

the Nuclear Resister

“A Chronicle of Hope”

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ANTI-WAR IMMIGRANTS JAILED, THREATENED WITH DEPORTATION

Following the release of Leqaa Kordia (see page 3), U.S. authorities have recently detained and are seeking to deport at least two more outspoken foreign nationals – Yousof Azizi and Salah Sarsour – due at least in part to their public anti-war activity.

Yousof Azizi

Yousof Azizi is an Iranian PhD candidate in Public Administration and Policy at Virginia Tech’s Arlington research campus. On April 13, Azizi drove his three-year-old son to daycare and his 11-year-old daughter to school. When he returned to his Maryland home he was confronted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in the parking lot and taken into custody as most detained immigrants have been, without a judicial warrant. Azizi was told his student visa had been canceled when he failed to enroll for the fall, 2025 semester, despite a pending application to legally change his visa status from F-1 (student) to F-2 (dependent of F-1 visa holder).

Two days later, Azizi was transferred from Maryland to a Louisiana ICE jail, and two days after that to an ICE jail in Arizona. He is now jailed in an ICE facility in California City, California.

Azizi’s scholarly work analyzes U.S. and Iranian nuclear policy, and in recent years he has often been interviewed, debated and provided expert commentary promoting peace and diplomacy on Persian language media outlets including BBC Persian.

“The real problem is that he spoke up about the war,” his wife Aliyeh Hashemi said a week after his arrest in a statement to a local TV station. “This status story is just an excuse.”

Hashemi, who is also Iranian and has completed her PhD, continued, “We believed that the United States welcomed international students and academics. We believed that freedom of speech was real. This event has shattered the assumptions we held thirteen years ago when we came to the U.S. to continue our studies.”

Salah Sarsour

On March 30, nearly a dozen Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents pulled over and surrounded the car of Salah Sarsour, president of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee, as he left his home. He was taken into custody and driven out of the state to Chicago for arraignment. Court papers said he was “suspected of funding terror organizations and lying” on a green card application in the late 1990’s about a conviction in Israel when the Palestinian teenager was living in the West Bank. From Chicago, Sarsour was quickly moved to an ICE-contracted county jail in Indiana, where he **was** held without bond.

Sarsour has been a lawful permanent resident of the United States for 32 years, and is widely recognized as a pillar of the community in Milwaukee and respected nationally through work with American Muslims for Palestine. He has no criminal record in the United States, and in the petition for habeus corpus his attorneys filed, they noted that the U.S. government was long aware of the circumstances around his arrest as a teenager, but that Customs and Immigration Services had at least four times considered the same allegations now raised again but taken no action. The petition for his release was fully briefed by May 8, and a hearing set for June 18.

Since his arrest and despite the government’s incendiary allegations, Sarsour received public declarations of support and calls for his release from both the city and county of Milwaukee, area religious and business leaders, civic organizations such as Jewish Voice for Peace and the ACLU of Wisconsin, and leading politicians including Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin), Bernie Sanders (D-Vermont) and Chris Van Hollen (D-Maryland). His congressional representative Gwen Moore visited him in the Indiana jail and also demanded his release. Sarsour’s primary care physician also spoke out because Sarsour is Type 2

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) also accuses Azizi of lying on his visa application when he said he was never a member of the Basij student group that is designated by the U.S. as a terrorist organization. Asked what evidence DHS had to support this allegation, a spokesperson replied, “We are confident in our law enforcement’s intelligence, and we aren’t going to share intelligence reports and undermine national security every time a terrorist member denies he is one.” Neither Azizi’s family nor his attorney have been presented with any evidence whatsoever to support the government’s accusations. Azizi has not been charged with any crime, yet he was denied bond at his first hearing on April 28. He joins an already overcrowded immigration court docket.

On May 24, the Campaign to Free Yousof Azizi alerted family and friends that “His personal mobile phone, along with all the accounts logged into it, are currently in the possession of federal authorities,” and urged all concerned to not make contact through, nor respond to any messages received from, his phone or social media accounts.



Visit www.yousofazizi.com for more information and to sign the petition there demanding a fair status review and the immediate release of Yousof Azizi. Supporters are also asked to “keep Yousof and his family in your thoughts and prayers, asking for strength, resilience, and a swift return to his community and loved ones.” Donations are also accepted via the website. Please send messages of support for Yousof Azizi and his family to contact@yousofazizi.com rather than the ICE jail.

diabetic, and lost 30 pounds while jailed without access to nutritional food and regular blood sugar monitoring to manage the disease. His attorneys described religious “torment” including denial of a prayer rug and access to the Koran and being told to buy fried pork rinds when he complained about the food.

In 2025, Secretary of State Marco Rubio issued a memo that said Sarsour was deportable as a threat to U.S. foreign policy “as a result of his speech and association with American Muslims for Palestine.” Then in February, Harmeet Dhillon, the assistant U.S. attorney general for civil rights, revealed that the Department of Justice intends to “dismantle” American Muslims for Palestine.

In a statement from jail, Sarsour wrote to his family and community:

“I’m not here for a crime or for anything wrong I committed. I’m here because I believe, like all of you, in building a strong community to secure the best environment for our children so they can learn how to be strong, just citizens. I’m here because I chose to stand with justice and with those who deserve our support and to defend them, whether in our community or all over the world. I’m here because I stood with all of you in the streets saying no to the oppression, no to the genocide against Gaza and Palestine, no to war, no to the killing of children, no weaponizing immigration for anyone, and no to humiliating and discriminating against people.”

On June 18, U.S. District Court Judge James Hanlon in Indiana ordered the immediate release of Salah Sarsour, writing that “Mr. Sarsour has raised a ‘substantial’ First Amendment retaliation claim, which could render his detention unlawful,” and that “Mr. Sarsour’s speech in support of Palestinian rights is protected by the First Amendment.” The court also took into account Sarsour’s health concerns in the jail.

For more information, visit freesalah.org.



photo provided

After cutting him free of others in the blockade, police take a non-cooperating Mark Colville into custody at the Port of Newark-Elizabeth. His t-shirt quotes Genesis 4:10, “Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground.”

Arms Export Blockade at Port Elizabeth

Before dawn on May 22, more than 30 activists blockaded the entry point to the Maher Terminals at the Port of Newark-Elizabeth, New Jersey, attempting to prevent a shipment of ammunition and weapons components to Israel by the vessel ZIM Virginia. They further called on Maher to evict the Israeli shipping company Zim Integrated Shipping Services (ZIM) and its Danish competitor, Maersk. While the U.S. military ships most arms exports to Israel, ZIM and Maersk are the two primary commercial shipping logistics companies also responsible for transporting U.S.-manufactured weapons components to Israel. The Port of Newark-Elizabeth is the largest East Coast terminal for both companies.

An R.V. and a truck with a boat hitched to it anchored the blockade, hung with large signs and banners reading “ZIM and Maersk Ship Genocide and Ecocide,” “Block the Bombs,” and “Stop Genocide, Ecocide & Deportation”.

Acting as part of a global arms embargo campaign that has successfully evicted ZIM from other ports, some activists fastened onto the vehicles and locked themselves to one another using PVC pipes. Almost immediately, Port Authority police attempted to disperse the activists, but the blockade held for four hours, with ten activists ultimately arrested. They were released that afternoon, initially charged with resisting arrest, failure to disperse and obstruction of government function. Charges have since been reduced to four misdemeanors and seven traffic violations for using the three junk vehicles to complete the blockade. Their next court appearance is August 6.

“We blockaded the terminal to stop the U.S. government from violating it’s own laws by sending weapons to Israel to commit war crimes and genocide,” said Mark Colville, one of the arrestees.

The ad hoc action collective is seeking donations to cover legal defense fees and possible penalties at nonviolenceinternational.net/donate_isaiah.

Four people charged after an October 3, 2025 blockade of arms exports from Port Elizabeth are set for trial on July 2 in Elizabeth [New Jersey] Municipal Court.

Resistance Reflections

Working on a World

by Ruth Benn
reprinted from nwtrcc.org, March 20, 2026

Not long ago, the administration was going to seek \$50 billion in supplementary funding for the U.S.-Israel war on Iran. Now that number is up to \$200 billion, and Trump’s man in the Pentagon Pete Hegseth presented that request saying, “Obviously, it takes money to kill bad guys.”

A lot of those “bad guys” look like the children pictured here...

At a “No War” vigil on March 19, a woman originally from Iran came up to us and told us how happy she is that the U.S. is going to get rid of the regime in Iran, which has also killed so many people. She fully supports the U.S.-Israel war even though she has close family members living in harm’s way. We didn’t get a chance to point out the utter failure of similar goals in Afghanistan. Thousands of lives lost, millions of refugees, and billions of dollars that only increased terrorism there and beyond, and brought the Taliban back to power.

Perhaps she would be touched by watching a video clip of a mother talking to her children about the Iranian schoolgirls killed by a U.S. missile. CodePink NYC called for an International Women’s Day rally in midtown Manhattan to remember the girls and cry out against war. Children’s shoes and rubble represented the destroyed elementary school where more than 170 died on the first

day of the attack on Iran.

War tax resistance (WTR) gets us talking about the money a lot, but, of course, at the heart of it is the human toll — the deaths, the injuries, the refugees, and the resources stolen from so many other needs.

A WTR counseling request came by email the other day with the subject, “I am agonizing over tax objection.” The 79-year-old woman, who had a long career working to prevent violence against women, has fragile finances and poor health now. She wrote of her distress about



photo by Ed Hedemann

owing taxes and her “unwillingness to participate in the wanton violence happening in the world I expected to make better.”

“The world I expected to make better.” That’s a phrase I’ve been wrestling with a lot lately. After decades of anti-war, peace and justice activism, not to mention

millions in resisted war taxes and direct action arrests, how did we end up here?

While we wrestle with the answer to that question, the thousands of people who are “agonizing over tax objection” — or just doing it, damn the consequences — is absolutely heartening. The next generations of activists are out there picking up the mantle and bringing new energy and creativity to the struggle. Somehow we do have to continue to believe that the arc really does “bend toward justice,” not forgetting the other part of that MLK Jr. quote about the arc being long.

Still, we are allowed to be very, very angry that it is one helluva lot longer than we hoped.

Speaking of MLK Jr, I’m reading *Until the Last Gun Is Silent* by Matthew F. Delmont. It’s about the intersection of the civil rights and Vietnam anti-war movements with a focus on racism in the military and for Black soldiers as they returned home. Delmont also writes about the anti-Vietnam War activism of Coretta Scott King and how her activism pushed Martin to speak out against the war. The backlash they both encountered is a reminder of what we are up against in this continuing struggle for a priority of people and planet over power and profiteering.

And, while it’s hard to keep the faces of so many children — the ones lost to war and the ones trying to understand it — in front of us, perhaps it does help give us the strength and determination to carry on with the struggle another day.

where we’re at

It’s June in the Baked Apple aka Tucson, and daily temperatures have inched past 100 F. Our prized peaches from the tree outside the office window have come and gone, and eggplants, squash, cucumbers, long beans and tomatoes are thriving in the garden. Monsoon season rains arrived early, and brought a double rainbow while we were working on this issue!

On June 26, we paused our work on the newsletter to celebrate our shared birthdays with a homemade pie. Jack turned 70 this year, and Felice turned 67. We lit a candle that day in honor of two activist friends who shared our same June 26 birthday: Dot Fisher-Smith, who died in January (see photo on this page) and Helen Woodson, who died in 2023.

In recent months we have all witnessed a landslide of outrages eroding peace and justice, not least the excessive federal prison sentences of 30 to 100 years just handed down for many of the Prairieland, Texas ICE protest defendants, and all of it overshadowed by the U.S. and Israeli war against Iran. In this issue of *the Nuclear Resister* we counter that with hopeful news of anti-nuclear and anti-war resistance around the world.

Close to home, in northern Arizona, we were encouraged by the news of several hundred activists who protested the Pinyon Plain uranium mine near the Grand Canyon in mid-May. A uranium ore-hauling truck was spotted and blocked by many demonstrators on the highway as it returned to the mine to be filled with ore. Protest messages were spray painted on the truck, rocks and logs piled under it and its tires disabled. The truck had to be towed back to the mine but no arrests were made.

An action that did result in arrests took place at the Pentagon on March 27 in celebration of the 70th birthday of nuclear resister and our long-time friend Patrick O’Neill (see page 5). Twenty-seven activists were arrested, including Patrick, his wife Mary and daughter Bernadette. A little more than a month later, Patrick had a stroke and is slowly but surely recovering, surrounded by the love of family and friends. Please keep Patrick, Mary and their family in your thoughts and prayers.

- Our lives have been full in this first half of 2026.
- * We’ve been working on a new Nuclear Resister website with Geoffrey of Lowthian Design Works. Keep an eye out - it will be up and running soon! In the meantime, Felice has continued to post new actions on the current website, while also sharing Nuclear Resister posts on Facebook and Instagram.
 - * Jack continues his work as a member of the steering committee of the International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons, and producing monthly Nuclear Resister stories for the Nuclear Hotseat podcast.
 - * We’re still bringing signs and banners to the monthly peace vigils at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and Raytheon, as well as other protests.
 - * In May we had a wonderful visit from Rozella Apel-Hernandez and Robert KiaNouri-Zigmund, who have spent the past year visiting 20+ Catholic Worker communities. Thanks to Brian Flagg for showing them around Casa Maria Catholic Worker in South Tucson, and introducing us to one of the regular volunteers, an engineer at Raytheon.

* The Nuclear Resister is an area contact for the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, and we have been fielding more frequent inquiries about war tax resistance, reflecting an encouraging nationwide trend.

As we all continue to ride wave after wave of so much troubling local and global news, and keep up with busy lives, we hope you’ll join us in taking time to enjoy and appreciate the summer flowers, ripe peaches, and friends and family and community. ♥

Peace,

Felice and Jack

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

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 U.S. currency or checks drawn on U.S. 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.

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

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

Jack and Felice Cohen-Joppa, Editors

iPresente!



Dagmar Marie Hoxsie
June 1, 1927 – January 18, 2026



Sr. Margaret McKenna
May 26, 1930 – April 22, 2026



Arthur Harvey
June 8, 1932 - January 17, 2026



Dot Fisher-Smith
June 26, 1928 - January 29, 2026



Paki Wieland
September 15, 1943 – March 12, 2026



Brian Quail
March 24, 1938 - February 17, 2026



We give thanks for the lives of these peace activists and nuclear resisters.

IRAN WAR SPARKS SCATTERED RESISTANCE

Despite polls showing that most Americans do not support the U.S. war against Iran, acts of nonviolent resistance to Trump’s “excursion” that result in arrest are so far dwarfed in comparison to the thousands arrested in American resistance to the wars against Iraq in 1991 and 2003, as well as those in the U.S. following Israel’s war on Palestine in 2023. The ongoing fallout of academic disruption and criminal prosecution for many recent war resisters, plus the broad movement across the country to resist the criminalization of immigrants are among the factors in these disparities.

Nevertheless, small acts of resistance, in turn dramatic and understated, marked the first weeks of the war on Iran, and over the months since then, many more have joined in nonviolent direct actions in the halls of Congress, at ports and military bases, war profiteers and the Pentagon.

EUGENE, OREGON

On February 28, just hours after news of the massive joint U.S.-Israeli airstrikes on Iran, demonstrators took to the streets in many cities and towns to condemn the attacks. Two arrests were reported in Eugene, Oregon, where the war protest in front of the federal building merged with previously announced demonstrations against Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations in the city. Dozens of “black bloc” demonstrators, dressed in black and their faces concealed with masks, moved through the downtown area erecting temporary blockades and closing streets. Two people were eventually detained as police used flash-bang grenades and cleared blockades.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

On the morning of March 1, Karl Meyer, 88, brought a camping chair and umbrella to set himself up for a drizzly day sit-in just outside the front doors of Nashville’s Fred Thompson Federal Building and Courthouse. Hand-written block letters on three signs – bold, all caps – declared his message to all directions: “END THE WAR, NOW.”

Three U.S. marshals and later the state commander of the Federal Protective Service politely threatened the life-long peace activist with arrest. They told him that the entrance plaza was a prohibited area, despite the public passing by unimpeded, in and out of the government building. Meyer was encouraged to move his vigil out to the city sidewalk. The veteran peace activist, with decades of experience defending his First Amendment rights, calmly engaged the officials while staying steadfastly seated. The state commander retreated into the building, presumably to consult with court officials. An hour later, he returned to tell Meyer, “You refused to leave, so I’m citing you for trespassing, a misdemeanor infraction. You can stay here all day, but I am responding to a complaint from the federal court. You can work it out in the courts.”

Meyer sat all day, and even returned to sit in the same place with his signs the next morning. None of the officers showed up to object.

In court on June 11, Federal Magistrate Barbara Holmes granted the prosecutor’s motion to dismiss, conceding that the circumstances of Meyer’s arrest did not support a conviction. The prosecutor also told her that Meyer had asked to make a statement on the facts of his action, and the U.S. Constitutional issues involved. Magistrate Holmes consented, and Meyer gave a concise description of the facts and circumstances of his action. He noted that his own sixty-nine adult years of nonviolent



photo © Ray DiPietro, used with permission
Commander Stottlemeyer of the Federal Protective Service issues Karl Meyer, 88, a citation for trespassing at the federal building and courthouse in downtown Nashville on March 2.

actions as an advocate for peace and justice had provided many occasions to defend, in federal and local courts, the Bill of Rights liberties guaranteed to all the people of the United States. After hearing his statement, Magistrate Holmes responded with warm and extended commendations for his commitment to defending U.S. Constitutional liberties.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

On March 4, Marine Corps combat veteran Brian McGinnis attended a Senate Armed Services subcommittee hearing at the U.S. Capitol in his dress uniform. He stood and loudly objected to the war. “America does not want to send its sons and daughters to war for Israel. This is wrong!” Capitol police immediately began pushing McGinnis towards the door. He reached his left arm behind the door as police tried to eject him. Republican Senator Tim Sheehy then took it upon himself to help the police, throwing his full weight into McGinnis, grabbing his legs while trying to force him out of the room. Instead, the force broke McGinnis’s left arm, the snapping bone audible on video of the protest.

McGinnis wasn’t going anywhere until the senator and police backed off and carefully freed the damaged limb. He was detained while hospitalized for medical care and later charged with three counts of assault on a police officer, three counts of resisting arrest, and incommoding. McGinnis is the Green Party candidate for U.S. Senate in North Carolina, a Raleigh firefighter and father of four. He awaits trial.

Public hearings on Capitol Hill remain a place where

government officials cannot avoid protest and dissenting voices. CodePink activists in Washington, D.C. monitor these hearing schedules to show up and protest, while also bird-dogging politicians in the halls of Congress. During his Senate testimony on April 30, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth was interrupted by anti-war protesters calling him a war criminal. One was arrested.

At another hearing on May 12, an Iranian-American woman spoke out against the war and was arrested, as was a companion who tried to amplify her message.

On June 2, Secretary of State Marco Rubio’s testimony was interrupted briefly by shouts of, “Stop Supporting Israel! Israel committed a genocide in Palestine, it’s still ongoing, and now they’re committing another genocide in Lebanon. And what are you doing?! You’re serving Israel!”

The protester was ejected and arrested. Several AIDS activists were also arrested at the same hearing for protesting cuts to HIV prevention and treatment programs worldwide.

In a dramatic anti-war reprise to his 2022 abortion rights protest, on May 1 Guido Reichstadter again climbed up the exterior of one of the graceful arches supporting the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge in Washington, D.C. Arriving at the top, 168’ above the roadway below, Reichstadter unfurled a very long, black banner as a symbol of mourning to attract attention to his protest. He began posting on social media.

“I’m calling on the people of the United States to bring an immediate end to the Trump regime’s illegal war on Iran and the removal of the regime’s power through mass nonviolent direct action and noncooperation,” he said in a statement.

“I also want to urgently warn the people of the U.S. and the world of the imminent danger we are in of crossing a point of no return towards the development of artificial intelligence which poses the risk of catastrophic harm to humanity, including human extinction. I call on the governments of the world to take immediate action to end this danger by permanently banning the development of artificial general intelligence and machine super intelligence.”

He pitched a small tent atop the bridge while police and fire department rescue personnel stayed on site, monitoring the situation and guiding traffic safely around his protest.

Reichstadter agreed to come down on the morning of May 6, after his food, water and battery power were exhausted. Authorities helped out by opening a small hatch at the top of the arch, so Reichstadter could climb inside and safely descend the interior maintenance ladder.

After a medical evaluation, Reichstadter was charged with incommoding, unlawful entry and failing to obey an officer. He was released and awaits trial.

Inside & Out



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

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

ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS
Yousof Azizi
contact@yousofazizi.com
(in 4/13/26)
(*Immigration detention without bail, related to Iran war opposition*)
PREVIOUSLY LISTED, RECENTLY RELEASED: Leqaa Kordia
PREVIOUSLY LISTED, NOW ON HOME CONFINEMENT: Leonard Peltier

Leqaa Kordia Released After One Year in ICE Jail

Palestinian-American Leqaa Kordia walked out of immigration detention in Texas and into the embrace of her family and friends on March 16, one year and three days after a lapse in her immigration status was weaponized against her liberty due to her arrest at protests against the war on Gaza outside Columbia University. She’d been swept up in a mass arrest on April 22, 2024 on a charge that was eventually dismissed. Her freedom came after an immigration judge ordered her release for the third time on March 13, the anniversary of her arrest.

Despite the profound impact of imprisonment on her health, Kordia immediately began publicly advocating for the other women she encountered in immigration jail and for other non-citizens facing deportation over their advocacy for Palestine. She remains subject to deportation to Israel.

She posted to her Instagram [@freeleqaakordia] on June 16:

“On Saturday, June 13, I suffered a seizure at a restaurant in New Jersey, just days after returning from a trip to Washington, D.C. to advocate for immigrant justice and freedom for Palestinians. My third seizure* of my entire life, this one was just as terrifying as the first time it happened – when I was thousands of miles away from my family, unlawfully detained by ICE for speaking out against genocide.

“A year in ICE jail has destroyed my physical health. In ICE jail, I endured medical neglect, poor nutrition, sleep deprivation and extreme stress. I have now been diagnosed with epilepsy, a condition that has permanently altered my life. The harm ICE inflicted on me didn’t end when I walked out of detention. It’s continued to have a lasting impact on my health and my life.”

Visit chuffed.org/project/freeleqaa to support Kordia.

**Kordia was hospitalized after her second seizure while home alone on April 30.*

Stepping Up to Oppose War and ICE

by Jeff Dietrich

Reprinted in part from the Catholic Agitator, newsletter of the Los Angeles Catholic Worker

With shouts of “Resist Trump” from myself and the 25 protesters gathered, I was arrested on Friday, April 10, 2026. With the implicit Gospel support of Pope Leo XIV, I stepped in front of an ICE van with my sign that read RESIST TRUMP in bold letters and blocked the front of the “hell-hole dungeon” outside the [Los Angeles] Metropolitan Detention Center in protest of President Trump’s ongoing war with Iran and the abhorrent immigration policies with people dying in detention centers without medical attention, worms in their food, and rancid drinking water in conditions that are truly appalling.

With support from Pope Leo XIV in his ongoing battle with President Trump over the war in Iran and his immigration policies as an example, who tells us to regard our neighbors with the Gospel values of love, compassion, and kindness, I was arrested...

And so, I can hold my head up high with all my “Heroes of the Heart”: Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., Mother Jones, Fannie Lou Hamer, Dan and Phil Berrigan and Liz McAlister, Fredrick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and of course Dorothy Day, who inspired more than 250 Catholic Worker communities throughout the world. These are the heroes that formed my heart; these are the people that I write about in my new book*; these are the heroes of justice and democracy, resistance, and resurrection that have sustained me and my wife, Catherine Morris, over the years.

For more than 55 years we have created a Catholic Worker Community on Skid Row in Los Angeles that has stood faithfully for the Gospel principles of justice and peace. We have thrown blood and oil on the steps of the Federal building, cut the fence around the nuclear test site in Nevada, and we have been arrested countless times. We have fed the multitudes of thousands of homeless people at our “Hippie Kitchen;” we have given out thousands of shoes, blankets, clothes, and tarps.

We have lived simply in our own home with the poor and the homeless, some of whom have died with us as we prayed with them in our hospice room. We have influenced public policy so that Skid Row has become an Ellis Island for the poor and homeless with tents and tarps

PACIFIC LIFE COMMUNITY AT BANGOR SUB BASE

On the morning of March 5, more than 40 nuclear resisters of many faiths took part in a procession to the entrance of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor from the nearby Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action in Poulsbo, Washington. Twelve of the Pacific Life Community (PLC) activists, calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons, walked into the roadway to block traffic. They held signs and displayed a large banner with a quote from Pope Francis: “The Use and Possession of Nuclear Weapons is Immoral”. Some of them carried small bundles wrapped in white shrouds, symbolizing infant victims of war.

The base, just 20 miles from Seattle, is home to the largest concentration of deployed nuclear warheads in the world. These warheads arm the Trident missile-launching submarines based at Kitsap-Bangor.

Shortly after they stopped traffic, Washington state patrol officers escorted the protesters off of the roadway. They were all given citations for disorderly conduct and released at the scene.

After her arrest, Catholic Worker and Plowshares activist Susan Crane said, “When we walked to the front gate of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, where Trident

proliferating the sidewalks and streets proclaiming that the neo-liberal capitalist system is broken.

Rosa Parks, keeping her seat on the bus and inspiring a movement; Dan Berrigan hammering on nuclear weapons that led to his incarceration; Harriet Tubman guiding slaves out from the South to her own peril; Mother Jones at the funeral for the dead miners proclaiming, “Don’t mourn, organize!,” Dorothy Day who said: “Our problems stem from our acceptance of this filthy, rotten system.”

These are the “heroes of my heart” who inspired me to do the ongoing work of resistance and service to the poor.

In these perilous times of “Trumpian Disorder,” these are the “Heroes of the Heart” who defied the authoritarians of their day. They defied the slave masters, they defied the racist bigots, they defied the capitalist businessmen. They are the resisters who still challenge us to defy the authoritarians of our day...

With Dorothy Day, the co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement, of which I am a part, I continue to believe in the Resurrection. I am a part of the Resurrection Community. I believe that each time we serve a meal on Skid Row, each time we stand on street corners protesting injustice to the derision of passers-by, that each time we go to jail to protest President Trump’s

policies on the War on Iran and immigration we strike a blow for the Kingdom of God. We give witness that the power of the Resurrection is stronger than the power of death.

It may be delusional, as I have difficulty believing in the actual physical, bodily resurrection. Like most 21st-century skeptics, I have difficulty believing in such a preposterous phenomenon. But I believe in the Gospel Story. And the Gospel Story tells us that goodness, mercy, and justice will ultimately triumph over evil and inhumanity. I believe with Martin Luther King, Jr. that: “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.”

[In court on June 17, Dietrich pled guilty and was fined \$60. He shouted, “I won’t pay it, I’d rather go to jail!” but was not immediately obliged.]

* *Rage, Rage Against the Dying of the Light: Warriors, Prophets, and Saints in the Revolutionary Tradition*, coming summer, 2026 from Walton Well Press.

submarines with nuclear warheads are deployed, I could see nothing but the practice of more and more horrendous ways of killing people. There’s the stench of the organization of war and the heaviness of a systematized way to kill our brothers and sisters. In light of this horror, in light of the need to stop this insane, wasteful way of organizing death, we stood in the road to block vehicles from going onto the base.”

The protesters then returned to the Ground Zero Center, where Buddhist monks Rev. Senji Kanaeda and Rev. Gilberto Perez of the Nipponzan Myohiji Buddhist Temple on Bainbridge Island, Washington gave a presentation on the significance of the Pacific Northwest Peace Pagoda. Built on Ground Zero property adjoining the Kitsap-Bangor base, the long envisioned pagoda was formally inaugurated in a Buddhist ceremony in May.

The Pacific Life Community is a network of spiritually motivated activists from U.S. Pacific coast and other western states who engage in anti-nuclear direct action during annual gatherings.

For more information, visit gzcenter.org.

Marching for Venezuela

Before Iran, there was the U.S. air war against alleged drug boats off the coast of Venezuela and Colombia.

Then, in a brazen act of “law enforcement” on January 3, the U.S. military swept into the country and kidnapped Venezuelan President Maduro and his wife on drug trafficking charges. That afternoon, about 150 people joined an emergency protest march on the snowy streets of downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan. Police cars with lights flashing slowly escorted the anti-war marchers as they occupied one lane of the street. While other officers reportedly ordered the demonstrators to return to the sidewalk, most did not.

Following the march, organizer Jessica Plichta, recently returned from a peace delegation to Venezuela, was interviewed by a local TV station as she stood on the sidewalk. The interview was concluded and the microphone was unclipped from her coat, but the camera was still rolling when police stepped up and placed Plichta under arrest for disobeying a lawful order. She was handcuffed and taken to jail, cited and later released. The police chief would later tell the media that Plichta had endangered the public by encouraging and leading people into the street, in defiance of police orders.

Plichta later told the press, “We do not want war. We do not want the U.S. to escalate its attacks on Venezuela. We don’t want our friends and family to have to fight a rich man’s war for oil.”

Drone Foes Return to Holloman AFB

As part of the 4th annual Shut Down Drone Warfare convergence, more than a dozen activists rallied while seven blocked the west gate of Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico on April 8. The six-day gathering featured daily morning and afternoon vigils at the gate, greeting military workers with different themes.

As traffic began to back up on April 8, a state trooper stopped and asked them not to block the highway. They engaged him in conversation until the Otero County sheriff arrived. The group then left the area and moved to the main gate, where two banners reading “Refuse Illegal Orders” and “Drone Pilots Refuse to Fly!” were displayed, blocking the entrance road.

After about 15 minutes, when officers approached to arrest them, some of the activists lay down on the roadway. Toby Blomé refused to get up and was carried away. Dylan Davis and Jonah Holquin stood up when asked and were accompanied off the road.

While the traffic was halted, Nick Mottern and Matt Dodson walked along the line of cars offering a leaflet that explained the reasons for the action and opposition to the drone killing program. Although they were not on base property, they were also arrested.

All five arrestees were processed and taken to the county jail. Nick Mottern, was cited for blocking the road (maximum \$25 fine) and released shortly after being processed due to a medical condition. The others were similarly charged and Blomé was given a second charge of trespass. She refused the “required” body scanner due to health concerns, and was placed in solitary confinement for one day. After quietly refusing to eat the first two meals, Blomé was told she would be put on “suicide watch” if she refused a third meal.

All four were jailed for two nights, then released a few hours after their video arraignment. Davis and Holquin pled no contest and their charge was dismissed. The other three had their charges dismissed in May, provided they face no new charges within 90 days.

Related events organized by local supporters included two film screenings, a peace party in the park, and rally and march through town. Some participants also testified at a public hearing of the New Mexico Base Planning Commission that week, where they directly confronted the deputy commander of the drone warfare unit at the base about the moral injury experienced by drone operators.

For more information, visit www.shutdowndronewarfare.org.

VETERANS AGAINST FASCISM TAKE CAPITOL HILL

As noon approached on April 20, about 150 military veterans and family members converged in the Rotunda of the Cannon House Office Building, across the street from the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Representing a coalition of organizations (About Face, Veterans For Peace, Common Defense, Center on Conscience and War, Fayetteville Resistance Coalition, Military Families Speak Out and 50501 Veterans), the veterans stood in formation, some with canes and one in a wheelchair, flanked by family members. On command, they removed uniform shirts and other outer garments to reveal matching t-shirts declaring themselves “Veterans Against Fascism.” Banners were unfurled that said, “We Can’t Afford Another War” and “End the War on Iran.” Standing at attention, veterans held red tulips honoring Iranians killed by U.S. bombs. They conducted a flag-folding ceremony symbolizing the U.S. troops killed, and who will continue to be killed if the war continues.

The veterans and military families demanded Speaker Mike Johnson come meet them to accept the folded flag and pledge to not continue funding of the war. Capitol police reported arresting 66 people while they were waiting for Johnson to meet their demands.

Midwest Catholic Workers Retreat and Resistance

The Midwest Catholic Workers Retreat and Resistance gathering convened in Kansas City over the last weekend of April. The morning of April 27, their last together, began at 5:30 a.m. when about 30 people arrived in a light rain to vigil and, for some, cross the line at the Kansas City National Security Campus (KCNSC). The plant produces nearly all of the non-nuclear parts for all U.S. nuclear warheads and is currently more than doubling in size and staff after its first decade of operations.

The plan was to greet arriving workers with their signs, but as the rain and wind picked up, the head of security warned organizers to take cover in their cars, parked some distance away. By 6:30 a.m., hail was beating down and cell phones began blaring a tornado warning. The warning was set to expire by 8:00 a.m., and while a few of the group decided to head home, many who had traveled farther chose to wait it out, even as a nearby tornado siren blared for 15 minutes.

When the sky lightened and the rain began to subside, those remaining returned to the entrance. Nine people crossed under a gate and over the property line, where waiting police issued citations for trespass and released them on site.

Line-crosser Barb Kass from the Anathoth Catholic Worker Farm in Luck, Wisconsin said, “It’s amazing to think that we’ve been opposing nuclear weapons for close to 50 years and that today we are no safer than we were then. But the fact is that the opposition of everyone against these weapons means that we’re still here. That’s a good thing! If I can add a voice to ensure that my kids and grandkids will be able to stand against this, maybe we’ll eliminate the weapons all together!” Until then, she added, “I will come back every year and say, ‘Let’s shut this place down!’”

When the first group of defendants appeared in city court for arraignment on June 4, they learned that prosecutors had opted not to file the case. PeaceWorks Kansas City organizer Henry Stoevers observed that it was “a tactical decision to not give more exposure to the evils of nuclear weapons produced in our midst. A dismissal or failure to prosecute can also mean that we peacemakers are being understood by weapons producers, law enforcement and court staff for our faithful witness, for our upfront candor of what we are doing, for our adherence to nonviolence.”

For more information, visit peaceworkskc.org

No Nuclear, No Nurdles

On the Texas coast, nonviolent resistance to new nuclear power has begun. During the month of March, Diane Wilson pitched her tent in a ditch outside the Dow Chemical plant in Seadrift, Texas, and started fasting. One of the banners displayed on her pickup truck kept track of how many days she had fasted. Another declared “Save the Bay”, and the largest read, “No Nuclear - No Nurdles”.

In 2023, Dow announced that its Seadrift manufacturing plant would be the site for four, first-of-a-kind “small modular” reactors produced in partnership with nuclear start-up X-energy. Wilson, a retired 77-year-old shrimp from Seadrift who had just won the Goldman Environmental Prize and its \$200,000 award for her decades of environmental activism, was drawn right back to the front lines.

Last year, Wilson and allies formally challenged Dow’s application for the multi-reactor construction permit. The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board accepted one of their three contentions but has yet to set a date for a hearing on the issue.

In 2019, Wilson and her small nonprofit, the San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper (SABEW), won a \$50 million settlement under the Clean Water Act from Taiwan petrochemical giant Formosa over their excessive discharge of plastic solids and liquid chemicals into area waters. Last December, Wilson’s attorneys filed notice of intent to sue Dow and its Seadrift plant on similar grounds. At the last minute, the state filed its own lawsuit against Dow, legally precluding the activists from court while repeating their same allegations. Meanwhile, Dow pushed for an unprecedented amendment to its discharge permit that would allow the company to continue discharging plastic solids. Most of those “floating solids” are nurdles, the lentil-size plastic pellets that are the raw



photo by Breakfreefromplastic.org
Dan Lê and Diane Wilson at the campsite where she was fasting outside Dow Chemical, just before her March 26 arrest.

material for virtually all plastic products. SABEW has been collecting them by the millions from the bay as evidence of their spread through the environment.

With their legal fight foreclosed, and nukes looming on the horizon, Wilson began her public fast to demand Dow clean up its act. She drafted a formal letter, cosigned by 50 organizations, with two demands for Dow in Seadrift: no nurdles and no nukes. Seven days into her fast, Wilson and her colleague Dan Lê approached the Dow office to personally deliver her letter to the plant manager, but they were turned away and threatened with arrest. On March 26, the 25th day of

her fast, supporters helped her return to attempt delivery again. Again she was rebuffed and sheriff’s deputies arrived minutes later. Wilson, who refused to leave, was handcuffed and taken to jail on a charge of trespass. She was released early the next day and ended her fast on April 1.

Also on March 26, Dan Lê attended an oil and gas industry conference in Houston where he was arrested after interrupting a presentation by Dow CEO Jim Fitterling.

“Jim Fitterling, why do you not answer our message from Diane Wilson? She’s out there in front of Dow waiting for a response for your plastic pollution. When a 77-year-old woman from this community puts her life on the line outside your front gate and you don’t even respond, that tells you everything you need to know about how Dow sees people in the community,” Lê added. “It’s like we don’t exist. So we have to make ourselves seen and heard.”

Lê’s charge was later dismissed and a court date has not been set for Wilson.

Celebration and Resistance at the Pentagon

adapted from the report of Art Laffin,
Dorothy Day Catholic Worker

On the morning of March 27, and the occasion of the 70th birthday of Patrick O’Neill, a Plowshares activist, longtime Catholic Worker, parent and grandparent, about 100 people held a special peace witness at the Pentagon, the epicenter of warmaking on the planet. They came to pray for peace, decry the U.S.-Israeli immoral and illegal war in Iran, call for the abolition of all war and all nuclear and conventional weapons, and to invite people to follow the nonviolent Jesus. O’Neill had invited them all because, “the only presents I want are all of you to be with me on my milestone birthday to collectively say ‘No’ to U.S. militarism.”

It was the largest anti-war protest at the Pentagon in recent years.

Since last October, the Pentagon has banned the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker community’s weekly peace vigil from the fenced off “designated protest area” near the southeast entrance to the Pentagon. The vigilers were told they need a permit but they do not have “official business” at the Pentagon, thus effectively prohibiting protests on Pentagon property. This was the first nonviolent action to challenge the ban.

From a nearby public parking lot, the group processed in the light rain through the Pentagon’s south parking lot, around the construction of a new perimeter fence along the south side of the Pentagon, and to the main southeast entrance, where surprised Pentagon police were not expecting the anti-war crowd that included several families with children.

Once there, and in the presence of a long line of visitors waiting to enter the Pentagon, as well as some Pentagon workers, the group unfurled signs and banners. Patrick made a brief statement about the purpose of the witness, and they prayed and sang together.

By this time a large number of Pentagon police assembled, warning the crowd that they had to disperse or face arrest. Patrick, his wife, Mary Rider, their daughter Bernadette Naro and Catholic Workers and peacemakers from different parts of the country were arrested. Seven hours later, all 27 activists had been released. They were charged with failure to obey a lawful order and given a June 4 federal court date.

During a vigil in front of the courthouse on June 4, a prayer of healing was offered for Patrick O’Neill, who suffered a stroke on May 7 and has been hospitalized since as he recovers, surrounded by family and friends. (A week before the court date, charges against Patrick, Mary and Bernadette were dismissed.)

In court on June 4, the remaining charges were dismissed without prejudice, meaning they can be refiled within five years. Typically the defendants would be banned from the Pentagon as well, but the judge did not make that order. Outside the courtroom, Pentagon police held copies of the ban order to distribute, but lacking a court order to take one, no one did.

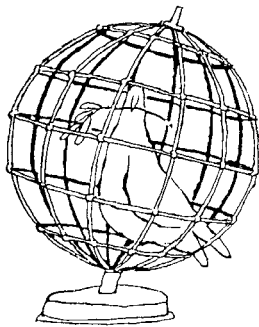
Since last October, the weekly peace vigil has been held across a freeway from the Pentagon at the nearest designated protest site. Pentagon police did not confront arrestees who joined this vigil a few days later.

For more information, contact artlaffin@hotmail.com.



Catholic Workers Frank Cordaro and Patrick O’Neill [right] are arrested at the Pentagon on O’Neill’s 70th birthday.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES



Lithuania

A Belarusian conscientious objector and anti-nuclear activist seeking political asylum in Lithuania was jailed there briefly in April. Siarhei Nikitsin came from a military family and completed high school at a military academy. Obligated to serve after graduation, he soon followed his conscience and refused to take up arms, rebuilding his life as a welder, engineer and democracy advocate.

During the 2020 anti-government protests in Belarus, Nikitsin led the strike committee for construction workers at the Ostrovets nuclear power plant, and joined demonstrations opposing the regime and its nuclear project. Under indictment on multiple political charges for his activism in Belarus, Nikitsin fled to Lithuania on a work visa later that year. There he joined many other Belarusians seeking political asylum.

In Lithuania, his asylum application was repeatedly denied based on his brief Belarusian military service. Nikitsin was even labeled a threat to national security in Lithuania for this reason in 2023, despite his record of conscientious objection. Without documentation, he lived for over a year fearing deportation back to Belarus and certain imprisonment.

Our House, a “Centre for Human Rights and Relief” serving Belarusian refugees in Vilnius, provided sanctuary for Nikitsin when Lithuanian immigration officials came looking for him, and then hired a Lithuanian lawyer to assist his latest application for asylum. When he appeared to file his application, the activist was immediately taken into custody and moved to a closed refugee detention camp.

At a closed hearing two days later, the court ruled in his favor and he was released from custody, no longer under immediate threat of deportation while his case proceeds.

For more information, visit ndbelarus.com.

Belarus

Our House was also critical to securing the release in April of Grzegorz Gawel, a Polish Carmelite monk jailed in Belarus since last September.

Gawel was visiting the town of Lepel, north of Minsk, when officers of the Belarusian State Security Committee (KGB) followed the usually cloistered monk into a town park and took video as he met an unidentified Belarusian man who handed him a sheaf of papers. Among the papers was allegedly a photocopy of a classified document related to the “Zapad-2025” war games involving the Russian nuclear weapons now stationed in Belarus. Minutes later, video of Gawel’s arrest was broadcast on state television to support the charge that he sought the sensitive papers on behalf of Polish state intelligence agencies. It was alleged he had “contacted a Belarusian citizen via social media and offered to cooperate with the Polish special services.” The Belarus KGB (state police) have a history of accusing Polish clergy of complicity with the Polish state, with many arrested in recent years and jailed in Belarus on various political charges. Gawel is the only one known to face charges related to nuclear weapons.

Polish authorities denied they use clergy as spies, and called the arrest yet another provocation of a NATO member by Belarus.

Belarus authorities claimed Gawel enticed the man with coffee and chocolates, and said they had seized cash in multiple different currencies, bank cards, SIM cards, a rosary and “other religious items” from him. The unidentified Belarusian man was also arrested, but his fate is unknown.

Our House coordinated protest from anti-nuclear and human rights organizations around the globe who joined Polish politicians and church officials in pressing for Gawel’s release. The efforts were successful by late April, when it was confirmed that Gawel had been repatriated to Poland straight from the prison.

Gawel was released along with four others in a prisoner exchange, including a journalist who regained his freedom after five years in custody.

For more information, visit ndbelarus.com.

Ireland

Mid-morning on April 11, independent peace activist Daithí O’Corrain entered an unauthorized area of Ireland’s Shannon Airport, climbed up on the wing of a U.S. military plane and began to disarm the aircraft by hitting the wing and fuselage with a hand tool, reportedly a hatchet.

The U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules transport plane was parked on a remote taxiway, and reportedly suffered “extensive” damage. Airport police, Irish national police, the airport’s fire and rescue service and military on duty at the airport quickly responded to the incident, and the airport suspended operations for about 30 minutes.

The first responders had to roll a staircase out to the taxiway in order to reach O’Corrain and remove him. He was arrested and taken into custody.

There have been frequent anti-war protests at Shannon Airport over the years, some also involving damage to aircraft beginning over 20 years ago, and multiple recent

England

The Lakenheath Alliance for Peace held an International Peace Camp from April 1–6 outside the Lakenheath airbase in Suffolk, England. The Royal Air Force Base is used exclusively by the U.S. Air Force, and over the last year all evidence indicates that U.S. nuclear weapons are now being stockpiled there. During daily public actions and a 24/7 vigil that campers held at the gate, activists also witnessed U.S. warplanes regularly leaving Lakenheath, presumably bound to join the bombing of Iran. Media reported that the American F15E downed over Iran on April 3 had flown from Lakenheath.

April 4 was the Give Peace a Chance big blockade. Hundreds more joined the peace campers for a festive day of protest, during which the main gate was blocked for three hours before the police moved in and started warning of imminent arrests. Members of the renowned activist folk band Seize the Day were told they would be arrested mid-song. They finished the song, after which the crowd called for an encore. In the end, only two people were arrested after refusing to move from the road.

On Easter morning, April 5, peace campers demonstrated against the biggest of all war crimes, genocide, and the proscription by the U.K. of the direct action group, Palestine Action. Seven people were arrested as they stood wearing tabards saying “We oppose genocide, We support Palestine Action.” The proscription makes it a criminal offense to join or support Palestine Action, and treats those who do so as if they were terrorists. According to Amnesty International, since the ban came into force in July, 2025, 3,300 arrests have been made across the U.K., and over 1,200 protesters have been charged with terrorism-related offenses, with more arrests likely to come.

While the peace camp ended on April 6, many stayed on another day. Early on the morning of April 7 they used

Japan

Article Nine of Japan’s constitution renounces war as a sovereign right, and prohibits the maintenance of military forces necessary for war. Article 9 Enforcement Action of Saga, Japan has held a monthly peace vigil at the gate of the Saga garrison, demanding withdrawal of an Osprey helicopter deployment and removal of the garrison.

As the December 19 vigil was wrapping up, a guard at the base used a barrier pole to push back a woman who was standing just across the boundary line. The pole broke, and police were summoned.

At least ten officers arrived, and the vigilers promised to talk to them about the incident once their program ended. The police agreed, but after waiting afterwards for 20 minutes as police conferred amongst themselves, the group announced they were leaving. Police quickly surrounded the woman, handcuffed and arrested her.

For exercising her right to remain silent, she was designated Custody Number 188. When supporters obtained a monitored jail visit three days later, she could share little, beyond that she’d been told she would be held for ten days. Police in Japan are said to commonly detain suspects they hope to pressure into confession by long detention. She was released on December 30 without charges.

actions in restricted areas. U.S. military planes routinely refuel there, while activists contend the practice conflicts with Ireland’s neutrality. The 47-year-old O’Corrain was not involved with these groups before his action and issued no public statement, but some activists have attended his hearings and are providing public support.

On April 13, O’Corrain was in Limerick District Court to face two charges of criminal damage (the fence and the plane) and one charge of trespass. He was initially denied bail, but was released in late April under strict conditions and may not make public statements.

Friends and comrades are fundraising in his support at chuffed.org/project/177772-daithi-o-corrain-support.

A few weeks before the action, the *Irish Times* revealed that due to “administrative error,” the Department of Foreign Affairs in Ireland had failed to report almost 250 U.S. military overflights since summer 2025, when the U.S. first bombed Iran’s nuclear sites.



The April 4 Give Peace a Chance blockade at RAF Lakenheath.

heavy-duty locks to attach themselves to a large multi-colored peace symbol, a car and each other, completely blocking the main gates of RAF Lakenheath for six hours. A second gate into RAF Lakenheath was also shut down by peace campaigners for four hours. Fourteen people were arrested.

Of the sixteen arrested (not including the public Palestine Action supporters), three had charges dismissed for lack of evidence. In court for the others on June 2, the judge chastised crown prosecutors for failing to share required case files with the defendants. The hearing has to be rescheduled.

Following up on arrests at the 2025 Lakenheath peace camp, all charges were dismissed.

For more information, including a full report on the peace camp, visit lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.uk.

Scotland

For 44 years, the Faslane Peace Camp has occupied a narrow strip of land across the road from the United Kingdom’s nuclear submarine base at Faslane, Scotland. It’s been a tenuous affair, sustained by donations and volunteers, including an essential succession of activists able and willing to endure the primitive conditions for a while to say “nae nukes” at the base that Scotland is on the record opposing.

Mark Stewart, a long-time supporter, answered that call and moved in to the camp last year. He brought a commitment to keep the weekly vigils at the gate, keep the woods from encroaching on the camp, and refurbish the string of dilapidated trailers that serve for lodging, living and meeting space.

One night in January, Stewart dropped a kayak into the Gare Loch for a night-time paddle into the HM Naval Base Clyde. He was arrested before reaching the dock and taken away for processing, then charged and released to await trial.

France

While France has publicly supported Ukraine in the face of Russia’s invasion and ongoing war, the entrenched French nuclear establishment remains a reliable customer of Rosatom, the Russian state nuclear enterprise. A \$700 million deal signed in 2018 has France supplying Russia with spent reactor fuel for conversion and enrichment by Russia into new reactor fuel, plus other cooperative ventures to promote nuclear energy.

Before dawn on March 2, about 20 Greenpeace France activists paddled kayaks into the port of Dunkirk,

continued on page 7

Holy Week

Lockheed Martin

Paul Sheldon writes:

A faithful group from the Brandywine Peace Community gathered on a cold Martin Luther King Day, January 19, at the entrance to the King of Prussia facility of Lockheed Martin, the world’s largest nuclear weapons contractor and war profiteer. There were readings from King’s acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize and the sounding of a large gong commemorating the lives lost to war and injustice. Paul Sheldon entered their property to talk with Lockheed Martin employees concerning their deadly work, but partway there he was stopped by Lockheed Martin security. Sheldon spoke with them about Lockheed Martin’s supplying technological tools to ICE, and delivered a copy of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. When he attempted to go further, he was arrested for trespass.

On April 10, more than 200 people joined the Red Letter Christians group for a Good Friday service at the Lockheed Martin entrance. Police arrested 25 for trespass as they knelt together in the road, reading the names of children killed in Iran, in Gaza, and held in detention centers on the border. In court on May 26, the charges were dismissed.

Sacred Peace Walk

Setting off on Palm Sunday, March 29 from the Museum of Atomic Testing in Las Vegas, more than 30 activists from Nevada and across the country began the annual Sacred Peace Walk of nearly 70 miles to the

L3Harris Campaigners Not Guilty: Return For More Resistance

Last December, “[a]fter consideration of the testimony, exhibits, applicable law and arguments of counsel,” a Massachusetts judge found four members of Demilitarize Western Massachusetts (DWM), “not responsible on all counts.” The four were charged with disturbing the peace and trespass in the Northampton lobby of L3Harris in March, 2025.

The uncommon verdict came in an unusual case, where the judge had first reduced the criminal charges to civil offenses, saying they did not merit criminal prosecution, and then allowed a defense of necessity to be argued, accepting affidavits from five different expert witnesses in support of the defense.

In January, DWM members and others spoke out at a Northampton city council meeting in favor of a ban on weapons factories like L3 in the city. The next week, activists returned to L3Harris on January 22 to mark the fifth anniversary of the Treaty on the Prohibition of

France, cont.

continued from page 6

blocking a lock to prevent docking of the cargo ship Mikhail Dudin, a major hauler on the uranium trafficking circuit. Banners hung from the lock and the kayaks proclaimed “Stop Toxic Contracts”, “Solidarity with Ukrainians” and “Uranium: EDF Loves Putin”, a jab at the state owned nuclear energy conglomerate. Greenpeace is demanding disclosure of the uranium trade contracts with Russia, an end to nuclear collaboration with the Russians and the inclusion of Rosatom on the list of entities targeted by European sanctions against Russia.

French police removed the blockade after five hours, and took three women and one man into custody, identified only as German, Austrian and Dutch nationals. They are charged with “obstruction of freedom to work.”

x x x

Following a protracted legal battle, the national nuclear waste authority has wrested control of a critical property in rural northeast France. The parcel is vital to its plan to receive highly radioactive reactor waste for permanent burial deep under woods and farmland in the Meuse prefecture.

Twenty years ago, in anticipation of how the plan would be implemented, an association of anti-nuclear activists purchased an abandoned train station and a few acres of surrounding land at Luméville, on the path of an old railroad line. The railroad line is set for an upgrade to accommodate shipments of nuclear waste to the national repository under construction nearby at Bure. For nearly 20 years, *la Gare de Luméville* had been the site for concerts, workshops, festivals, projects to clean up and restore the property and in the shade of thickets,

nuclear weapons test site at Mercury. This year a small contingent drove ahead of the walk early on Tuesday and Thursday mornings to vigil and greet the thousands of workers arriving to what is now called the Nevada National Security Site.

The walkers had wondered, what with multiple wars, the reckless expansion of nuclear weapons and barely veiled threats of nuclear annihilation and the violence of ICE agents in the streets of many cities, if they would face more acrimonious confrontations with the public and with police than in past years. They were pleasantly surprised on the first leg of their walk through the downtown crowds of tourists to encounter a more friendly reception for their signs and leaflets than usual, even during a die-in they held at the downtown Fremont Street Experience. Even the Las Vegas Metro Police, both in the city and then on Wednesday at Creech Air Force Base, were not just tolerant of their presence and actions but seemed even welcoming.

Creech – located off the highway at Indian Springs, about half way to the test site – is a center of drone warfare and has been a focus of nonviolent resistance since 2009. Nine of the walkers were arrested for blocking the entrance road, cited and released at the scene.

On Good Friday, the Las Vegas Catholic Worker led a “Nuclear Stations of the Cross” liturgy that concluded at the test site boundary, where five peace walkers crossed the line. They were cited for trespass despite possessing permits from the Western Shoshone, whose land was stolen for the test site at the beginning of the nuclear age.

For more information, visit nevadadesertexperience.org.

Nuclear Weapons. Matti Weisberg and Clara Wagner got into the lobby, where they locked their arms together inside a “sleeping dragon” device and laid down in protest. Police were quickly summoned and carried them back to the station, still joined together. They were cut free and charged with trespass, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest, and Wagner additionally on a charge of assaulting police. Their next pre-trial hearing is June 29.

Then on April 29, a rockin’ protest greeted arriving workers, dedicated to the memory of recently deceased local activist and DWM member Paki Weiland. Activists placed rocking chairs across the driveway, locked themselves together in pairs and blocked the entrance. Two more locked onto a boat trailer to complete the barricade. Police carried some blockaders off the road in their chairs, only to see them walk back and resume the blockade. Eight were eventually arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, two additionally with resisting arrest.

self-managed encampments of dump opponents. But after a prolonged court fight, the land was expropriated last September and the association was finally ordered to vacate the property this spring.

When activists called a “derail the eviction” mobilization at *la gare* for the week of April 13, the local prefect banned the gathering and closed roads in the immediate area. In joyful defiance, more than 100 people still converged on the station, planting spring gardens and erecting barricades on the approach roads to demonstrate undiminished resistance.

Police massed nearby, and on the morning of April 19 attacked the area around the station, sealing the roads in surrounding villages, deploying tear gas, dismantling barricades that had been set ablaze, and driving out the remaining occupiers. Lacking proper warrants, police made no arrests.

The next day police stopped five suspected activist vehicles along the road by the old station but again could not produce a proper prosecutor’s warrant that would allow them to check the identities of the drivers and passengers. After 30 minutes without a warrant, police had to let them proceed. But no more than 200 yards down the road, more police stopped the vehicles. Before another 30 minutes passed, police finally produced a warrant - outdated and lacking required specifics but signed by the prosecutor, nonetheless. On this basis, eleven people were taken into custody, split up among five different police stations, and detained for 20 hours. All were then released without charges.

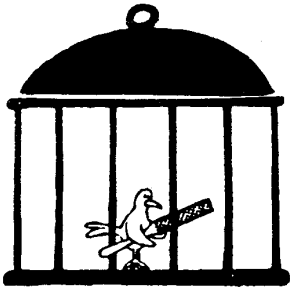
For more information, visit bureburebure.info.

CEASEFIRE vs. ARMS SALES

In an action timed to boost support for a pending congressional ban on weapons sales to Israel, more than 300 people held a sit-in at the Manhattan offices of Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, demanding they support the ban. Midtown traffic was shut down for an hour as police arrested nearly 100 people including New York City Council Member Alexa Aviles and whistleblower Chelsea Manning, most wearing t-shirts demanding Congress “Fund People, Not Bombs.”

Update Files

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN: Months after their September, 2025 arrests, six people’s misdemeanor and felony charges (including larceny for eating from the complimentary buffet) have been dismissed by the prosecutor, who said the unusual arrests had violated the First Amendment rights of the six. The defendants had been leafletting an open house on the University of Michigan campus in opposition to Los Alamos National Laboratory representatives who were promoting partnership with the university to build a huge, specialized data center. Activists revealed the center as the crown jewel of “the New Manhattan Project”, to be used for nuclear weapons test simulation, military drone surveillance and geospatial targeting. Again in May, five people were cited after a data center protest at a University official’s home, but after review, the police withdrew their citations...



FUTURE ACTIONS livermore

On Hiroshima Day, August 6, meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Livermore nuclear weapons lab West Gate for the “Nuclear Abolition or Extinction?” rally and nonviolent direct action. Visit trivalleycares.org for more information.

kitsap/bangor

The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action will host two days of education and action, August 8–9 at the U.S. Navy’s Trident nuclear missile submarine base at Kitsap/Bangor. Join in the largest planned protest at the Bangor base in over a decade, including nonviolent direct action for nuclear abolition at the gate on August 9. More information at gzcenter.org; RSVP for the gathering at Tinyurl.com/Aug9mobilization.

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Ceasefire Updates

Editors’ note: The sheer number of arrests demanding a ceasefire and end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza since October 7, 2023 – over 11,000 reported on these pages from across the United States – have exceeded our limited capacity for comprehensive updates. To the best of our knowledge, most cases charged have since been resolved without trial, either by dismissal of the charges, deferred prosecution, probation and/or fines.

Several people have been jailed for short sentences, a few up to 60 days, and some non-citizens for much longer. Many students who took part and were arrested suffered profound academic consequences including expulsions, suspensions and the revocation of degrees. In a notable rebuke, a state judge overturned such serious discipline of 22 Columbia University students because the evidence cited in school proceedings had been obtained exclusively from police reports that had been sealed when the students’ original misdemeanor charges were dismissed. Several other lawsuits alleging unfair arrests and discipline have been filed against universities by affected faculty and students, with some fired faculty regaining their former positions.

Following are updates on a handful of other notable criminal prosecutions resulting from these arrests.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON: In March, King County prosecutors indicted 33 people for first-degree criminal trespass (a misdemeanor) over the May 5, 2025 barricaded occupation of the Interdisciplinary Engineering Building (IEB) on campus. Vandalism during the occupation reportedly led to property damage in excess of \$900,000, but prosecutors could not charge felonies because investigators had failed to identify specific individuals responsible. Most of those charged have pled not guilty at arraignment and are in pre-trial proceedings.



via ‘a talented anonymous comrade’
Jurors listen to closing arguments in the felony trial of seven of the Golden Gate 26, charged with blocking the Golden Gate Bridge on April 15, 2024 to protest U.S. support for Israel’s war in Gaza.

Some of the 21 students among them are barred from campus as a condition of release...

GOLDEN GATE 26: Following the April 15, 2024 blockade of the iconic San Francisco bridge to demand an end of U.S. taxpayer support for Israel’s war on Gaza, eight people faced felony conspiracy charges and all 26 were charged with 38 counts each of false imprisonment. The district attorney encouraged inconvenienced drivers to file for restitution from the defendants, and the bridge authority also filed a claim for \$162,000 in lost toll revenue. Citing the high restitution claim, a judge refused a motion to reduce the felony charges to misdemeanors. A public campaign against the bridge authority’s claim was successful, and at the restitution hearing the defendants agreed to pay only several individual claims. With restitution resolved, the 18 misdemeanor co-defendants completed diversion and had their cases subsequently dismissed. All evidence against one felony defendant was suppressed and her charges were not refiled, and some of the false imprisonment charges against the remaining seven felony defendants were dismissed for insufficient evidence. Six of the seven were those who had locked themselves together on the bridge, and the

seventh was their police liaison. Defendants Anandpura, River Allen, Sara Cantor, Rocky Chau, Conrad de Jesus, Sarah Ferrell and Em Tillotson face up to fifteen years in prison if convicted. Their trial began May 20 and closing arguments were made on June 5. Jury deliberations began, but the court took a scheduled holiday the following week and the jury will not reconvene until June 29...

STANFORD UNIVERSITY: After twice bringing felony conspiracy and vandalism charges against Stanford University students who took part in occupying the University President’s office in June, 2024, Santa Clara County District Attorney Jeff Rosen was removed from the case by the judge in May because he used the ongoing prosecution to fundraise for his June re-election bid. Of the original 12 defendants, one turned state’s evidence, six took a plea deal and five who organize with Students for Justice in Palestine faced trial in February. That trial ended with a hung jury. Rosen was recused from the case just as it was to be re-tried. The California state Attorney General will now decide whether to proceed with the prosecution...

MICHIGAN: In June, federal prosecutors served arrest warrants at the homes of seven pro-Palestine activists on an assortment of criminal charges including felonies. The seven, plus an eighth defendant overseas on a study abroad program, all aged 22-28, are alleged to have run a criminal campaign to threaten and intimidate University of Michigan officials in an effort to force the university to cut all financial ties with Israel. Police intercepted a large number of Signal chat messages over several months outlining plans to engage in graffiti and other vandalism against the private homes and businesses of the University President, board members, law firms representing the University and more. Activists are variously accused of conspiracy to transmit a threat, witness tampering and destruction of property to prevent its seizure. At their initial appearance seven pled not guilty, and four were held for two days until released on bond with ankle monitors. The judge implored the defendants to do some “soul searching” about the hatred he found in their words from the chat, and ordered that they not contact each other...

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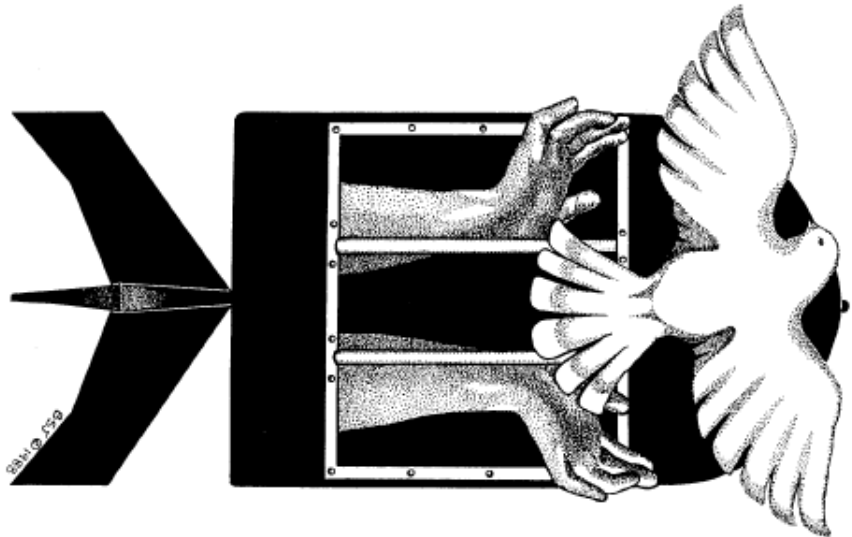
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