Prison Sentence for Three Pacifist War Tax Refusers

War tax resisters around the country are passing heed to the case of three New Jersey religious pacifists, on their way to prison for multiple counts of felony concealment to deprive the government and attempted tax evasion. These are the most serious tax crimes in federal law. On July 1, U.S. District Judge J. Cogan J. Cogan 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 fines were from $5,000 to $50,000 and ordered to file past and future tax returns and pay all delinquencies and future federal income taxes.

All three are members of a small group of self-described “bible salesmen” 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 Religious Organization of YAHWEH (ROY). Volpe, known to ROIY members as the prophet Jeremih, determined after study that service to God required one “not to have the blood of warfare on his hands.” He added, “ah, determined after study that service to God required

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 McKee and Joseph Donato ran a construction business, and Inge Donato performed some secretarial work. The firm paid no taxes for most of its existence, which was also members of ROIY, 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 month.

Revealing the irony of their conviction, ROIY wrote, “In the same court where witnesses are asked to swear a Bible, one who has 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 GODEss 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 McKee and Joseph 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 jury decided upon the case 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, and 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, 2003), since 1942 less than two dozen war tax resisters have served jail or prison sentences for related charges, with the longest sentence reported to be 9-1/2 months.

For more information and to express support, contact restored-israel.org or www.roiy.org. More information about refusals to pay tax is available from National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWTRCC), POB 150553, Brooklyn, NY 11215.

April, 2004. Members of The Restored Israel of YAHWEH picketed outside a New Jersey IRS office while two members were jailed for four days after their arrest. Photo courtesy of The Restored Israel of Yahuwh, via More than a Paycheck.
We’ve tried a few times in the last year, but now it’s certainly time. The Resister is back in print! By mutual consent with Mordechai Vanunu, we have recently closed the U.S. campaign to Free Mordechai Vanunu. We continue to serve as campaign coordinator and Jack’s regular assistance - had required a significant commitment of our time since we took it on in 1981, 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; it has not, 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 year. Mordechai was being court-martialed, but as Mordechai has recently pointed out, he is no longer in prison, and can now speak and act on his own behalf. His attorney, Steven Spitzer, is based in New York, 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 more many reports of recent direct actions and criminal prosecutions that 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 improprieties at the polls, contacts for our reporting, and 2) with the financial support of your subscriptions and donations.

We keep the cost of a subscription low so that it remains affordable to activists, as well as providing us the ability to distribute the Nuclear Resister to all prisoners. We also distribute on multiple 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.

We’re At

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 Springs have charged the wife of one jackbooted soldier to face a charge of "enticing and harboring a deserter." Spc. Dale Bartell joined the army three years ago and had 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 the 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 (CLHR). Bill was aware of G. militarist, and later on, May 12, Bartell turned himself in. At a hearing where he was represented by military attorney John Tate, Bartell was denied CO status in March, where he was posted. On July 25, Bartell was sentenced to four months in prison, followed by a bad-conduct discharge. After a few days in the brig, where he was not allowed to receive any information during his CO application, 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, Helmkaemp learned about conscientious objection.

After reporting back to Camp LeJeune last fall, he applied for CO status. The initial investigation recom- mended his claim be denied, but by this time Helmkaemp was further suffering from the mental stress of verbal hazing and psychological trauma (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, Helmkaemp was informed he would be assigned to the separation barracks for months of pointless orders and puni- tive discipline. A medical discharge was finally approved and Helmkaemp 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. Mejia was released from the army brig at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in February. He remains in sanctuary at St. George’s Cathedral, and while there, he is working on his next book, which is back in print!

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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 RESISTOR, P.O. BOX 43833, TUCSON, AZ 85733 • nukeresister@igc.org

THE NUCLEAR RESISTERS, USA:
Armed Plot 10857-039 (4 months - out 12/22/05)
FPC Sheridan Unit 5, POB 6000, Sheridan, OR 97378.

Support Action
Letters of support can be sent to José Vélez Acosta, 23883-069, USP POB 1033, Coleman, Florida 32231-5303 and José Pérez González, 21519-069, Edgefield FCI, PO Box 725, Edgefield, SC 29824.

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 traditions who did not wish to lose their identity to the forces controlling 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 government withheld witnesses. It intimidated witnesses. These facts are not disputed.”

Also not disputed is that on the very day of the shooting the corrupt Pine Ridge Tribal Chairman Dick Wilson was secretly signing away Pine Ridge energy resources, including uranium, for development.

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@leonard-peltier.org

Support Action
Letters requesting that Leonard Peltier be transferred to a medium security federal prison and immediately moved to the general population, should be sent to the Wardens, 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
The nine others who served time beginning March 15 are Liz Deligio, Elizabeth Nadeau, Meggy Doty, Dan Schwankl, Natasha Chantall, Tom MacLean, and Ron Durham (3 months each); and Aaron Shuman and Brian DeRouen (4 months each). Two people - Mike Ring and Mary Vaughan - remain on probation.

During this week’s Labor 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 Barracks in November.

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

SCHOOL OF THE AMERICANS WATCH
Alice Gerard 92095-020 (six months - out 9/15/05)
Lelia Mattingly 92460-020 (six months - out 9/15/05)
FPC Danbury, 15-12 Pembroke Station, Route 37, Danbury, CT 06811.

VIQUEES
José Vélez Acosta 23883-069 (3 months - out 1/7/06)
USP POB 1033, Coleman, Florida 32231-5303.
José Pérez González 21519-069 (5 months - out 1/7/06)
Edgefield FCI, PO Box 725, Edgefield, SC 29824.

Support Action
Letters of support should be sent individually to Alice Gerard, 92095-020, and Lelia Mattingly, 92460-020, both at FPC Danbury, 15-12 Pembroke Station, Route 37, Danbury, CT 06811.

MILITARY REFUSERS
Pt. Blake Lemonge (seven months - in 3/28)
Building 1490, Randolph Rd., Fort Sill, OK 73505.
(Refused to train for combat, convicted after CO petition rejected)

Spc. Dale Bartell (four months - in 7/12)
Building 1490, Randolph Rd., Fort Sill, OK 73505.
(Refused duty and missed deployment after CO declar-}

GREAT BRITAIN
David Boudon 92018
HM Prison Barlinnie, Glasgow, G33 2GQ, Scotland, UK
- All prisoners to US military prison and at least internally� (Arrested at git protest 7/6-8, in 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 occupying, occupying by contemporary symbols to remind believers of the suffering inflicted today on impoverished nations under government condoning the war. 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 Nuclear Submarine Base at Groton, Connecticut. Five people were cited for disorderly conduct at the conclusion of their two-hour walk from the global protest threat- ened 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 Quintled 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 participat- ed in retraces as part of the Lenten Desert Experience. Twenty-five people were cited for crossing on the line Good Friday. At a week earlier, 37 people from a Minnesota Air National Guard 148th Fighter Wing building, bearing crosses and a black-draped coffin crossed the line. All were cited for disorderly conduct and released. Prosecution of Nevada Test Site line crossings is rare. Also on Good Friday, Michael Walli and Michelle Naehr-Obed poured blood on the large sign at the Minnes- ota 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 Group, asking the other to “terminate their contract to kill on command and seek conscientious objector status.” Friends joined the vigil, as well as the police, the military, and people bearing Naehr-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 any- more.” They were arrested for damaging property and await trial September 13. For more information, contact Louise Mabry, 1815 1641 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, Fort Bliss. Maj. Gen. Shawn McDougal, former Army recruiting station, said that “military a proper way of life for me.” So when he was released, he did not want to impede an officer of the Army. He was arrested for “conspiring to impede an officer of the Army.” He was later charged with felony “conspiracy to impede an officer of the Army.” He was later 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 intimidating 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 resi- dent, is out on bond, represented by an attorney, and awaiting trial.

Letters of support can be sent to Brenda Walsh 1245652, P.O. Box 1000, White Deer, PA 18872.

RECRUITING, cont.

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July 29, 2005

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"If I was a coward, and for that I apologize to my soldiers-..." Camilo Mejia

The INSIDE LINE

continued on page 5

IINNSSIIDDEE

Letters of support can be sent to Brendan Walsh 1245652, P.O. Box 1000, White Deer, PA 18872.

letters of support should be sent to Dr. Raul Dhahir; Jamesville Correctional Facility, P.O. Box 143, Jamesville, NY 13078.

May they find it in their hearts to forgive me.

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

For more information, contact Voices in the Wilderness, 1460 W. Carmen Ave., Chicago, IL 60640, (773) 285-0450.

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July 29, 2005

Page 4

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

IINNSSIIDDEE

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The INSIDE LINE

continued on page 5

"If I was a coward, and for that I apologize to my soldiers...

..."Those to whom 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 my life in saving others, the fear to the people who love me, to the man, to the be, the man I wanted to be..." I was afraid of waking up one morning to realize my humanity had a stake in my death, without any people that I did my job as a soldier. I commanded an infantry squad in combat and we never failed to accomplish our mission. But if I did not consider, with 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 was our moral duty, a duty that called me to take principled action. I failed to fulfill my duty as a human being and instead 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 an humiliation at that time. I was a coward, and for that I apologize to my soldiers-..." Camilo Mejia

also apologize to the Iraqi people. To them I say, "I am sorry for their suffering, for the deaths of their loved ones..." 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 free- dom. I did not want to stand up to the government and the Army. I was afraid of punishment an humiliation at that time. I was a coward, and for that I apologize to my soldiers..." Camilo Mejia

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

Demonstrations against the continuing occupation of Iraq were reported on campuses across the United States on March 19 and 20th, the second anniversary of the most recent U.S. invasion of Iraq. In addition to protests, hundreds more committed an act of civil disobedience by publicly signing pledges, often at military recruiting stations, to support the war and the soldiers deployed in Iraq. This was in violation of U.S. Code, Section 2387, which makes it a crime to “advise, counsel, or urge” these men and women to perform military duty. The pledgers were part of a new National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistant (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 Chelsea, Midtown, 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 “adjourned 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 on the recruiters. 300 people were detained and charged while marching down busy Michigan Avenue to the Federal Plaza. Five people were cited for disorderly conduct. Most did not speak out, as told to police. The sweated police officer said another person was cited after punching a police horse.

Four people were arrested in Wilmington, Delaware, as part 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 reported in Bangor, Maine on February 16. Campus police picked up one woman to make their point in support of the recruiters, and arrested Blake Trimble 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 through the entrance but were asked two times to leave 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 outside the Army office, then walked in and sang a few more songs, then the women could then “set an example of what real diplomacy can achieve.” After a few more songs outside the Army office, then walked in and sang a few more songs, then the recruiters 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 a 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 marchers refused to move. Two were arrested for horseback and arrested. Police used horsewhips on the marchers. Some scuffles were provoked, and both a wounded walker and vocal witnesses were arrested; five people total, including the 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.

Three 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.

The annual Midwest Catholic Worker Faith and Resistance retreat concluded Monday morning, March 14, with nonviolent direct action at Alltech CytoSysterns (ATK), Minnesota’s number one 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 have so far committed acts of civil disobedience. Four were arrested at the entrance to General Motors’ No. 1 builder of toxic, armor-piercing munitions known as “depleted uranium” (DU) penetrators.

The activists tried to deliver a formal written warning to ATK about AT’s legal liability for producing indiscriminate weapons. In October 2003 and December 2004, three different Hennepin County juries found three groups of similar protesters “guilty” of trespassing after they argued they had a legal “claim of right” under Minnesota law to deliver the warning. By default, these juries practically conceded defeat, and five people arrested at ATK last August had their charges dropped when they came to trial.

So the citations 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 $50. 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 formal titled “Employee Liabilities Under International Law” to ATK corporate executives, who were not home. Those ticketed note that landmines, cluster bombs and depleted uranium munitions are just two 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 not an option.

For more information, contact Lana and Steve at St. Francis House, 225 12th Road, Rantigline, Columbia, MO 65207, 373-875-7878.

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 entranceway, reading “The Earth Mothers Day on May 9. Eleven people held a large banner stretched across the entranceway, reading “The Earth Day is October 21, Please Send Us a Day.” They were arrested by Kitsap sheriff’s deputies, cited and released later from the sheriff’s office. No charges were filed for the blockage since February 2000, after three groups in a row were acquit- ted by local juries.

Nearby on the waters of the Puget Sound, however, the Coast Guard seized Zero Peace Flight skipper Glen Milner $10,000, for allegedly violating the protection zone in Elliott Bay during Seattle Seafair last August 11. The fleet was on an annual event organized with the goal of effecting protest by greeting and visit protesting Navy warships that fire depleted uranium (DU) munitions. Milner was originally threatened with up to 20 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 an overly punitive revelation is evidenced through documents obtained via Freedom of Information Act requests.

Millner recently spearheaded a national coalition of activists who have successfully pressured the Depart-
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 foreign journalists had been renewed for another year. The administrative decision came as little surprise, but great disappointment to the nuclear whistleblower and his supporter worldwide, including an international delegation who traveled to Israel last April to appeal his sentence. The court ruled in May to drop one count, saying "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 Nautilus Road, PO Box 19018, Jerusalem 91190, Israel, vmg1954@gmail.com or visit www.vanunu.com for updates.

The defendants argued they were attempting to "serve probation in Colorado, where their nonviolent actions were sanctioned by a three-judge panel of the 10th Circuit. A full "courtesy" supervision until the appeal of their conviction 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 globalisation.

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 in the doldrums. 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.

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

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Iraq, Paredes’ conscientious objection drew world-wide attention. The public support arguably translated into a charge of larceny because Benderman was mistakenly issued combat gear while he remained in the U.S.

Updates at www.bendermandefense.org.

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FUTURE ACTIONS

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

Contact a joyful form from PO Box 12, Duluth, MN 55801, www.bendermandefense.org or call Michael, 218-724-7085 or Eric, 202-234-3440.

charged with desertion and missing military time, and donations can be sent to Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Road NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370, 360-779-4672, info@szcenter.org


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THE NUCLEAR RESISTER
WRITINGS FROM JAIL

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 shield, 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, computeros, here I will rid myself of that which will never serve me and strengthen my spirit. I will make of this a fruitful experience that will allow me to graduate with honors 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 Marri 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.]