

# the Nuclear Resister

"A Chronicle of Hope"

No. 137

July 29, 2005

## Prison Sentence for Three Pacifist War Tax Refusers

War tax resisters around the country are paying heed to the case of three New Jersey religious pacifists, on their way to prison for multiple counts of felony conspiracy to defraud the government and attempted tax evasion. These are the most serious tax crimes in federal law. On July 1, U.S. District Judge Jerome B. Simandle ordered the imprisonment of Joseph Donato for 27 months, his wife Inge Donato for 6 months, and Kevin McKee for 24 months. In addition, the three were fined from \$5,000 to \$50,000 and ordered to file past and future tax returns and pay all delinquent and future federal income taxes.

All three are members of a small group of self-described "bible students" founded by the late Leo Volpe, a Jehovah's Witness who was imprisoned in 1944 for conscientious objection, and later founded the group known as the Restored Israel of YAHWEH (RIOY). Volpe, known to RIOY members as the prophet Jeremiah, determined after study that service to God required one "not to have the blood of warfare on his hands." He stopped paying federal taxes in 1948. Representing himself in 1982, Volpe was convicted of failure to file taxes and sentenced to four months in prison.

McKee and Joseph Donato ran a construction business, and Inge Donato performed some secretarial and bookkeeping work. The firm paid no taxes for most of its workers, who were also members of RIOY, and McKee and the Donatos neither filed personal tax returns nor paid federal taxes. They were arrested at gunpoint on April 12, 2004 after more than five years of federal investigation triggered by the allegations of a former member of the sect. Freed on bond, they were tried and convicted last December.

Revealing the irony of their conviction, RIOY wrote, "In the same court where witnesses are asked to swear on a Bible, our sincerely held, firm religious convictions were used against us as evidence of our guilt, evidence of a conspiracy, but they were not accepted, nor could they even be offered as a defense or a legitimate reason for not paying this GODless war tax."

The sentencing hearing began on June 17. The judge had his first opportunity to question the Donatos, who had not testified at their trial. After extensive inquiry and a discussion of their religious life, Judge Simandle grew convinced of the sincerity of their beliefs. The prosecutor demanded jail time and an order to pay their taxes now and forevermore. Simandle adjourned the hearing after five hours with the suggestion that a comparably large fine, which is paid into the crime victims' compensation fund and not to the U.S. Treasury, might be more acceptable to the defendants, if the government would agree.

The hearing resumed July 1, with news the government would not accept paying fines in lieu of taxes due. Peter Goldberger, Inge Donato's attorney and a long-time legal advisor to the secular National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, wrote that "the judge in the end did NOT treat their faith-based action as anything more than ordinary criminal conduct, albeit with a good rather than a bad motive." The jail terms imposed upon the men were at the bottom of federal sentencing guidelines, and Inge Donato's jail sentence was even less than the recommended minimum. McKee is appealing his conviction. He and Inge Donato are due to surrender to custody on August 8, and Joseph Donato will surrender one week later.

According to data compiled by Ed Hedemann, editor of War Tax Resistance: a Guide to Withholding Your Support from the Military (War Resisters League,



April, 2004. Members of The Restored Israel of YAHWEH picket outside a New Jersey IRS office while two members were jailed for four days after their arrest.

Photo courtesy of The Restored Israel of Yahweh, via *More than a Paycheck*

2003), since 1942 less than two dozen war tax resisters have served jail or prison sentences for related charges, with the longest sentence served reported to be 9-1/2 months.

For more information and to express support, contact Restored Israel of YAHWEH, POB 801, Mays Landing, NJ 08330; www.rioy.org. More information about refusing to pay for war is also available from National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWTCC), POB 150553, Brooklyn, NY 11215,

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## MILITARY RECRUITING READY FOCUS FOR PEACE PROTESTS

Military recruiters and their offices permeate communities across the U.S., making them a frequent focus for anti-war sentiment. Some activists see this focus on recruiting as an anti-war analogy to disrupting your enemy's supply line. As the contested occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan stretch on, the tactics targeting military recruiters cover a broad range. Several nationally coordinated counter-recruiting campaigns are underway, promoting non-military job and education opportunities. Dozens of groups are engaging in protest and organizing that has pulled away the welcome mat and forced recruiters off many high school and college campuses. Others are picketing, blockading, and occupying the recruiters' offices. Recruiting offices also have become targets for covert sabotage in the form of vandalism and arson.

Along the way, anti-war activists are prosecuted, sometimes more than once.

Take the St. Patrick's Day Four - Daniel Burns, Clare Grady, Teresa Grady, and Peter DeMott - who were arrested March 17, 2003. They entered and prayed just inside a recruiting station and then poured small bottles of their own blood around the entryway and on an American flag there - a graphic protest against the impending invasion of Iraq. In court a year later, the four successfully defended themselves on a state charge of felony criminal mischief.

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## IRAQI EMIGRÉ JAILED FOR WAR RELIEF WORK

A prominent Syracuse, New York, oncologist has been jailed without bond for more than two years, and now awaits sentencing for providing humanitarian aid to Iraqi citizens in the decade before the 2003 invasion, in violation of U.S. sanctions.

Dr. Rafil Dhafir was born in Baghdad in 1948. After six years at Baghdad Medical School, he emigrated to the United States in 1971 to begin his medical residency, and a few years later became a U.S. citizen. He built a successful private practice in cancer treatment, and among other charitable community activities, he founded Help the Needy in 1993 to provide aid to Iraqis living under the sanctions.

As he left his home for work on February 26, 2003, several carloads of federal agents blocked his driveway. Dr. Dhafir was alleged to have sent money and goods to Iraq in violation of the sanctions. He was taken into custody and his home thoroughly searched. Two associates affiliated with the charity, Ayman Jarwan and Osameh Al Wahaidy, were also arrested and their homes searched the same day. Throughout that evening, over 150 area Muslims were visited at home and questioned about their religion and donations to the charity. Only Dhafir was denied bail - and not once, but four times before trial began last February. Federal prosecutors claimed he was a flight risk.

Three weeks before the invasion of Iraq, Attorney General John Ashcroft promoted the arrests as trophies in the so-called War on Terrorism.

"As President Bush leads an international coalition to end Saddam Hussein's tyranny and support for terror, the Justice Department will see that individuals within our borders cannot undermine these efforts," the press release said, quoting Ashcroft. "Those who covertly seek to channel money into Iraq under the guise of charitable work will be caught and prosecuted."

Madeleine Baran wrote in *The New Standard*: "At the bail hearing for Ayman Jarwan, [a Jordanian national who served as executive director of Help the Needy]

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory West made explicit references to terrorism, arguing that the court should consider then-circulating reports that terrorists might explode a 'dirty bomb' in the United States. West referred to Jarwan's degrees in nuclear and radiological engineering, and said, 'This man knows how to use and has access to this material,' the *Post-Standard* reported. He also noted that agents had found excerpts from a published interview with a radical Saudi cleric in Jarwan's apartment. 'Although those are not [Jarwan's] own words, the fact that he has it and kept it suggests he might subscribe to those views,' West said."

Over the coming months, the allegation that Dr. Dhafir, his charity, and his codefendants were somehow involved in funding terrorism was repeated, even by the governor of New York. Yet no charges related to terrorism were ever brought. Eventually a new indictment, prepared after examining seized records, added numerous counts for Dhafir, for fraudulently overbilling Medicare. His wife Priscilla and accountant William Hatfield were also charged, as was Ahmed Ali of the Somali Relief Fund, who had helped with aid delivery. Under the duress of the situation, Priscilla Dhafir pled guilty to one count of making a false statement about the Medicare billing. Hatfield admitted to aiding and abetting because he signed Help the Needy's application for tax exempt status, and Ali to his part. All three were sentenced to probation, substantial fines, and community service, and Dhafir was also ordered to pay restitution.

A revised June, 2005 Justice Department brag-sheet about terrorism convictions still included Dhafir. But at his trial in February, his defense was forbidden to bring up the public allegation of his ties to the terrorism. Dhafir presented evidence of a long-term misunderstanding about the complicated Medicare billing requirements, and continued his assertion that the charity met an unfulfilled humanitarian need. He was convicted on 59 counts, and awaits sentencing August 29. Federal sentencing guidelines suggest a 20 year sentence is possible.

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## Where We're At

We've tried a few times in the last year, but now it's certain: *the Nuclear Resister* is back in print!

By mutual consent with Mordechai Vanunu, we have recently closed the U.S. Campaign to Free Mordechai Vanunu. That work - with Felice as campaign coordinator and Jack's regular assistance - had required a significant commitment of our time since we took it on in February, 2001, particularly in the year before Mordechai's release from prison in April, 2004. We had expected that his full freedom would mark the end of that work, but he was forced to stay in Israel.

After discussion with Mordechai and other activists in the days immediately following his release from prison, it was agreed to continue the Campaign this past year because Mordechai was not totally free. But, as Mordechai has recently pointed out, he is no longer in prison, and can now speak and act on his own behalf. He remains in sanctuary at St. George's Cathedral, and has the assistance of lawyers to face a new indictment for violating the restrictions imposed on his liberty (see update, page 6).

Now we are glad to return to *the Nuclear Resister*. In this issue, we're doing our best to catch up with resistance news since we last published (in January). With the U.S. deeper into nuclear dominance, war and ongoing foreign occupations than at any time since we began publishing in 1980, we have many more reports of recent

direct actions and criminal prosecutions than we could fit here.

As we return to regular publishing, we are asking you to resume helping us in two vital ways:

- 1) by informing us of arrests, legal updates and imprisoned activists within the scope of our reporting, and
- 2) with the financial support of your subscription and donations.

We keep the cost of a subscription low so that it remains affordable to activists, as well as providing subscriptions free to all prisoners. We also distribute on request hundreds of free copies of each issue, individually and in bundles, to help spread the news. That's why additional donations are so necessary and vital.

Please share this copy with others and encourage them to subscribe as well. It's an inexpensive act of solidarity with prisoners for peace.

And if you value this work, please support it with as generous a donation as you can afford. We're grateful for almost 25 years of just enough of such grassroots support to carry on, and are counting on your help for what continues to be a valuable network of peace prisoner support and chronicle of anti-nuclear and anti-war civil disobedience.

Jack & Felice Cohen-Joppa, editors

## IN MEMORIAM

Elmer Maas - peacemaker, civil rights worker, nuclear resister, musician - died during the Atlantic Life Community retreat in Voluntown, Connecticut on May 8, 2005. Elmer participated in several Plowshares actions, including the very first one - the Plowshares 8 action in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania in 1980. He also actively supported more than 60 of the Plowshares disarmament actions which have continued to follow Isaiah's command to beat swords into plowshares.

Elmer Maas, *Presenté!*

## Thanks!

Thanks to Pat, Racheli, Charlotte, Danilo, Cindy, Betts, and Jessica, for helping to mail issue #136.

### a note to new readers:

The arrests and jailings reported in these pages show the broad range of today's opposition to war and the nuclear threat. Readers may not agree with all of the actions reported (we usually do not), but the point of this publication is prisoner support, not a critique of tactics. Readers are welcome to share their comments. Please write to us at the postal or email address below.

## U.S. Prosecutes More Conscientious Objectors

Several more conscientious objectors (COs) who refused orders or failed to deploy while their CO claim was pending have been charged - and some jailed - for the offense. And in a malicious twist, federal prosecutors in Colorado summoned the wife of one jailed soldier to face a charge of "enticing and harboring a deserter".

Spc. Dale Bartell joined the army three years ago and had already served one tour of duty in Iraq. After that experience, he and his wife Amy began examining their religious faith, and eventually joined a Mennonite congregation in Georgia, where he was posted. In 2004, the Army transferred Bartell to Fort Carson, near Colorado Springs. The family — Dale, Amy, and four children ages 1-11 — lived on base and joined a nearby Mennonite congregation. His unit was ordered to ship out April 17. Commanders refused to assist his application for CO status in March, assuring him he could instead use "non-lethal" ammunition in Iraq.

Bartell stopped reporting for base duty, and after missing deployment, he and his family moved off-base to be near the church.

A few days later, Amy Bartell answered the door at home to find military police. They issued her a citation on a felony charge of "enticing and harboring a deserter". Dale Bartell met with Bill Durland, an attorney and director of the local Center on Law and Human Rights. Together, they met with a J.A.G. (military attorney), and later on May 12, Bartell turned himself in. At a hearing where he was represented by military attorneys, Bartell pled guilty to intent to avoid hazardous duty. On July 12 he was sentenced to four months in prison, followed by a bad conduct discharge. After a few days in the El Paso County Jail, he was shipped to the military prison at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma to serve his sentence. His plea and testimony on his CO declaration moderated his sentence from what could have been as much as 7 years.

Outside the federal courtroom in Colorado Springs where she was scheduled for a hearing July 20, Amy Bartell told reporters, "He's changed since joining... He knew that once they got him over there, they would have their way. He would have to ignore his religious convictions. What choice did he have? He went AWOL... He knew there was going to be consequences for his stance. I didn't know I'd get into trouble for being a housewife." A second hearing was set for August 17, but on July 27 the federal prosecutor phoned Durland to say he will be dropping the charges against her.

At Ft. Sill, Spc. Dale Bartell may meet Pvt. Blake Lemoine, 23, who also enlisted after the 9/11 attacks. He thought that defending his country seemed better than the dead-end jobs he'd found after high school. But after one year of duty in Iraq, his disgust at the racism of some troops and their treatment of Iraqi civilians, and a growing awareness of the lie about "weapons of mass destruction" in Iraq, moved him to action. In the summer of 2004, Lemoine consulted a chaplain at the military base in Darmstadt, Germany, about applying for conscientious objector status, but was discouraged from doing so because his objection was not universal to all war.

Lemoine's military service was involuntarily extended from February to October, 2005, and he continued to object. He applied for CO status, and declared in

a January 10 letter to his commanders that he would begin resisting within the military if he were not discharged. He gave several reasons to be discharged, including the incompatibility of his military service with the demands of his growing Pagan faith and practice. Lemoine began a hunger strike, then resumed eating February 17 when told that the Army was considering his discharge. When the Army instead charged him on March 4 with disobeying lawful order, Lemoine stopped eating again. In late March, Lemoine was convicted at court-martial and sentenced to seven months confinement, loss of rank, and a bad-conduct discharge. Initially held in Germany, Lemoine was transported back to the military prison in Ft. Sill, Oklahoma in early April.



Individually addressed letters of support should be sent to Pvt. Blake Lemoine and Spc. Dale Bartell, Building 1490, Randolph Rd., Fort Sill, OK 73503.

Trent Helmkamp signed up for delayed entry into the Marines in June, 2003. He was 17 and about to begin his final year of high school. Helmkamp entered boot camp in June, 2004. His mother Kathie Helmkamp wrote at counterpunch.org last September that "About two months before leaving he began to have second thoughts about his decision, but was told by his recruiter that she would not let him out of his obligation and that he had to go. While at boot camp he became depressed and experienced anxiety... As he went through training and was exposed to the Marine Corps' kill, kill, kill mentality, he became aware that shooting and killing was not something he could do, but felt trapped with no one to talk to..."

While home on leave after boot camp, Helmkamp learned about conscientious objection.

After reporting back to Camp LeJeune last fall, he applied for CO status. The initial investigation recommended his claim be denied, but by this time Helmkamp was further suffering from the mental stress of verbal hazing and physical assault (once requiring stitches) for his refusal to bear arms. Assigned to a platoon of marines due to be discharged for health, conduct, or other reasons, Helmkamp was confined to the separation barracks for several months of pointless orders and punitive discipline. A medical discharge was finally approved and Helmkamp was separated from the Marines on July 14, before a final decision on his CO application had been made.

Pvt. Camilo Mejia has completed a one-year sentence for going AWOL from his National Guard unit rather than return to Iraq for a second tour of duty after his first tour led him to conscientious objection. Mejia was released from the army brig at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, last February.

Army Sargeant Abdullah Webster was released from the military prison in Fort Lewis, Washington on April 30. With credit for good behavior, he served 11 months of a 14 month sentence that began in Germany, where he was stationed when he refused orders to ship out to Iraq.

Webster wrote immediately following his release from prison:

"I received many letters from all around the world, even though over 30 were returned or denied. It was also brought to my attention that several letters were also returned without informing me. To those whose letters were returned without my knowledge, I offer my thanks and I am touched for you taking the time to encourage me throughout the past 11 months..."

"During my time in Fort Lewis and Mannheim I met several soldiers who served in Iraq. I can recall a couple of stories that really cemented the fact that I had made the right decision. One soldier informed me that he was on a convoy and a group of local people was blocking their path. He stopped his vehicle but his commander told him to carry on. The group slowly broke up with the exception of a child blocking their way. The soldier recalled how at night he can still see when his vehicle hit the little child and how the other vehicles behind him kept running over the child's body. He had informed me that if he could do it all over again he wouldn't have gone to Iraq. Another story was that a soldier regretted the fact that he didn't intervene nor took any action when his fellow squad member was raping the wife and daughter of the husband who refused to give them any information during their searches. How could I look my God and my family in the face had I gone and was present at incidents such as these?..."

After serving a seven month sentence for refusing orders, Marine Corporal Joel Klimkewicz was due to be released from Marine custody in July, and given a bad conduct discharge with loss of benefits. Klimkewicz became a conscientious objector shortly after reenlisting, as he grew in the Seventh Day Adventist faith he had adopted during bible study with an Adventist chaplain while serving in Iraq.

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### the Nuclear Resister

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#### YOU CAN HELP!

The enclosed envelope can help us keep current! Mail us (or e-mail or phone) new action reports, updates, jail information, statements, graphics and clippings as you prepare them. Thanks!  
(520)323-8697 and nukeresister@igc.org

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#### THE NUCLEAR RESISTER ON MICROFILM

*The Nuclear Resister* is available on microfilm as part of the Alternative Press Research Collection (1986 - present) and the Alternative Press Center Supplement of the Underground Press Collection (1980 - 1985) offered by the UMI Division of ProQuest Company, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

#### BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE

Complete back-issue sets or individual copies of *the Nuclear Resister* (1980 to the present) are available. Please inquire.

*Felice and Jack Cohen-Joppa, Editors*

# Peltier Moved to Terre Haute, Held in Isolation

Without notice to his family or attorney, Native American political prisoner Leonard Peltier was moved to the federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana, on June 30th, 2005. He is in solitary confinement there indefinitely. Peltier, who has been in prison for twenty nine years, is sixty years old and his health is frail. His Defense Committee, family, and friends are extremely

concerned about his well being, his health, and safety, and the status of the privileges (religious rights, painting privileges, visits, phone calls, etc.) he earned after decades of good behavior in Leavenworth and other prisons. They seek to have his security classification reduced and see him transferred to a medium security institution if not free.

ment withheld witnesses. It intimidated witnesses. These facts are not disputed." Also not disputed is that on the very day of the shootout, the corrupt Pine Ridge Tribal Chairman Dickie Wilson was secretly signing away Pine Ridge energy resources, including uranium, for development.

## VIEQUES DEFENDERS: TWO FREED, TWO REMAIN IN PRISON

Two Puerto Rican men were recently released from federal prison after serving 18 month sentences. Jorge Cruz Hernandez and José Montañez Sanes were convicted on felony charges relating to the destruction of government property during the May 1, 2003 celebration of the Navy's departure from the Vieques bombing range. They were among a dozen people targeted months later in a final prosecutorial assault on the nonviolent campaign that in four years had forced off a 60-year yoke of military expropriation and destruction of the local environment and economy. Six men eventually went to prison, where José Vélez Acosta (33 month sentence) and José Pérez González (5 years) remain.

The Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques continues active involvement on all levels of government and society, demanding full clean-up of the bombing range and local control over economic development in the wake of the Navy's departure.

On July 29, activists will risk arrest to enter the former bombing range in a restricted area now controlled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For three days they will document conditions in the area and the supposed clean up work done by Navy contracted companies. The action will also highlight the serious health crisis on Vieques attributable to military contamination.

For more information, contact the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques, POB 1424, Vieques, PR 00765, 787-741-0716, bieke@prorescate-vieques.org



Letters of support can be sent to José Vélez Acosta, 23883-069, USP, POB 1033, Coleman, Florida 33521-1033 and José Pérez González, 21519-069, Edgefield FCI, PO Box 725, Edgefield, SC 29824.

Two weeks earlier, Peltier's attorneys told a federal judge in Fargo, North Dakota that U.S. Courts lack jurisdiction over acts committed on Indian reservations. The judge heard two hours of oral argument and is considering his decision.

On June 10, Peltier wrote to supporters about an event that would occur on June 26, the 30th anniversary of the firefight on the Jumping Bull property on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. "We did not start that war. We stood as brave warriors simply trying to protect the elders and the traditionalists who did not wish to lose their identity to the forces conducting a war upon them..."

Peltier stands unjustly convicted of the murder of two FBI agents that day. The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals stated in 2003 that "Much of the government's behavior at the Pine Ridge Reservation and in its prosecution of Mr. Peltier is to be condemned. The govern-

The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee is in the process of moving to Terre Haute, Indiana. For more information, visit leonardpeltier.org or contact the LPDC, c/o Toni Zeidan, 2626 North Mesa # 132, El Paso, TX 79902, 915-533-6655, or 866-534-6151, info@leonardpeltier.org



Letters requesting that Leonard Peltier be transferred to a medium security prison, and at least immediately moved to the general population, should be sent to the Warden, USP Terre Haute, U.S. Penitentiary, 4700 Bureau Road South, Terre Haute, IN 47802. Letters of support should be sent to Leonard Peltier 89637-132, USP Terre Haute, POB 12015, Terre Haute, IN 47801.

## SOA Grads' Abuses Fuel Resistance

Two women, Alice Gerard and Lelia Mattingly, remain in federal prison, out of eleven people locked up last winter for three to six months for crossing the line in November at Fort Benning, Georgia, home of the Western Hemispheric Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC). Better known by its former name, the S.O.A. or U.S. Army School of the Americas, it is the reputation of its graduates - soldiers and military officers in Latin America - that in 2005 still earn it the nickname School of Assassins.

On February 21-22, 2005, eight members of the San Jose de Apartadó Peace Community in Colombia - including three young children - were brutally massacred. Witnesses place the 17th Brigade, commanded by SOA graduate Gen. Héctor Jaime Fandiño Rincón, in the area at the time of the murders. Records show he learned "Small-Unit Infantry Tactics", a key SOA/WHINSEC course that supports tactics used in civilian-targeted warfare. Among the dead was community founder Luis Eduarde Guerra, who was a featured speaker at the November 2002 annual vigil at Ft. Benning, sponsored by SOA Watch.

It's enough to push thinking people across the line. Gerard and Mattingly will be released from Danbury Federal Prison September 15.

The nine others who served time beginning March 15 are Liz Deligio, Elizabeth Nadeau, Meagan Doty, Dan Schwankl, Nashua Chantal, Tom MacLean, and Ron Durham (3 months each); and Aaron Shuman and Brian DeRouen (4 months each). Two people - Mike Ring and Mary Vaughn - remain on probation.

During SOA Watch's February Lobby Day, three people were arrested during a protest at the Pentagon. At a federal court hearing in May, the government dropped charges against Betsy Lamb and Judith Williams. Christine Lavallee was scheduled for trial in July.

Patrick O'Neill has been granted a continuance on charges of obstructing an officer and battery following an incident at the new barricades in November.

See Future Actions, page 7, for information about next November's vigil and nonviolent direct actions.



Letters of support should be sent individually to Alice Gerard, 92095-020, and Lelia Mattingly, 92460-020, both at FCI Danbury, 33-1/2 Pembroke Station, Route 37, Danbury, CT 06811.

## Inside & Out

THE WOMEN AND MEN LISTED HERE ARE IN PRISON FOR ACTIONS TAKEN IN OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND WAR.

THERE MAY BE OTHERS! PLEASE HELP US BY SENDING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO THE NUCLEAR RESISTER, P.O. BOX 43383, TUCSON, AZ 85733 • nukeresister@igc.org

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

### NUCLEAR RESISTERS, USA:

**Ardeth Platte** 10857-039 (41 months - out 12/22/05) FPC Danbury, Pembroke Station Rt. 37, Danbury, CT 06811-0379.

(Sacred Earth and Space Plowshares disarmament of Colorado nuclear missile silo, 10/6/02; convicted of sabotage)

**Helen Woodson** 03231-045 (106 months - in 3/11/04) FMC Carswell, Max Unit, POB 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127.

(Anti-war protest at the federal courthouse, Kansas City, Missouri, 3/11/04 violates parole following 3/9/04 release from prison. Pled guilty to violation and four new charges, 6/18/04)

**Leonard Peltier** 89637-132 (life) USP Terre Haute, POB 12015, Terre Haute, IN 47801. (Native American political prisoner)

### NUCLEAR RESISTERS OVERSEAS:

**Yuri I. Bandazhevsky** (8 years) Belitsa, Lidski rayon, 231318 Grodnenskaya oblast, Belarus. (Chernobyl researcher and whistleblower fraudulently convicted of corruption, 6/01 - moved to pre-release penal colony, 6/04 and illegitimately denied parole, 1/05)



**Igor Sutuyagin** (15 years) 427965, Respublika Udmurtiya, g. Sarapul; ul. Raskolnikova, 53-A, YaCh-91/5, 14 otryad; Russia. (Imprisoned since 10/27/1999, now convicted of espionage for researching public nuclear weapons information - sentenced 4/07/04)

### OTHER ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIVITIES

**Rafil Dhafir** (awaiting sentencing 8/29) Jamesville Correctional Facility, P.O. Box 143, Jamesville, NY 13078.

(Convicted of providing humanitarian and financial aid to Iraqis in violation of U.S. sanctions, 2/05)

**Michael D. Poulin** 14793-097 (27 months - out 1/25/2006) FPC Sheridan Unit 5, POB 6000, Sheridan, OR 97378. (Convicted of damaging electricity transmission towers to show fragility of empire - 11/03)

**Laro Nicol** 80430-008 (2 years - out 6/15/06) FCI Tucson, 8901 S. Wilmot Rd, Tucson, AZ 85706. (Human rights and anti-war activist framed on firearms and explosives charges, pled no contest to avoid longer term, 9/04)

**Brendan Walsh** 12473-052 (five years - out 7/15/08) FCI Allenwood Low, P.O. Box 1000, White Deer, PA 17887.

(Attempted arson at military recruiting station, 4/02)

### SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS WATCH

**Alice Gerard** 92095-020 (six months - out 9/15/05)  
**Lelia Mattingly** 92460-020 (six months - out 9/15/05)  
FCI Danbury, 33-1/2 Pembroke Station, Route 37, Danbury, CT 06811.  
(Trespass at the School of the Americas, Ft. Benning, Georgia, 11/04)

### VIEQUES

**José Vélez Acosta** 23883-069 (33 months - out 1/27/06) USP, POB 1033, Coleman, Florida 33521-1033.  
**José Pérez González** 21519-069 (5 years - out 1/17/08) Edgefield FCI, PO Box 725, Edgefield, SC 29824. (Conspiracy, damage to federal property, &/or probation violation 5/1/03 - resisting U.S. military bombardment of Vieques, Puerto Rico)

Please send economic support for prisoners and families, and any returned letters to: May 1 Arrestees Support Committee, P.O. Box 191792, San Juan, PR 00919-1792.

### MILITARY REFUSERS

**Pvt. Blake Lemoine** (seven months - in 3/28) Building 1490, Randolph Rd., Fort Sill, OK 73503. (Refused to train for combat, convicted after CO petition rejected)

**Sp. Dale Bartell** (four months - in 7/12) Building 1490, Randolph Rd., Fort Sill, OK 73503. (Refused duty and missed deployment after CO declaration)

### GREAT BRITAIN

**David Boudon** 92018 HM Prison Barlinnie, Glasgow, G33 2QX, Scotland, UK --All letters to UK prisoners must bear a reply address. (Arrested at G8 protest 7/6-8, on remand possibly until October court date.)

# Holy Week - A Time for Christian Resistance to Empire

On the liturgical calendar of Christian war resistance, the Holy Week between Palm Sunday and Easter holds the most prominent place. The suffering of Jesus at the hands of an imperial, occupying state power are contemporary symbols to remind believers of the suffering inflicted today on impoverished nations under government and corporate domination. And for Christians, the Resurrection holds hope for the future.

On Good Friday, March 25, more than 50 people brought the Stations of the Cross procession to the gates of the Naval Submarine Base at Groton, Connecticut. Five people were cited for disorderly conduct at the conclusion of their protest of the global crucifixion threatened by the Trident nuclear submarine fleet. They received a sentence of unsupervised probation.

A similar procession at the Lockheed Martin weapons complex in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania planted a four foot high cross at each "Station of Justice and Peace" that was established along a half-mile perimeter of the property. At the rear driveway entrance, ten people bearing crosses and a black-draped coffin crossed the line. All were cited for disorderly conduct and released.

At the Nevada Test Site, several groups participated in retreats as part of the Lenten Desert Experience. Twenty-five people were cited for crossing the line on Good Friday. A week earlier, 37 people from a Methodist retreat were cited and released. Prosecution of Nevada Test Site line crossings is rare.

Also on Good Friday, Michael Walli and Michele Naar-Obed poured blood on the large sign at the Minnesota Air National Guard 148th Fighter Wing building, and painted "NO" across the words of its slogan "Global

Power for America." Photos of victims of the assault on Fallujah were taped to the sign, and also to crosses which the two held for the duration of their vigil. A statement was issued to members of the Guard, asking them to "terminate their contract to kill on command and seek conscientious objector status." Friends joined the vigil, standing nearby at the roadside. The two poured Naar-Obed's blood as a symbolic gesture, with the hope that "our shedding of blood might prevent our military people and Iraqi civilians blood from being shed anymore." They were arrested for damaging property and await trial September 13. For more information, contact Loaves and Fishes Catholic Worker, 1614 Jefferson St., Duluth, MN, 55812, 218-724-2054.

Sixty people participated in a "Way of the Cross, Good Friday" service at the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) in West Des Moines, Iowa. Seven people carried a coffin and a banner proclaiming "God Forgive America" up to the entrance. Security guards locked the door until the demonstration ended, and there were no arrests.

The annual Holy Week Faith and Resistance retreat in Washington, D.C. drew inspiration from the life of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero, assassinated 25 years ago on March 24 because in the grips of a brutal civil war, he took the side of the poor, and begged the country's leaders and military to "stop the killing." This March 24, Holy Thursday, the Navy League's annual Sea-Air-Space Systems and Technology Expo at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel provided the pulpit to repeat the priest's plea. From a staircase in the lobby, Art Laffin and Betsy Lamb unfurled a banner above the expo entrance. When the banner was ripped from their hands, their voices filled the lobby with the message, "stop the killing, stop making and selling weapons, and abolish war!" Laffin and Lamb were escorted out of the hotel and banned from returning, as were many from the retreat who had entered the hotel lobby with them.

On Good Friday morning, more than 50 retreat participants, including students on spring break from four colleges, went to the Pentagon. A new level of security preparations was encountered there. Sidewalk checkpoints had been established near the Metro and bus stops. As commuters funneled into work, they were challenged by several anti-war banners, and the songs, scripture readings and silence of the event. Eleven people were arrested off the sidewalk when they knelt to block it, and charged with "impeding official duties." No arrests were made the next day when the group demonstrated in front of the White House, despite a street theater performance in the restricted photo zone on the north side. For more information, contact Jonah House, 1301 Moreland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21216, disarmnow@erols.com.

## RECRUITING, CONT.

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The frustrated local prosecutor gave up and reportedly asked the federal government for help. Last February, nine months after the mistrial, the four were charged with felony "conspiracy to impede an officer of the United States," criminal damage to property, and two counts of trespass (all had been arrested before at the same recruiting station). They face up to six years in prison if convicted.

"A jury in Tompkins County was unable to reach a unanimous verdict. Nine people would have acquitted us," DeMott told the press. "We're confident that the jury in Binghamton will reach a similar conclusion." Trial is set to begin September 19 before U.S. District Judge Thomas McAvoy in Binghamton, New York.

For more information, contact the Ithaca Catholic Worker, PO Box 293, Ithaca, NY 14851, (607) 273-7437.

Surveillance videos were the undoing of Brendan Walsh, an Endicott, New York teenager who is serving a five year sentence in federal prison. Walsh was arrested and jailed March 10, 2004, after digitally enhanced video identified him as the person who threw a homemade molotov cocktail through the window of a military recruiting station in Vestal, New York. Damage was limited to the broken window when the incendiary device failed to ignite. Walsh is reported to have pled guilty. On February 11, 2005, he was sentenced to the maximum prison term and lectured by the same Federal Judge Thomas McAvoy about proper expression of dissent. The Binghamton Press & Sun Bulletin reported that the judge "said he would recommend that Walsh be placed where he will receive counseling and mental health treatment in the federal prison system."

Dozens of covert acts of anti-war vandalism and arson at recruiting stations have been reported in the last few years, but few arrests made.

In a second case where very little damage occurred, a Manhattan college student, David Segal, was charged with felony arson last January 31 at a Bronx, New York recruiting station. Transit police nabbed Segal in the wee hours of the day, after allegedly seeing him crouched near the office when a loud noise drew their attention. Segal reportedly was wearing latex gloves and possessed other incriminating evidence when taken into custody. More was seized from his dorm room within hours. A broken window and small patch of burned carpet was the sum of damage. Segal, a Connecticut resident, is out on bond, represented by an attorney, and awaiting trial.



Letters of support can be sent to Brendan Walsh 12473-052, FCI Allenwood Low, P.O. Box 1000, White Deer, PA 17887.

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## IRAQI EMIQRE JAILED, CONT.

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Jarwan and Al-Wahaidy also have pled guilty to various charges related to the charity aid. Al-Wahaidy is to be sentenced August 4, and Jarwan on August 26. Neither man is a U.S. citizen and supporters are concerned that deportation may be part of their sentence.

For background information, visit [www.FreeDhafir.org](http://www.FreeDhafir.org) or contact Madis Senner, 315-463-5369. Dr. Dhafir is represented by attorney Devereaux Cannick, 718-426-0444. You can contact his office about donations to Dhafir's legal fund.



Letters of support should be sent to Dr. Rafil Dhafir; Jamesville Correctional Facility, P.O. Box 143, Jamesville, NY 13078.

## CIVIL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST VOICES IN THE WILDERNESS

The criminal prosecution of Rafil Dhafir stands in contrast to the civil assessment of \$20,000 in fines against Voices in the Wilderness, the Chicago-based group that has sent over 70 delegations to Iraq to assess need and deliver humanitarian aid in open violation of the sanctions. Members of Voices in the Wilderness have sent numerous supportive letters to Dhafir's judge.

On July 6, Voices was back in federal court in Washington, D.C., for more oral arguments in the case. Defense attorneys argued that the OFAC (Office of Foreign Assets Control) fine should be dismissed because it was not "prompt", coming only after 4 years of investigation. Evidence was presented to show that this action against VITW was political retaliation taken only days after Voices members in Baghdad participated by live TV feed with world-wide protests against the impending war in Iraq. Voices is seeking release of all OFAC documents related to the investigation.

The claim of political retaliation is supported by recent news that U.S. oil companies who shipped billions of dollars of oil from Iraq in recent years, in direct violation of the sanctions, have not been fined or indicted. The judge said he would decide rather quickly if OFAC is required to produce their whole file on VITW or not and then he would decide the case in the next few weeks.

For more information, contact Voices in the Wilderness, 1460 W. Carmen Ave., Chicago, IL 60640, (773)784-8065, [info@vitw.org](mailto:info@vitw.org)

## WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from Fort Sill

by Camilo Mejia

"...To those who have called me a coward, I say that they are wrong, and that, without knowing it, they are also right. They are wrong when they think that I only left the war for fear of being killed. I admit that fear was there, but there was also the fear of killing innocent people, the fear of putting myself in a position where to survive meant to kill. There was the fear of losing my soul in the process of saving my body, the fear of losing myself to my daughter, to the people who love me, to the man' used to be, the man I wanted to be. I was afraid of waking up one morning to realize my humanity had abandoned me. I say without any pride that I did my job as a soldier. I commanded an infantry squad in combat and we never failed to accomplish our mission. But those who called me a coward, without knowing it, are also right. I was a coward not for leaving the war, but for having been a part of it in the first place. Refusing and resisting this war was my moral duty, a duty that called me to take principled action. I failed to fulfill my duty as a human being and instead I chose to fulfill my duty as a soldier. All because I was afraid. I was terrified, I did not want to stand up to the government and the Army, I was afraid of punishment and humiliation. I went to war because, at that moment, I was a coward, and for that I apologize to my soldiers-for not being the type of leader I should have been. I

# THE INSIDE LINE



also apologize to the Iraqi people. To them I say, "I am sorry for the curfews, for the raids, for the killings." May they find it in their hearts to forgive me.

"One of the reasons I did not refuse the war from the beginning was that I was afraid of losing my freedom. Today, as I sit behind bars I realize that there are many types of freedom, and that in spite of my confinement I remain free in many important ways. What good is freedom if we are afraid to follow our conscience? What good is freedom if we are not able to live with our own actions? I am confined to a prison but I feel, today more than ever, connected to all humanity. Behind these bars I sit a free man because I listened to a higher power, the voice of my conscience."

[Camilo Mejia became a conscientious objector while serving a tour of duty in Iraq. He was released on February 15 after serving 11 months in military prison.]

# Civil Disobedience on the 2nd Anniversary of the Invasion of Iraq

Demonstrations against the continuing occupation of Iraq were reported in over 700 cities and towns across the United States on March 19 and 20th, the second anniversary of the most recent U.S. invasion of Iraq.

In addition to arrests reported below, hundreds more committed an act of civil disobedience by publicly signing pledges, often at military recruiting stations, to support a soldier's right of conscience. This was in open violation of US Code 18, Section 2387, which makes it a crime to "advise, counsel, or urge" these men and women to "refuse duty." The pledge is one part of a new National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance (NCNR), to incorporate widespread risk of arrest into the anti-war movement. (See Future Actions for more information on the NCNR)

In New York City, the local chapter of the War Resisters League organized protest at Armed Forces recruiting centers in Brooklyn, Manhattan and the Bronx. Scores of anti-war protesters marched with life-size coffins to set at the entrances or block the doors. At the Times Square recruiting station, 27 people were cited, as were another 8 in Brooklyn. No arrests were made at the Bronx station, which was closed for the day. Most charges were "adjudged contemplating dismissal" (ACD) after six months. One man's charge was dismissed when the arresting officer did not show, and another man was convicted by a judge and sentenced to time served. One person has an August 9 court date.

Hundreds of Chicago police turned out to keep a tight rein on a thousand people who were denied a permit to march down busy Michigan Avenue to the Federal Plaza. Five people were cited for disorderly conduct. Most did not turn away from that route as told. Police said another person was cited after punching a police horse.

Four people were arrested in Wilmington, Delaware, as they read out the names of U.S. war dead at a rally, while blocking the entrance to the federal building. They were cited but never given a court date.

## RECRUITING, CONT.

*continued from page 4*

Nonviolent direct actions at recruiting stations were promoted by the Iraq Pledge of Resistance and others for the 2nd anniversary of the Iraq invasion (see article above for the report on invasion anniversary actions).

At City College of New York, student protest had driven Marine and Army recruiters off campus last fall. When National Guard recruiters returned to a jobs fair on the working-class campus March 9, they were also confronted by about 20 students and staff. Campus police warned of arrest if the group disrupted the recruiters, but with determination they gathered around the recruiters' table and started chanting, "Recruiters off campus!" and "U.S. out of Iraq!" They continued to chant as police pushed them into an empty hallway, then claimed two men jumped them. How else could they justify the fact that Justino Rodriguez and Nicholas Bergreen were pummeled against the floor and walls before being arrested and charged with felony assault? Police also arrested Hadas Their, who was documenting the assaults with her cell-phone camera. She was charged with obstruction of a government administrator. Two days later, CCNY employee Carol Lang was arrested at her desk and also charged with assault during the demonstration. All were barred from the Harlem campus - and Lang was suspended from her job - for a month. College-wide support for the four was strong, and a no-fault agreement was reached to drop the criminal charges and restore their good standing at the College.

At the University of Wisconsin - Madison Memorial Union, about 25 students disrupted military recruiting at a career fair February 16. Campus police picked on one woman to make their point in support of the recruiters, and arrested Blake Trimbell for disorderly conduct.

The Tucson (Arizona) Raging Grannies, a parody song troupe of activists, joined the weekly picket outside a midtown recruiting station on July 13. They sang a few songs outside the Army office, then walked in and began asking to enlist, so U.S. troops could come home now and the women could then "set an example of what REAL diplomacy can achieve." After a few more songs and a threat of arrest from the head recruiter, the women returned to the picket line at the sidewalk. Then, the police arrived, and while the recruiter pointed out the grannies and the press who'd followed them into the office, nine arrests for trespass were made, including four journalists. All were cited at the scene. They pled not guilty, and a pretrial is scheduled for August 18.

In Las Vegas, about a hundred people joined a march through the casino district. When they assembled in front of Bellagio Casino, police on foot and on horseback ordered the demonstration to disperse for lack of a permit. Many refused to move and simply sat down. But as police began handcuffing some, others got up to move way. Police then moved to arrest at random, even those trying to leave the area. About two dozen were arrested. Half were later released on site, while six juveniles and six adults were taken away into custody for up to 24 hours. No charges have been filed.

In San Francisco, a few thousand marched and 8 were arrested after blocking an intersection.

Thousands of Bostonians rallied, but a planned recruiting station blockade to follow the rally was mooted when the station closed for the day. An unpermitted march then wound through downtown, only to be intercepted by police as it returned to Boston Common. Some scuffles were provoked, and both a wounded walker and vocal witnesses were arrested; five people total, including one juvenile. Only two were charged, including Michael Long, who had to post \$540 bail for assault and battery on a police officer, resisting arrest, and malicious destruction of property (the cop's broken cell phone). On July 11, Long accepted an offer to drop all charges after successfully completing probation.

Two misdemeanor arrests were made when over 3,000 people joined the major regional anti-war rally outside Fort Bragg, in Fayetteville, North Carolina, including one man who refused to be searched before entering the rally site.

## CATHOLIC WORKERS WARN ARMS WORKERS

The annual Midwest Catholic Worker Faith and Resistance retreat concluded Monday morning, March 14, with nonviolent direct action at Alliant Techsystems (ATK), Minnesota's largest military contractor. A weekend gathering brought together about 100 people who operate Catholic Worker houses of hospitality around the Midwest, volunteering their service to the homeless.

Thirty-three people, including one minor, were arrested at the entrance to the nation's No. 1 builder of toxic, armor-piercing munitions known as "depleted" uranium (DU) penetrators.

The activists tried to deliver a formal written warning to the management about ATK's legal liability for producing indiscriminate weapons. In October 2003 and December 2004, three different Hennepin County juries found three groups of similar protesters "not guilty" of trespassing after they argued they had a legal "claim of right" under Minnesota law to deliver the warning. By January, prosecutors had practically conceded defeat, and five people arrested at ATK last August had their charges dropped when they came to trial.

## Mothers Day Blockade at Bangor

The Trident nuclear submarine base at Bangor, Washington was again the site of a blockade in honor of Mother's Day on May 9. Eleven people held a large banner stretched across the entryway, reading "The Earth is Our Mother - Treat Her With Respect." They were arrested by Kitsap County sheriff's deputies, cited and released later from the sheriff's office. No Bangor blockaders have been prosecuted in Kitsap County since February 2000, after three groups in a row were acquitted by local juries.

Nearby on the waters of the Puget Sound, however, the Coast Guard has fined Ground Zero Peace Fleet skipper Glen Milner \$10,000, for allegedly violating the protection zone in Elliot Bay during Seattle Seafair last August 5. The Peace Fleet was at the annual event to greet and protest visiting Navy warships that fire depleted uranium (DU) munitions. Milner was originally threatened with a \$250,000 fine and six years in jail, but that would have involved an actual trial. The penalty was assessed by a single hearing officer, and is being appealed as more exculpatory evidence is revealed through documents obtained via Freedom of Information Act requests.

Milner recently spearheaded a national coalition of activists who have successfully petitioned the Depart-

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## GRAVE DIGGING AT R.O.T.C.

Steve Jacobs was arrested May 2 by University of Missouri police as he began digging a grave in front of Crowder Hall, home of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). The act was part of a small demonstration by members of Columbia, Missouri's St. Francis House Catholic Worker community, complete with coffins and headstones, meant to illustrate the consequences of ROTC training.

"Killing is an abstract concept to students now, but no training, however scientific or sophisticated, can prepare young students for the evil that is inherent in killing other human beings and its haunting aftermath," said the group's statement.

Jacobs should know. He was a Navy corpsman in the mid-1970s, treating combat veteran amputees and those with post-traumatic stress disorder. After that, it was 12 years as a psychiatric RN at a veteran's hospital.

After Jacobs' arrest and confiscation of the shovel, coffins, and headstones, community members returned home. Lana Jacobs, Steve's wife, grabbed another shovel and returned to the lawn at Crowder Hall. She got in ten minutes of digging before she, too, was arrested.

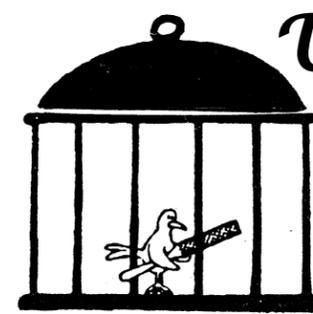
Both were charged with property damage and released. The original judge assigned to their case recused himself because he is a donor to the St. Francis Catholic Worker. Trial is scheduled for August 18.

For more information, contact Lana and Steve at St. Francis House Catholic Worker, 1001 Rangeline, Columbia, MO 65207, 573-875-7878.

So the citations issued this time allege a lesser offense. Rather than the state trespass statute used in the past, Edina police issued city ordinance citations that carry a fine of \$130. No court date has been set. One result of the reduced charge is that defendants will only be allowed a bench trial presided over by a judge, and not a jury.

Again on July 13, twelve more people were arrested attempting to deliver a document titled "Employee Liabilities Under International Law" to ATK corporate executives, who refused to accept it. Those ticketed note that landmines, cluster bombs and depleted uranium munitions are just three of the products produced by ATK. All three are well documented as indiscriminate weapons and hence the manufacture, sale and use of these weapons is illegal under International Law. These weapons are clearly crimes against humanity.

For more information, contact Alliant Action at [www.circlevision.org/alliantaction.html](http://www.circlevision.org/alliantaction.html), email [alliantaction@circlevision.org](mailto:alliantaction@circlevision.org); or Nukewatch, POB 649, Luck, WI 54853, 715-472-4185, [nukewatch@lakeland.wisconsin.edu](mailto:nukewatch@lakeland.wisconsin.edu)



## Update Files

**MICHAEL POULIN:** The self-described "geezer" activist, who in 2003 carefully loosened bolts on electric transmission towers across four western states before turning himself in for this cautionary act of sabotage against the American empire, was transferred in February from Memphis to federal prison in Sheridan, Oregon, where he is closer to family and friends (many affiliated with the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, Washington). He'll complete his sentence there in January, 2006. See *Inside & Out*, p. 3 for his address...

**STRATCOM:** Des Moines Catholic Worker Elton Davis was released from federal prison on February 14, following a three month sentence for trespass at Offutt Air Force Base, home of the Strategic Nuclear Command, last August 9...

**WHITE HOUSE:** In mid-July, a D.C. Superior Court jury acquitted Susan Crane and hung on the verdict for Gary Ashbeck. Both were arrested for unlawful entry during a protest last December, though they got no farther than following a sandwich delivery person into the gatehouse. Potential jurors were asked their opinions of the war, and nearly all expressed disapproval, while all who were asked indicated they support civil protest. Ashbeck could be retried...

## Thousands Blockade Faslane Sub Base

In Scotland, the anti-globalization protests at the meeting of leaders of the Group of Eight (G8) industrialized nations were preceded by the most successful blockade ever of the Faslane nuclear submarine base. All day July 4th, 2,000 people shut down all gates to the base.

In a change of police tactics from recent mass blockades at the base organized by Trident Ploughshares, there was a policy not to arrest those who sat, laid or locked-on in the road. Base gates were shut all day and even the main A814 road running alongside the base was closed to traffic, giving an eerie quietness at times. Only four people were arrested - one after scaling the fence and three others who sat on perimeter gates or fences.

The blockade was planned to highlight the links between poverty and war, militarism and destructive globalisation.

The Faslane base is home to Britain's four Trident nuclear weapon submarines, and Trident's replacement is to be decided soon. Government estimates show that it would cost £14 billion to replace Trident and a further £18 billion to operate these submarines throughout their life. The actual costs could be double this.

A Faslane G8 spokesperson said: "How can anyone take seriously a government promise to share in the alleviation of poverty worldwide when that same government indulges in illegal wars, deploys genocidal weapon systems and profits from a vicious trade in arms?"

Over the next few days, over 700 people were arrested at multiple locations near the summit and elsewhere in Scotland. Many were held overnight or a few days. About half of those arrested were actually charged and given trial dates into November. Now only one G8 protester, David Boudon, remains in custody on remand, possibly until his trial in October.

Over the last year, eight people have been sentenced to 2-14 days for nonpayment of fines incurred during the ongoing Trident Ploughshares campaign. The campaign organizes periodic encampments to facilitate nonviolent direct action at Faslane and other nuclear arms facilities across Great Britain.

### Your short guide to the trillion dollar arms business

...Between 1997 and 2001 at least two thirds of the world's arms deals came from just five G8 countries - USA, Russia, France, Britain and Germany. In 2003 the G8 countries exported arms worth in excess of US\$24 billion. Whilst some of these exports were to other G8 or developed countries, more than half went to the developing world. In 1994 it was estimated that one fifth of the debt owed by poor countries is due to past arms sales. However, despite their heavy representation in weapons production G8 countries are the least affected by the use of arms. Of the 150 wars fought between 1945 and the mid 1990s, more than 90% were in the developing world.

(from SchNEWS, June 5, 2005)

## INTERNATIONAL NOTES



### Still No Exit, and New Charges Against Vanunu

At the time of the first anniversary of his release from prison, Mordechai Vanunu was informed that the restrictions forbidding him to leave Israel or talk to foreigners had been renewed for another year. The administrative decision came as little surprise, but great disappointment to the nuclear whistleblower and his supporters worldwide, including an international delegation who traveled to Israel last April with the hope they could accompany him out of Israel when the restrictions expired.

In March, Vanunu received a 22-count criminal indictment for violating the restrictions. One was for attempting to leave the country on Christmas Eve, when he tried to go to Bethlehem to attend mass, and the other 21 for communicating with foreigners, mostly journalists. The court ruled in May to drop one count, saying Israeli citizens do not need a passport to go to Bethlehem, which is in the occupied West Bank. Regarding the other 21 charges, attorney Michael Sfarid told the press that the judge "ruled that none of these amounted to maliciously breaching a legal order, which carries a maximum sentence of two years.

"If they can, the prosecution [will] now have to formulate new charges that he violated emergency legislation, which carries only a maximum nine-month sentence, and they have been given a month to do it."

Two months later and there has been no word from prosecutors or the court on the matter.

For more information, contact Mordechai Vanunu, c/o Cathedral Church of St. George, 20 Nabulus Road, PO Box 19018, Jerusalem 91190, Israel, vmjc1954@gmail.com or visit [www.vanunu.com](http://www.vanunu.com) for updates.

## A New Laboratory for Bandazhevsky

Supporters of imprisoned Chernobyl researcher Prof. Yuri Bandazhevsky have joined with the French grassroots nuclear research group CRIIRAD to create the "CRIIRAD - Bandazhevsky" Laboratory in Belarus, as "an international project in the service of the victims of the Chernobyl disaster and all those exposed to radioactive contamination." Contributions are being sought for a biomedical laboratory where Prof. Yuri Bandazhevsky can continue his research into Cesium 137 and low dose radiation upon his release. His wife and associate, Dr. Galina Bandazhevskaya, will direct the laboratory until he can join her.

Under the current amnesty law in Belarus, Bandazhevsky qualifies for another one-year reduction of his original eight-year sentence. This could mean he'll be released in January, 2006. Most others who qualified have by now had their sentence reduced, but authorities keep passing the buck about whether or not the man known as the "personal prisoner of the President" will get his due. A decision is expected by early November.

On May 13, Bandazhevsky was forced to move to Belitsa, another penal colony village, and a new job cleaning and repairing machinery at the local dairy. His health is still at risk. Journalist Wladimir Tchertkoff, whose regular chronicle of Bandazhevsky's situation can be found at [www.comite-bandajevsky.org](http://www.comite-bandajevsky.org), writes that "As a scientist, Yuri Bandazhevsky is humiliated, distressed and also appalled that his time and his efforts should be wasted while a nuclear catastrophe is devastating the health of the Belarus population."

More information about the laboratory project is available at [www.comite-bandajevsky.org](http://www.comite-bandajevsky.org) and [www.criirad.com](http://www.criirad.com) support action



Letters of support should be sent to Yuri I. Bandazhevsky, Belitsa, Lidski rayon, 231318 Grodnenskaya oblast, Belarus. Establishment of the CRIIRAD-Bandazhevsky Laboratory in Belarus is budgeted at €150,000. Three thousand contributions of €50 are sought, and should be sent to CRIIRAD, 471 Avenue Victor Hugo, 26000 Valence, France.

In London, five anti-nuclear campaigners inspired by Vanunu were convicted of trespass and ordered to pay fines and costs of up to £750 each. They'd donned white lab coats and Vanunu masks on the day he was released from prison, April 21, 2004, and entered the command and control center for Britain's Trident nuclear submarines at Northwood, near London.

## Plowshares Updates

### Sacred Earth and Space Plowshares

After 33 and 30 months in prison, respectively, Dominican Sisters Carol Gilbert and Jackie Hudson have gone home and not been arrested. Both were ordered to serve probation in Colorado, where their nonviolent direct action at a nuclear missile silo occurred in 2002. Both made it clear they would return to their home community instead: Hudson to Washington state, and Gilbert to Baltimore, Maryland.

Sr. Jackie Hudson was released from prison in Victorville, California on March 4. Upon her return home, she phoned her Colorado probation officer. After some discussion he asked the Washington office for "courtesy" supervision until the appeal of their conviction was decided.

On March 17 that appeal was decided against the nuns by a three-judge panel of the 10th Circuit. A full court hearing was denied, and it is not being appealed further.

Hudson is also collecting affidavits of community service and charitable donations to present to the judge in lieu of about \$3000 restitution she will not pay. So far, she has collected well over \$370,000 in value of community service donated in her name, and is aiming for a cool half million. Although the appeal is now over, Hudson's probation officer is content to keep her on a tight leash in Washington, and has put off until at least September any action on her refusal to pay.

Sr. Carol Gilbert was informed just two weeks before her May 23 release from Alderson, West Virginia,

that the Baltimore office had agreed to supervise her probation and she could return home without risk of arrest.

Their co-defendant Sr. Ardeth Platte, who received the longest sentence of 41 months due to her prior record, will be released in December. Like Gilbert, she also intends to return home to Baltimore's Jonah House community.

For more information, contact Jonah House, 1301 Moreland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21216, 410-233-4067, [disarmnow@erols.com](mailto:disarmnow@erols.com); and the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Road NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370, 360-779-4672, [info@gzcenter.org](mailto:info@gzcenter.org)

### Pitstop Plowshares

The Dublin trial of five Catholic Workers collapsed Monday, March 14 as Judge Frank O'Donnell discharged the jury. The accused Pitstop Plowshares action group - Deirdre Clancy, Nuin Dunlop, Karen Fallon, Ciaran O'Reilly, and Damien Moran - are charged with causing criminal damage to a U.S. Navy warplane at Ireland's Shannon Airport on February 3, 2003.

The defendants argued they were attempting to protect lives and property and to uphold the law by non-violently resisting Irish participation in the Iraq War. Shannon Airport is a major refueling stopover for the U.S. military

Their trial began a week earlier but ran into difficulties by Friday, when the defense counsel requested that the judge discharge the jury, reportedly because his

conduct of the trial was prejudicial against the defendants. A new judge and jury will hear the case, now set to begin October 24.

The three Irish peace activists remain on strict bail conditions, now for well over two years. Dunlop and Fallon, who are not Irish citizens, have been allowed to leave the country to return a month before trial.

Supporters applauded the defendants as they left court, and joined them in a silent, single-file walk in commemoration of the Iraq War dead, from the Four Courts to Dail Eireann, Ireland's legislature. Supportive members of the Dail were there to greet them. The defendants submitted an appeal letter to the head of government on behalf of Kelly Dougherty, former U.S. National Guard sergeant and co-founder of Iraq Veterans Against The War. Dougherty came to Ireland to support the Pitstop Plowshares defendants and to testify to the brutality and criminality of the U.S. occupation in Iraq. Her letter called for an end to the use of Shannon Airport by the U.S. military and asked the Irish government to offer asylum to military resisters.

The week before their trial began, five activists barricaded themselves inside the Irish Embassy in London, calling on the government to dismiss the charges. The five were arrested for trespass and released.

For more information about the Pitstop Plowshares, their action and impending trial, visit [warontrial.com](http://warontrial.com) or contact the Plowshares Defence Fund, 134 Phibsborough Rd., Phibsborough, Dublin 7, Ireland, 087-918-4552, [plowsharesireland@yahoo.ie](mailto:plowsharesireland@yahoo.ie)

# FUTURE ACTIONS

## National Strategy Conference for War Tax Resistance

October 7-9, 2005

St. Vincent Ferrer Church · Brooklyn, New York  
1603 Brooklyn Avenue

You are invited to join fellow committed peace and justice activists  
for a national strategy conference to broaden the network of people who  
refuse to pay for war.



For more information and registration contact:  
NATIONAL WAR TAX RESISTANCE  
COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
www.nwtrcc.org · (800) 269-7464

## hiroshima / nagasaki

On the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, August 6 and 9, major demonstrations are planned at the U.S. nuclear laboratories at Livermore, California, Los Alamos, New Mexico, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and at the Nevada Test Site. Civil disobedience is planned for part of all of these demonstrations (except Los Alamos), and also for commemorative events at Stratcom, the strategic command center at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha; at the Bangor, Washington, Trident submarine base; and at Alliant Techsystems in Edina, MN. Reports from these events will be in the next issue.

## national campaign for nonviolent resistance

From the ongoing work of the Iraq Pledge of Resistance, a National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance (NCNR) is now working with United For Peace and Justice on plans for the major national demonstration in Washington, D.C. the last weekend of September. The NCNR will organize a mass nonviolent direct action at the White House on September 26, in addition to supporting decentralized nonviolent direct actions actions in the Capitol city, organized by affinity groups working through a spokescouncil. For more information on the NCNR, contact Gordon Clark at 301-589-2355, or pledgecoordinator@starpower.net or visit www.iraqpledge.org

## War Tax Refusers, cont.

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1-800-269-7464, www.nwtrcc.org; and the War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012, 212-228-0450, www.warresisters.org



Letters of support should be sent to Inge Donato, Joseph Donato, and Kevin McKee c/o Restored Israel of YAHWEH at the address on page 1.

NWTRCC's newsletter, *More than a Paycheck*, reported a few more anti-war arrests in their annual round-up of dozens of Tax Day protests.

The annual Death and Taxes Festival was held on April 9 in Andover, Massachusetts, highlighted by the march from IRS offices to the headquarters of Raytheon, a major supplier of missiles and bombs. One person was cited for affixing a bumpersticker on a utility pole.

Lincoln Rice continued a long tradition of Milwaukee War Tax Resistance, and visited the local IRS office on April 15. They would not let him in, and he was arrested as he knelt outside the closed door and prayed for peace.

That evening, police confronted members of Philadelphia War Tax Resistance as they leafleted last-minute filers at the South Street Post Office. They threatened to arrest people, citing a "no handbills" ordinance in that vicinity. The group took to speaking with passersby and sharing flyers when asked. Nonetheless, Marlene Santoyo was cited for "improper distribution of handbills."

In Las Vegas, on Tax Day, 2004, about ten people held a spontaneous anti-war demonstration in front of the post office. The police soon showed up, and told them to move along, off the property. Using the F-word, Jason Halprin questioned the order, even as he moved along. "That just cost you a trip to jail" replied one officer, as he slapped on the cuffs. Halprin was held several hours and then the charges were dropped.

## school of the americas /whinsec

Take a Step for Justice is an appeal from former SOA Watch prisoners of conscience for commitments to cross the line and risk during the annual Vigil and Action to Close the SOA, November 18-20 at Fort Benning, Georgia. Signers would commit to crossing the line in November, either unconditionally, or only after 100, 250, 500, or 1,000 agree to join in.

Request a pledge form from PO Box 12, Duluth, MN 55801, soawtwinports@riseup.net or call Michael, 218-724-7085 or Eric, 202-234-3440.

The annual vigil to close SOA/WHINSEC, November 18-20, is just the culmination of a coordinated volunteer effort that goes on all year long. The following established working groups and constituency group caucuses in the following areas need your help, now and in November, and beyond until the school is closed: Anti-Oppression Working Group, Development (fundraising and financial planning) Working Group, Legal Collective Working Group, Legislative Working Group, Logistics Working Group, Media Working Group, Research Working Group, Puppet/Street Theater Working Group, Spanish Language Media Working Group, Stage and Program Working Group, Tabling Working Group, Translation and Interpretation Working Group, Labor Caucus, Student/Youth Caucus.

To contact these groups and for November vigil organizing packets in English or Spanish, contact SOA Watch, POB 4566, Washington, DC 20017, 202-234-3440, info@soa.org

## Conscientious Objectors, cont.

continued from page 2

As this issue goes to press, the twice-postponed court martial of Army Sgt. Kevin Benderman begins July 28 at Ft. Stewart, Georgia. Benderman's January application for discharge as a conscientious objector (CO) has also been denied. Charged with desertion and missing movement, the career soldier was originally scheduled for court-martial on May 11. The presiding judge ruled that the investigating officer showed bias against Benderman, and ordered a new investigation. Meanwhile, military prosecutors have added a charge of larceny because Benderman was mistakenly issued combat pay while he remained in the U.S.

Updates at www.bendermandefense.org.

Navy Petty Officer Pablo Paredes' court martial, also scheduled for May 11 in San Diego, went ahead that day. Paredes was charged March 25 with being absent without leave and missing movement. Last December, after personally inviting the media to witness his public refusal to board the USS Bonhomme Richard, bound for

Iraq, Paredes' conscientious objection drew world-wide attention. The public support arguably translated into a sentence of two months restriction, three months hard labor without confinement, and reduction in rank. Prosecutors had recommended a nine-month prison sentence.

Paredes was convicted of missing movement, while the AWOL charge was dismissed. The military judge prohibited defense testimony challenging the legality of the Iraq War, but the next day at sentencing he allowed International Law expert Marjorie Cohn to provide this background for Paredes' defense. Cohn parried so well with the military prosecutor that the judge remarked somewhat sardonically, "I think that the government has successfully proved that any service member has reasonable cause to believe that the wars in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and Iraq were illegal."

Paredes' application for conscientious objector status has meanwhile been denied. An appeal of this denial, and of his court-martial, are pending. Look for updates at www.defendpablo.org and www.swiftsmartveterans.com.

At least eight military refusers have publicly surfaced in Canada, where at least seven are known to be seeking refugee status and others just trying to get by with the support of Canadian sympathizers. Jeremy Hinzman, the first refuser to claim refugee status because of the war against Iraq, was denied that status March 24. The decision has been appealed. Other public expatriate refusers include Darrell Anderson, Ivan Brobeck, Cliff Cornell, Dan Felushko, Brandon Hughey, Ryan Johnson, Joshua Key, and David Sanders. It is estimated that 100 more U.S. military resisters are quietly residing in Canada today.

G.I.s in need of assistance concerning any phase of determining or applying for conscientious objector status are encouraged to call the G.I. Rights hotline at 1-800-394-9544, or visit www.objector.org, internet home of the Central Committee for Conscientious Objection, CCCO. Practical support from recent COs is available at www.peace-out.com.

**"What I submit to you and the court is that I am convinced that the current war is exactly that (illegal). So, if there's anything I could be guilty of, it is my beliefs. I am guilty of believing this war is illegal. I'm guilty of believing war in all forms is immoral and useless, and I am guilty of believing that as a service member I have a duty to refuse to participate in this war because it is illegal."**

*From Pablo Paredes sentencing statement*

## Mother's Day, cont.

continued from page 5

ment of Transportation to lift the exemption that allowed the military to transport DU ammo without proper hazard labeling.

For more information, contact the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Road NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370, 360-779-4672, info@gzcenter.org

The Ground Zero Center was founded 28 years ago, on a piece of land sharing fence with the Navy base not far from the main gate. On April 6, 2005, a fire totally gutted the house there that served as office, meeting space, and action base for over two decades. Fundraising is underway to build a replacement structure, and donations can be sent to Ground Zero Center the above address, with the memo "GZ Building Fund."

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*We are unable to accept checks drawn on Canadian or other foreign banks. Payment must be made in US \$ by cash, money order or check drawn on a U.S. bank. Contributions of \$50 or more are always welcome and are tax-deductible if made payable to: The Progressive Foundation.*

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# THE INSIDE LINE



~ from *Edgefield*

by José Pérez González

Cinco de Mayo, 2005

One who suffers for his homeland and lives for God, in this world or another, has true glory. While all is not being done, no one has a right to rest. We are the barriers to this current despotism. What is given to others, we are ones who have obtained it. We are the school, the whip, the reality, solace and consolation. We unite what others divide. We do not die. We are the reserves of the homeland.

The homeland is continuity of interests, unifying traditions, unity of goals, sweet fusion and consolation of love and hope.

Well, compañeros, here I will rid myself of that which will never serve me and strengthen the good that I have within me. Beyond the reprisals, the increase in the severity of my custody and of the individualized treatment I receive, I will continue to improve myself and will struggle to become a more useful patriot for the task I want to achieve.

This unjust sentence, like the perverse mistreatment I receive, will do nothing else but fortify my spirit. I will make of this a fruitful experience that will allow me to graduate with honors as a dignified son of Puerto Rico.

As Jose Marti said, "The homeland has brought me here, to die for the homeland, is to enjoy and live even more."

*[José Pérez González is serving a five year sentence in federal prison for conspiracy and damage to property during celebrations of the U.S. Navy's withdrawal from Vieques, May 1, 2003.]*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**...Other Lands Have Dreams: From Baghdad to Peking Prison** by Voices in the Wilderness founder Kathy Kelly ties together her stories of sanctions-busting trips to Iraq, the U.S. Army's School of the Americas, and the daily life in a U.S. women's federal prison, where Kelly served a three month sentence for trespass at the School of the Americas. Her prose gives voice to the silenced: women in prison and their families, Latin Americans struggling for human rights, and Iraqis caught between domestic dictatorship and international embargoes. \$15 from Voices in the Wilderness, 1460 W. Carmen Ave. #2, Chicago IL 60640.

**...Come Together Right Now: Organizing Stories from a Fading Empire** is a collection of essays by Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of the Global Network Against Nuclear Power and Weapons in Space. Gagnon has toured the U.S. and abroad to agitate for peace in space, and gleaned a harvest of hope from the stories of struggle and activism he has encountered along the way. \$13 + \$3 s&h (\$5 overseas s&h) from the Global Network, POB 652, Brunswick, ME 04011, (207)729-0517, [www.space4peace.org](http://www.space4peace.org)

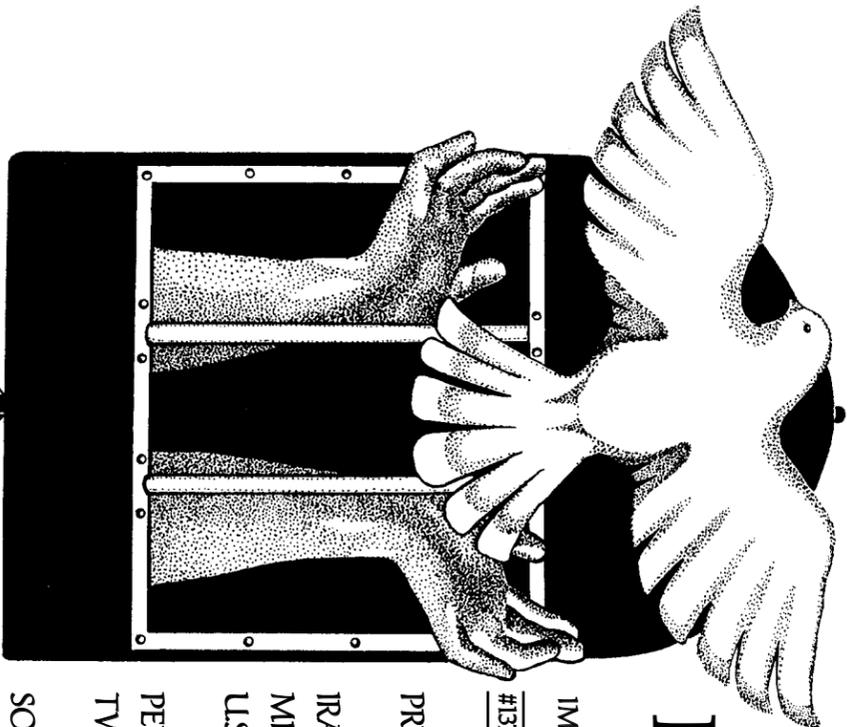
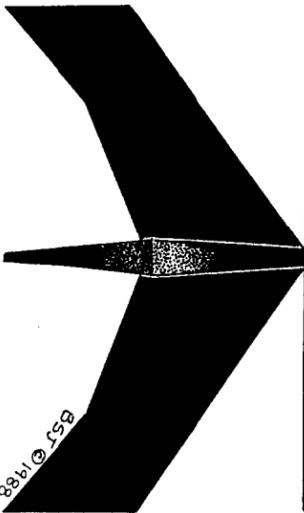
**...How Nonviolence Protects the State**, by Peter Gelderloos (a former SOA Watch Prisoner of Conscience) about the role of nonviolence in movements to change society. \$8 + \$2 s&h (\$4 for priority mail) from Signalfire Press, 120 W. Grattan, Harrisonburg VA, 22801; [www.signalfirepress.org](http://www.signalfirepress.org)

**...The Real Cost of Prisons Project** creates popular education workshops and materials which explore both the immediate and long-term costs of incarceration on the individual, her/his family, community and the nation. The goals of the Real Cost of Prisons Project are to strengthen and deepen the organizing capacity of grassroots prison/justice activists and to broaden the public's understanding of the economic and social consequences of mass incarceration. They have developed a series of free downloadable comic books and one-page handouts, and the comic books will be sent free of charge to organizations who submit a one page email or letter explaining how you will use the comic books in your organizing, community education and outreach work. Titles: Prison Town: Paying the Price, Prisoners of the War on Drugs, and Prisoners of a Hard Life: Women and Children. For more information visit [www.realcostofprisons.org/comics.html](http://www.realcostofprisons.org/comics.html) or email [info@real-costofprisons.org](mailto:info@real-costofprisons.org)

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## the Nuclear Resister

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

#137

July 29, 2005

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

*The Nuclear Resister* is published about every two 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.

Our information comes from a variety of sources, primarily the local activists themselves. We are deeply indebted to all who send us information.

Jack & Felice Cohen-Joppa, editors