a few will sometimes block the entry road with a long anti-war banner until ordered to disperse. At the September 23, 2022 vigil, Peggy Coleman brought a bouquet of sunflowers wrapped in sky-blue tissue paper, representing the national flower and colors of Ukraine in solidarity with the Ukrainian people while also opposing the war and the leading global war profiteer. When the other blockaders dispersed, Coleman remained in the road, expressing her support of Russian war resisters, as well.

In Sunnyvale, the Department of Public Safety includes police, fire fighters and emergency medical services. When the officers arrived, one told Coleman it was the first time he’d been called to Lockheed to arrest someone in three years. He usually works as a fireman and had forgotten how to fill out her ticket. The other officer’s father had fled Pinochet’s Chile when he was a student activist in the 1970s, and told Coleman he understood her passion to speak out in a country that allows her to.

Coleman later received a summons in the mail to appear in court in late December. When she and supporters showed up that day, she was not on the docket.

up and sat on top, holding a “War Crimes Start Here” banner. Two other activists held the ladder as the clown army moved on to further disruptions. One ladder-holder left when a police sweep was finally organized to clear the exit ramp, while Pestorius and the other holder, Dave Sprigg, were arrested for failure to comply with police.

Across the week, 11 arrests were made, all for minor offenses such as public nuisance, failure to comply with a police direction and obstruction of traffic. Six have already been to court, mostly receiving good behavior bonds of various lengths with two people receiving fines of AU\$500 and AU\$750. Of the five with outstanding court matters, at least two are expected to contest one or more charges by pleading not guilty.

Messages from allies inside the convention hall confirmed that attendance was down while security costs were way up and the harms dealers were feeling “intimidated.” VIPs were reportedly deterred from attending, and at least two high-level presentations were canceled. Some vendors and groups participated only one day, with some stalls not staffed. Some delegates chose not to attend, especially on the last day.

The Nuclear Resister T-Shirt

100% natural color, heavy-weight cotton.
Union made in the U.S. Available in M, L, and XL.
Only \$20 plus \$10 shipping in the U.S. (Please inquire about overseas shipping cost at nukeresister@igc.org.)



*Pay securely online via PayPal at www.nukeresister.org/donate. Add a note with your name, address and size, or email nukeresister@igc.org. Or send a check with your order to *the Nuclear Resister*, PO Box 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733.*

Update Files

SHANNON AIRPORT: After 25 pretrial hearings since their arrest in April 2017 and a ten-day jury trial last January, Irish peace activists Edward Horgan and Dan Dowling were acquitted of criminal damage for entering the Irish international airport and writing “Danger Danger Do Not Fly” in red marker on the engine of a U.S. Navy warplane parked on the tarmac. Evidence given at trial showed that Shannon regularly serves U.S. military and CIA flights despite official Irish neutrality. Horgan was also permitted to read some of the names from a list of 1,000 children (out of perhaps 1,000,000) who have been killed by U.S. warmaking in the Middle East, which they took into Shannon as part of a Naming The Children project to document and personalize this cost of war. The jury agreed the men had acted with lawful excuse, while also finding they had committed the summary offense of trespass. The judge ordered, and the men agreed, to a “financial gesture” of €5,000 each to a women’s shelter while maintaining good behavior for one year...

COULPORT: Sylvia Boyes and Willemein Hoogendoorn appeared in Dumbarton Justice of the Peace court on October 13, 2022, facing charges for infiltrating Her Majesty’s naval nuclear weapons storehouse in southwest Scotland in January, 2020. Hoogendoorn was admonished for criminal damage (cutting the fence) whilst Boyes was fined £210 for a byelaws offense...

GRONAU: Criminal charges against Cécile Lecomte related to the occupation of electric pylons serving the German uranium enrichment plant in May, 2022 have been dismissed. While the original charge of trespass was without merit and dropped, Lecomte, a well-known rope climbing activist who is disabled by severe arthritis and uses a wheelchair for surface mobility, was charged with resisting the police who forcefully and painfully took her fingerprints. Lecomte’s civil suit against the gratuitous abuse is pending...

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE: One week before her scheduled trial last October, federal prosecutors moved to dismiss a trespass charge against drone war opponent Toby Blomé, who had been arrested in November, 2021 while leafleting workers at the central California base. Global Hawk surveillance drone operations were phased out of Beale in the summer of 2022...

the Nuclear

Resister

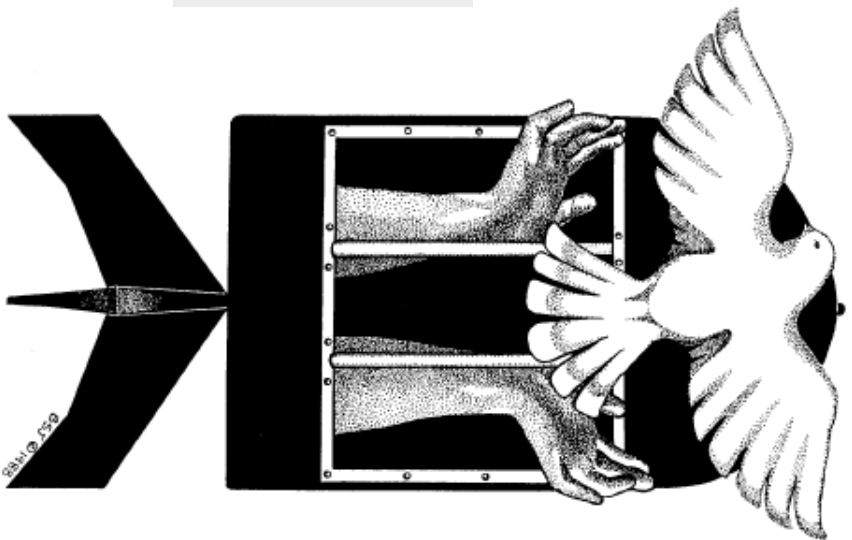
Americans jailed for
“Nuclear Sharing”
Protests in Germany

Arrests at Drone
Warfare Bases

Trident Nuclear
Sub Base Actions
in U.S. and Scotland

Award for jailed
Whistleblower
Daniel Hale

CodePink Returns
to Congress



#201 June 5, 2023

INFORMATION
ABOUT AND
SUPPORT FOR
IMPRISONED
ANTI-NUCLEAR
& ANTI-WAR
ACTIVISTS

inside this issue...
Prisoner Addresses, p. 3
Writings from Prison
International Notes
Future Actions

... and more