

the Nuclear Resister

"A Chronicle of Hope"

No. 140

February 12, 2006

ST. PATRICK'S FOUR SENT TO PRISON

Four New York anti-war activists, all long involved with the Catholic Worker movement, are now serving four to eight months in federal prison for their March 17, 2003 protest at an Ithaca military recruiting station.

The St. Patrick's Four - Peter DeMott, Daniel Burns, and sisters Clare Grady and Teresa Grady - were sentenced individually during the last week of January before Federal Judge Thomas McAvoy in Binghamton.

First tried in state court in April 2004, the four persuasively defended their dramatic act of pouring blood around an entryway and then praying for peace, as an honorable and necessary nonviolent action against the imminent war. Nine of twelve peers agreed and the jury hung. Nine months later, the federal government stepped in to prosecute, adding felony conspiracy to charges of trespass and damage to property. Last fall, the federal jury dismissed the conspiracy rap but found the Four guilty on the lesser charges.

Daniel Burns stood before the judge first, on January 23. He was sentenced to six months in prison for each charge, to be served concurrently. He was also fined \$250 for contempt of court. Under oath, Burns had refused to identify who helped draw blood for the action, and persisted to speak of international law and its application to their case under Article VI of the Constitution.

Burns questioned the credibility of the federal prosecutor, whose one-note harp whined only about the defendants' lack of contrition for disrespecting the law. It is hypocritical for the government to take such offense, he explained, while evading the laws against limitless detentions and torture at Guantanamo Bay, and endorsing the warrantless surveillance of Americans.

In December, Burns and the two Grady sisters were among two dozen Catholic Workers engaged in the "Witness Against Torture" with a march through Cuba to visit the prisoners at Guantanamo. Denied a visit, the group fasted and vigiled at the gate for four days before returning to the United States. [see related story, page 2]

The next day, Peter DeMott was sentenced to eight months in custody - four months in federal prison followed by four months in "community confinement." It would all have been served in prison, but the judge acknowledged the hardship DeMott's imprisonment will cause for his brother Fr. Steve DeMott, a Maryknoll Missioner who is battling terminal brain cancer. Peter is Steve's health care proxy. DeMott was also fined \$250 for contempt, because he tried to tell the jury about their state court trial, and refused to say who might have helped their action.

CODEPINK Co-founder Jailed in Texas

On the evening of December 5, Republicans gathered at a Houston hotel to raise money for the party. While CODEPINK activists organized a large and spirited protest outside, Diane Wilson, a cofounder of the group and author of *An Unreasonable Woman*, infiltrated the GOP ranks. When Vice President Cheney took the stage, Wilson, who has been jailed numerous times for her activism against corporate polluters and the Iraq war, was only about 20 feet away. She stood and opened up her black velvet wrap, stretched out her arms and revealed a large banner which read "Corporate Greed Kills - From Bhopal to Baghdad."

As Wilson began to chant the slogan, she was assailed by a few rude Republicans until police dragged her out and arrested her. Her bail was posted a couple of days later, but she was kept in custody to serve a 150 day sentence for an old protest in a different Texas county.

In 2002, Wilson was convicted of trespass for hanging a banner reading "Justice for Bhopal" from a



The St. Patrick's Four (l-r): Danny Burns, Peter DeMott, Teresa Grady, Clare Grady

Clare Grady was sentenced to six months in prison on January 25. In her brief allocution, she corrected the prosecutor's description of the 1983 Griffiss Plowshares direct disarmament group, which she was a part of, as "terrorists". They had simply taken household hammers to the side of a B-52 nuclear bomber, and their federal trial judge said the group was "no more terrorists than my mother."

On the 27th, Teresa Grady was sentenced to four months, and fined \$150 for contempt of court. She had also tried to tell the federal jury about their state court trial.

Each of the four was also ordered to pay a quarter of \$958 restitution, and taken into custody immediately.

Excerpts from Peter DeMott's sentencing statement can be found on page 2.

For more information, visit stpatricksfour.org or email info@stpatricksfour.org



The convicted activists all have children, so a family support fund has been established. Small monthly pledges are especially sought, to share the support, and any donations should be made payable to Ithaca Catholic Worker with notation for "St. Patrick's Four" or "SP4", and sent to POB 293, Ithaca, NY, 14851.

Letters of support can be sent to the jail addresses on page 3. The prisoners may be moved before completing their sentence. Returned letters can be sent to the above address for forwarding.

Dow Chemical plant tower. She had promised to turn herself in only when Warren Anderson, the Union Carbide CEO responsible for the disaster, surrenders to authorities in India, where he skipped \$5 million bail on culpable homicide charges. (Union Carbide is now a subsidiary of Dow).

When her current sentence is concluded March 18, Wilson will return to face prosecution for the Houston arrest.

For more information, visit codepink4peace.org



Letters of support should be sent to Sylvia Diane Wilson CR#65510, Victoria County Jail (Calhoun County inmate), 101 N. Glass, Victoria, TX 77901.

Three Dozen Jailed

Record Numbers at SOA Vigil

Good reason for participating in the annual School of the Americas Watch vigil at Fort Benning, Georgia, is never far away.

In November, 2005, Brigida Gonzalez de Cartagena, a member of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó in Colombia, joined 19,000 people who rallied to "Close the SOA!"

Last winter, eight members of the Peace Community - including three young children - had been brutally massacred. Witnesses identified the killers as members of the Colombian military's 17th Brigade, a unit commanded by a School of the Americas (SOA) graduate.

As the extended weekend of events was getting started, more sad news was received from the San José community. On Thursday, the 17th, troops commanded by General Luis Alfonso Zapata Uribe, a graduate of the SOA, attacked and killed Arlen Salas David, a community leader. Continuing death threats into December prompted a public plea for international solidarity.

Colombia continues to send more soldiers to the SOA than any other country, and with chilling results. More than 10,000 Colombian soldiers have been trained at the SOA/WHINSEC. (A 1999 name change dumped the apt School of Assassins acronym for the present Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation.)

Graduates of the school are consistently cited for human rights abuses in their home countries. The U.S. is an active contributor to the war in Colombia, providing billions in military aid and training to the Colombian military.

The annual presence at Ft. Benning began in November 1990, one year after the massacre by SOA grads in El Salvador of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and the housekeeper's daughter. In 2005, all 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the country were represented among more than 2,500 participants in the Ignatian Family Teach-In. The Teach-In is now a regular companion to the SOA vigil that provides an opportunity for high school and college students to "connect with their faith through education, liturgy, and nonviolent protest."

On this foundation of faith-based participation, SOA Watch has strived to integrate other threads of contemporary nonviolent resistance - for example, against corporate globalization and the so-called "war on terror" - into the annual protest which has as its principal demand to close the SOA. Educational programs on many topics, network and caucusing opportunities, nonviolent action trainings, shared meals and worship all occupied the schedule for several days preceding Saturday's mass legal rally.

On Sunday the 20th, a record number of vigilers took part in a symbolic funeral procession to the base. It's become a dramatic tradition, featuring costumes, coffins, mourners, music and the mass invocation of the names of victims of SOA grads. They were blocked at the Ft. Benning gate by barbed wire fences, yet many were undeterred.

Forty-one people were arrested during and after the procession. Thirty-seven face a federal charge of trespass for breaching the fence. Liam O'Reilly and Jonathan Robert were charged for making a few slits in the canvas covering that obscured supporters' view of the arrests. Ken Crowley was charged with helping another get under the fence. One person, Ed Lewinson, 73, a retired professor, crossed onto the base for a third time. Again this year, Lewinson was not charged, presumably because he is blind.

Three of the arrests occurred when police moved aggressively to break up a Sunday evening solidarity vigil outside the Muscogee County Jail. Donna Coustantineau, Wendy Dwyer and Mike Murphy were arrested by Columbus City police and held overnight in jail, found guilty of "failure to disperse," and sentenced

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EXCERPTS FROM PETER DEMOTT'S SENTENCING STATEMENT

I would like to begin my remarks by observing a moment of silence to honor the dead of the war in Iraq, the 2300 or so United States military and coalition personnel who have died as well as the tens of thousands of Iraqis who have been slaughtered, ninety percent of them civilians, thirty or so percent of that number innocent children.

I was present in this courtroom yesterday morning in solidarity with my friend Danny Burns. While here I heard Mr. Lovric characterize Danny, Clare, Teresa and myself as arrogant, as people entirely lacking any respect for the law, and, yet more reprehensible to Mr. Lovric's way of thinking, completely devoid of any sense of remorse or contrition for what we have done.

And what have we done? What acts have brought us to this court? Out of what context did they arise?

In the months leading up to the war, hundreds of thousands of people, in fact millions of people in different cities and towns around the world, turned out to protest against this war. Some of the largest anti-war protests in human history took place to voice opposition to what everyone knew would be a bloodbath of gruesome proportions. Our act of civil disobedience was not the only one of its kind. Many others came from their communities of concern to say "NO!" to the war. . .

Our peaceful, nonviolent protest helps to make up part of the rich history of civil disobedience which has been a central element of the American democratic process from its very beginning. On December 16, 1773, American colonists boarded ships in Boston Harbor and destroyed large quantities of tea to voice their opposition to injustices perpetrated by the English Parliament. During the nineteenth century right up to the Civil War, people of conscience helped African slaves escape from bondage, in some cases smuggling them into Canada - all in direct violation of the laws of that benighted era when slavery was legal, proper and part of the status quo. In 1920, with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution women in this country finally secured the right to vote - but only after many of them engaged in civil disobedience protesting this injustice by chaining themselves to the fence in front of the White House, among other principled and impassioned activities. Throughout the 1950's and 60's, Martin Luther King, Jr. led many justice-seeking people to violate the

laws which protected and enforced segregation and effectively relegated African-Americans to the status of second class citizens. These few examples could be amplified considerably to show that civil disobedience has helped to change unjust laws and practices in our country, and has played a significant role in the realization of a more just and equitable society. . .

I look forward to the day when President Bush, Vice President Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Condoleeza Rice, Colin Powell and their associates stand trial and are held accountable for the crime of the genocidal war on Iraq, a war begun by the current president's father and prosecuted further by the Clinton administration with its sanctions and its bombings. The war on Iraq is THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY, and President Bush and those who have aided and abetted him have gotten away with murder. . .

The fact that our government can wantonly and blatantly contaminate and irradiate the Iraqi landscape with highly toxic carcinogens should shock and alarm each and every one of us. I know first hand (as do probably many people in this courtroom) from having lost my father and my sister Mary to cancer, and from having two brothers who currently battle some of the worst kinds of cancer, how devastating this illness can be - and yet the war spreads and promotes cancer on a massive scale. What greater possible crime against humanity?

Danny, Clare, Teresa and I took our action from a place of humility. Humility comes from the Latin word humus meaning earth or soil. Humility implies a recognition of one's status as a creature and of one's connection to and inter-relatedness with the web of life, with other human beings and with the earth. We identify with the victims of war-making and we attempt, admittedly with clumsy grace, to speak on their behalf.

The law should promote life and the well-being of everyone and should preserve and protect the earth and its creatures. In a democracy we need to be vigilant in insuring that our leaders not abuse the law. It is the responsibility of each and every one of us to nonviolently confront those who break the law with impunity, which is what our leaders have done through their use of lies and deceptions and forgeries to promote and prosecute this war. . .



Prosecution of Gitmo Marchers Begins

Seven people affiliated with Witness Against Torture were recently served papers by the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, demanding answers to questions about their travel to Cuba last December. The group marched for more than 75 miles to the Guantánamo Detention Facility, hoping to meet with prisoners and guards there. As the U.S. prohibits travel to Cuba, all 24 Witness Against Torture members risk a maximum of 10 years in prison or a \$25,000 fine for their actions to bring attention to U.S. practices in Guantánamo.

Upon return to the U.S. all members of the group openly shared that they had been to Cuba and gave their names and addresses to Customs officials. Despite this high level of openness, the U.S. Treasury Department sent letters of inquiry to individuals who were not even on the trip.

Witness Against Torture member Gary Ashbeck, of Baltimore's Jonah House community, reflects, "We gave U.S. customs all the current information on our group and they were still not able to accurately account for who travelled. It seems that despite all their new methods of spying on U.S. citizens, our government has a very flawed intelligence program. It makes us wonder how good the intelligence is on the cases of those who are imprisoned at Guantánamo. Do they even know who is imprisoned there?"

For more information, contact press@witnessstore.org or call (347)683-4928.

the Nuclear Resister

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YOU CAN HELP!

Please send news, updates and donations! Mail us (or e-mail or phone) new action reports, updates, jail information, statements, graphics and clippings about local actions. Thanks!

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Please inquire about multiple copies of the current issue for free distribution at conferences, workshops, trainings, etc.

THE NUCLEAR RESISTER ON MICROFILM

The Nuclear Resister is available on microfilm as part of the Alternative Press 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.

ABOUT THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

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

The Nuclear Resister is published about every 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.

Jack and Felice Cohen-Joppa, Editors

Thanks

Thanks to Tom, Nancy, Racheli, and Cathy for helping to mail the last issue!

Cops Assault Woman Posting Flyers

Carol Fisher, 55, works on the staff of Revolution Books in Cleveland, Ohio. On a sunny Saturday afternoon, January 28, she was putting up posters on telephone poles along a major thoroughfare in Cleveland Heights. The bold letters declared "Bush Step Down!" and invited people to a Drown Out the State of the Union event and to a march on the White House, February 4. The events are all part of the World Can't Wait campaign initiated by the Revolutionary Communist Party, critical of Bush's warmaking abroad and war on the poor at home.

Police hailed her from across the street, threatening a hundred dollar fine for posting. Not wanting to risk arrest, she put away her staple gun. But police continued to hound her - "Hundred dollar fine if you don't

take them down!"

"OK," replied Fisher, and before she could comply, a cop crossed the street and demanded her ID. She replied that she did not have any with her. The officer grabbed her arm, and as Fisher called out to bystanders, he pushed her face down onto the sidewalk, and with other cops, roughly subdued her. Fisher was handcuffed behind her back, her legs shackled, and taken to the hospital for first aid. After several hours in custody and in interview with a psychiatrist, Fisher was charged with two counts of felony assault and released on her own recognizance.

For more information contact Cleveland@worldcantwait.org, 216-633-6200.

Feast of Holy Innocents Actions

Four mid-westerners will be in federal court in Omaha later this month to answer to charges of trespass at Offutt Air Force Base last December 28. Offutt is the home to the U.S. Strategic Command, responsible for targeting nuclear weapons. Frank Cordaro and Renee Espeland of Des Moines, Iowa, will be arraigned February 24, then Paul Gallagher, of Danville, Illinois, and Fr. Jack McCaslin, of Omaha, Nebraska on February 28.

At the end of the 26th annual Faith and Resistance retreat on the Feast of the Holy Innocents, the four walked down the entry road with their banner that read, "HEROD KILLED THE INFANTS, STRATCOM WOULD KILL THE WORLD - CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS, SHUT DOWN STRATCOM". Herod notoriously ordered the slaughter of infants, fearing the power of the prophesied Christ.

After a brief discussion with Air Force security between the bars of a large, closed gate, and disregarding a trespass warning, Cordaro reached through and unlatched it. The four walked in and were immediately arrested. Cordaro and McCaslin, both previously barred from the base, were initially cited for trespass by Sarpy County, while Espeland and Gallagher were given ban and bar letters. Sarpy County dropped its case when the federal indictment came down.

Another annual Feast of the Innocents Faith and Resistance retreat in Washington, D.C., included nonviolent direct actions at centers of military, political, and economic power. Early on the morning of the 28th, about sixty people arrived at the Pentagon. Two hung a banner from the south pedestrian entry ramp, and eight blocked the entrance before being forcibly removed and shuffled down the stairs without arrest. There they joined the others for readings, song and leafletting.

The next day in front of the White House, six people dressed in orange jump suits and black hoods were tied up to the fence or hog-tied on the ground. A seventh took the infamous position on the box, hooded and draped in black with wires coming from her body. Testimony from torture victims was read, and a call made for an end to all forms of torture. Ten people were arrested for refusing to leave the area restricted for photography. Their first court date is March 15.

Street theater in front of the new International Monetary Fund building combined solid political analysis with humor to expose some of the IMF policies, but no one was arrested.

For more information, contact the Des Moines Catholic Worker, POB 4551, Des Moines, IA 50306, frank.cordaro@gmail.com, and Jonah House, 1301 Moreland, Baltimore, MD 21217, disarmnow@verizon.net

Arrests Honor King

Every year, opponents of nuclear weapons in Pennsylvania and Washington engage in civil disobedience on Martin Luther King Day.

About 75 people gathered on January 16 in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, outside Lockheed-Martin, the Iraq War #1 Profiteer, world's largest weapons corporation, and the U.S. chief nuclear weapons and Star Wars contractor. Honoring King's message of nonviolent resistance to war, 16 were arrested when they walked onto the site at the conclusion of a memorial program. They were cited for trespass and released.

In Bangor, Washington, seventeen people were arrested at the gate of the Naval Submarine Base that's home to most of the fleet of Trident nuclear ballistic missile submarines. From a group of 85 demonstrators, a replica of a bus moved out to block the highway, bearing words to honor Rosa Parks: "Dare to Create a Nonviolent World". Ten people were hauled off with the bus, and six more renewed the blockade with a long banner inscribed with quotations from Dr. King. They were arrested as well, by Kitsap County sheriff's deputies. They were booked and released later in Port Orchard.

One man attempted to deliver a message to the base commander, and was arrested on Navy property. He was given a letter barring future entry on the base and cited for trespass. The trespass charge was later withdrawn, reflecting a policy to bar first, then prosecute only those who reenter.

The future of the Kitsap County arrests is uncertain. In December, four of the nineteen people arrested at Bangor last August 8 were arraigned on a charge of failure to disperse. It's the first county prosecution of Bangor resisters since February, 2000, when the county failed for the third time in row to win a conviction from a judge or jury. The testimony and verdicts established that people arrested at Bangor have the legal right to redress grievances under International and U.S. law with nonviolent direct action.

The prosecution is only pursuing the four defendants who live in Olympia. According to the prosecutor, such a selective pursuit of justice makes sense because the four live close together and the court just couldn't handle 19 defendants at once. A trial date has not been set.

(See Future Actions, page 7, for contact info for these groups.)

War Tax Resisters In and Out of Prison

Inge Donato was released from federal prison on February 6, after serving six months for refusing to pay taxes for war. Donato, her husband Joseph Donato, and Kevin McKee were convicted last summer of multiple counts of felony conspiracy to defraud the government and attempted tax evasion. All are members of the Restored Israel of YAHWEH (RIOY), a small pacifist bible-study group based in New Jersey whose members have long refused to pay for war.

"We would always have gladly paid our full share of taxes if only the government could assure us that the amount we paid would not go to fund war making," said Joseph Donato. "The lack of any provision like that forced us to either violate our religion or risk being branded as criminals. At that point, we saw no choice but to honor our beliefs."

As we go to press on February 13, Kevin McKee is to turn himself in to the federal prison in Minersville, Pennsylvania, to begin serving a 24-month sentence. Joseph Donato will report to the federal prison in Fairton, New Jersey on February 21 to serve a 27-month sentence. Both have asked to remain free on bail pending appeal, but the court has not responded. Although their sentences were at the minimum recommended by federal guidelines, they are the longest prison terms given to conscientious objectors to military taxation in at least 60 years, according to the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund.



Because their prison residence is not yet confirmed, letters of support for Joseph Donato and Kevin McKee may be sent to them c/o RIOY, POB 801, Mays Landing, NJ 08330.

Felony Charges for Anti-War Graffiti

A former Toledo city councilman, Mike Ferner, and his brother John were arrested on New Year's Day after painting "TROOPS OUT NOW!" on three overpasses to I-475. Sylvania Township police arrested the brothers near the Central Avenue overpass and confiscated a can of fluorescent orange spray paint from John Ferner's truck. The brothers were charged in Maumee Township as well, because the three overpasses were in both townships.

They both pled guilty to criminal damage in Maumee, and agreed to pay restitution of about \$1,200. In return, felony charges of vandalism and possession of criminal tools were dropped. Sentencing is set for February 17.

Wausau Tank Sit

Vietnam veteran Wayne Olson was arrested for trespass in July, 2005 as he sat atop a decommissioned tank in front of the Wisconsin National Guard armory in Wausau. He held a Veterans for Peace flag and from the big gun barrel he hung a sign quoting Gandhi: "In nonviolence the bravery consists in dying, not in killing."

At his November trial, testimony revealed that four squad cars responded to the complaint from an off-duty guardsman, and that Olson was threatened with a taser (electric stun gun) if he did not come down. Olson told police he intended to stay for two hours, then leave. With 20 minutes remaining, police cuffed him and hauled him down to the station. Outraged by their threats and annoyed with the impatience of police, the judge found Olson guilty, but fined him only one dollar.

In Sylvania Township, John Ferner pled no contest to criminal damage and will be sentenced May 18. Mike Ferner's case was been referred to a grand jury and he has been charged with two felonies: vandalism and felony possession of criminal tools (the spray paint). A trial date has not been set.

For more information, email mike.ferner@sbc-global.net

6 MONTHS FOR RECRUITING CENTER ARSON

The federal judge called it "the most extraordinary plea bargain" he had ever seen, and David Segal also credited his attorney, National Lawyers Guild New York chapter president Martin Stolar for the six month prison term he received January 5 in New York. Segal will turn himself in on March 13 to do the time for his attempt to torch a Bronx military recruiting station in January, 2005. He pled guilty to malicious mischief, and had also been ordered to serve four months house arrest as part of a three-year supervised release program that includes weekly visits to a counselor, payment of \$4,500 in fines, and 150 hours community service. The counselor was mandated because a 15-minute psychiatric evaluation found him to be "anti-social" because he did not believe what he did was wrong.

For more information, visit www.supportdavidsegal.com.

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:

Helen Woodson 03231-045 (106 months - in 3/11/04) FMC Carswell, Max Unit, POB 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127. (Parole violation with anti-war protest at the federal courthouse, Kansas City, Missouri, 3/11/04)

Leonard Peltier 89637-132 (life) USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837. (Native American political prisoner)

NUCLEAR RESISTERS OVERSEAS:

Turi Vaccaro (pending deportation from Holland) c/o For Mother Earth, Maria Hendrikaplein5, 9000 Gent, Belgium.

(Plowshares disarmament of F-16 nuclear bombers, Woensdrecht AFB, 8/10/05 - held pending deportation to native Italy after six-month sentence)

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)

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE ARE NOW IN PRISON FOR ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIVITIES

Clare Grady (six months)
Teresa Grady (four months)
Broome County Jail, POB 2047, Binghamton, NY.13902.
Daniel Burns 13182-052 (four months)
MDC Brooklyn, POB 329002, Brooklyn, NY 11232.
Peter DeMott (eight months; four in jail, four in half-way house)
Onandaga County Department of Corrections, POB 143, Jamesville, NY 13078.
(St. Patrick's Four blood-pouring action at military recruiting center, 3/17/03)

Sylvia Diane Wilson CR#65510 (150 days - out 3/18/06)
Victoria County Jail (Calhoun County inmate), 101 N. Glass, Victoria, TX 77901.
(Arrested for anti-war heckling of VP Cheney 12/5/05; held to serve time for environmental banner-hanging)
Ayman Jarwan 11920-052 (18 months - out 12/25/06)
FCI Allenwood (Low), POB 1500, White Deer, PA 17887.
Rafil Dhafir 11921-052 (22 years - out 4/26/22)
FCI-Fairton, POB 420, Fairton, NJ 08320.
(Convictions resulting from providing humanitarian and financial aid to Iraqis in violation of U.S. sanctions, 2/05)
Brendan Walsh 12473-052 (five years - out 7/15/08)
FCI Elkton, POB 10, Lisbon, OH 44432.
(Arson at military recruiting station, 4/02)



Laro Nicol 80430-008 (2 years - out 6/15/06)
FCI Safford, POB 9000, Safford, AZ 85548.
(Human rights and anti-war activist framed on firearms and explosives charges, plead no contest to avoid longer term, 9/04)

SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS WATCH

Christine Gaunt, #91356-020 (six months)
FCI Pekin Satellite Camp, POB 5000, Pekin, IL 61555.
Donald W. Nelson #92559-020 (three months)
FCI Memphis, Satellite Camp, POB 2000, Millington, TN 38083.
Fr. Louis Vitale (six months)
Crisp County Jail, 196 South Highway 300, Cordele, GA 31015.
(Trespass at the School of the Americas, Ft. Benning, Georgia, 11/05)
Jonathan Robert (awaiting sentencing and other pending charges)
Muscogee County Jail, 700 10th St., Columbus, GA, 31901-2899.
(Destruction of government property at the School of the Americas, Ft. Benning, Georgia, 11/05; Bail refused due to local arrest-related misdemeanors and one federal charge of making a threatening communication)

VIEQUES

José Pérez González 21519-069 (5 years - out 1/17/08)
FCI Yazoo City Medium, POB 5888, Yazoo City, MS 39194.
(Conspiracy, damage to federal property, &/or probation violation 5/1/03 - resisting U.S. military bombardment of Vieques, Puerto Rico)

MILITARY REFUSERS

Pvt. Neil Quentin Lucas (13 months - out 8/22/06)
Building 1490, Randolph Rd., Fort Sill, OK 73503.
(Refused to deploy after CO claim is ignored; court martialled 6/22/05)
Sgt. Kevin Benderman (15 months - in 7/29/05)
c/o Benderman Defense, POB 2322, Hinesville, GA 31310.
(Career Army NCO denied CO status, convicted of missing movement to Iraq, 7/29/05)
PREVIOUSLY LISTED, RECENTLY RELEASED
Michael D. Poulin, Ardeth Platte, Milan Rai, Jerry Texiero, José Vélez Acosta, Inge Donato
Letter writers are reminded to include their return address on the letter as well as the envelope, because some prisoners are not permitted to keep the envelope.

SOA Vigil, cont.

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to time served plus a \$200 fine.

The 37 arrested near the gate were also held overnight. At the federal arraignments Monday, two people pled guilty to trespass and were sentenced immediately. Christine Gaunt of Grinnell, Iowa, who previously served a three month sentence for an SOA action, was sentenced to six months and remained in custody. Don Nelson of Summertown, Tennessee was sentenced to three months in prison, and, as promised, turned himself in to the federal prison in Memphis on January 17.

Three others - Priscilla Treska of Ohio, Fr. Louis Vitale of California and Fr. Jerry Zawada of Indiana - opted not to post bond but to remain in custody awaiting their January trials.

When Judge Faircloth asked why Treska was refusing to post bail, the mother of 15 said, "Because I don't want to be part of a system that punishes poor people" - who can't make bail. He replied, "But you are part of the system just for standing here in front of me." "No, your honor," she told him. "You can force me to go to jail, but you can't force me to pay bail." On January 30, Treska was sentenced to time served and released from the Muscogee County Jail.

Zawada posted bond in late January to join his codefendants preparing for trial. He will self-report to serve the remainder of his sentence.

Jonathan Robert has also been jailed since November 20 on other protest charges unrelated to the SOA Watch vigil.

Robert and Liam O'Reilly did not cross the line, but both allegedly cut one or more small slits in the canvas covering the first line of fences, to help observe the arrests. In front of Federal Judge Clay Land, both men pled guilty in early February to destruction of government property. O'Reilly was sentenced to 90 days in prison and a \$250 fine. He will self-report to prison.

Robert will be sentenced later. He is also charged in city court related to his arrest, and served ten days of his jail time upon conviction for concealing a weapon - the multi-tool knife alleged to have cut the tarp.

Jonathan Robert has also been arraigned on a more serious charge, 18 U.S.C. 844(e), using mail or telephone to make a threat of fire or explosive. He stands accused of making a telephone threat to a hotel that was hosting the G8 summit in Sea Island, Georgia, in 2004. This charge carries a maximum sentence of 10 years, and he has been denied bail due to the pending state and federal charges.

Federal trials occurred during the week of January 30 in Columbus, Georgia. Over four days, Judge Mallon Faircloth sentenced 32 people to serve from one to six months in prison. Two of the group are over 80 years old; one is 19. A complete list of those arrested and their sentence concludes this report. Those who were ordered will turn themselves in to a designated prison within the next several weeks.

"For eight years, I have been studying this issue and listening to the stories of those most affected by the School of the Americas," said Delmar Schwaller, an 81-year-old World War II veteran and active community volunteer sentenced to two months in prison. "My prison sentence doesn't change my feelings about my action. I know this was the right thing to do."

The sentences came less than a week after a military jury in Colorado decided not to jail an Army interrogator even though they found him guilty of negligent homicide in the torture and killing of an Iraqi detainee.

Beyond that irony, the federal response to nonviolent action at Ft. Benning was ratcheted up this year. Volunteer attorneys not licensed in Georgia had to pay a \$100 fee for each defendant they represented. Presentencing investigations (PSIs) were not conducted while the defendants were present for trial, as in the past. Absent the PSI, entry into the general prison population is complicated.

But a more strategic concern was expressed by SOA events and outreach coordinator Eric LeCompte, reflecting on the week of trials and sentencings. In a February 7 email to other activists, he writes:

"Columbus police at the vigil took Ken [Crowley], the delegations coordinator for Witness for Peace and a former prisoner of conscience, into custody after military police allegedly saw him lifting the Fort Benning fence as people crawled under... [T]he military police ... charged him with 'aiding and abetting.' The close relationship of civilian police and the military is in itself concerning, but the charge and what happened to Ken is where my concern currently focuses.

"Ken was found guilty and received six months in federal prison and a \$1000 fine. The way the law reads, someone can be found guilty of 'aiding and abetting' if they [in] some way support the action. A person does not

need to be present at the action to receive this charge. Ken had wondered if he was a test case, because it seems possible that others in our movement could receive similar charges. Now the government knows they can use this charge against us and the judge will give the maximum prison sentence. We sensed for some time that the government has attempted to piece together a conspiracy case against SOA Watch, but the 'aiding and abetting' charge doesn't seem to carry the burden of proof that a conspiracy charge would carry... It's clear the closer we get to winning, the nastier they get."

Since protests against the SOA/WHINSEC began, at least 183 people have served a total of over 81 years in prison for engaging in nonviolent resistance in the broad-based campaign to close the school.

For more information, contact SOA Watch, POB 4566, Washington, D.C. 20017, (202)234-3440. Visit www.soaw.org for updated information on campaign prisoner status.



In addition to sending them letters of support, the activists ask you to urge your Congressperson to support passage of HR 1217, a bill to suspend operations at WHINSEC and to investigate the development and use of the "torture manuals." Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA) introduced the bill, which now has at least 123 bipartisan co-sponsors.

Letters of support should be sent to Christine Gaunt, #91356-020, FCI Pekin Satellite Camp, POB 5000, Pekin, IL 61555; Donald W. Nelson #92559-020, FCI Memphis, Satellite Camp, POB 2000, Millington, TN 38083; Louis Vitale, Crisp County Jail, 196 South Highway 300, Cordele, GA 31015; Jonathan Robert, Muscogee County Jail, 700 10th St., Columbus, GA, 31901-2899.

Particular support for Jonathan Robert as he faces the G8 related charge is being coordinated via support-jonathan@mutualaid.org

Following is a full list of the 2005 SOA defendants and their legal status.

Sentenced to one month in prison:

Anika Cunningham, 26, Bowling Green, OH (+\$500 fine)

Sentenced to two months in prison:

Joanne Cowan, 56, Boulder, CO
Sam Foster, 70, Minneapolis, MN (+\$500 fine)
Michael Gayman, 26, Davenport, IA (+\$500 fine)
Rita Hohenshell, 81, Des Moines, IA
Dorothy Parker, 76, Chico, CA
Judith Ruland, 47, Springfield, MA (+\$500 fine)
Delmar Schwaller, 81, Appleton, WI

Sentenced to three months in prison:

Buddy Bell, 23, Chicago, IL (+\$500 fine)
Fred Brancel, 79, Madison, WI (+\$500 fine)
Robert Call, 72, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ
Stephen Clemens, 55, Minneapolis, MN (+\$500 fine)
Scott Dempsky, 30, Denmark, WI (+\$500 fine)
Joe DeRaymond, 55, Freemansburg, PA (+\$500 fine)
Sarah Harper, 36, Emeryville, CA (+\$500 fine)
Robin Lloyd, 67, Burlington, VT (+\$500 fine)
Linda Mashburn, 63, Brevard, NC (+\$500 fine)
Liam O'Reilly, 22, Portland, ME (+\$250 fine)
Gail Phares, 66, Raleigh, NC
Donte Smith, 19, Washington, DC (+\$500 fine)
Cheryl Sommers, 68, Berkeley, CA (+\$500 fine)
David Sylvester, 54, Oakland, CA (+\$1,000 fine)
Frank Woolever, 72, Syracuse, NY

Sentenced to 162 days in prison:

Fr. Louis Vitale, 73, San Francisco, CA
Sentenced to six months in prison:
Ken Crowley, Washington, DC (+\$1,000 fine)
Jane Hosking, 37, Luck, WI (+\$1,000 fine)
John LaForge, 41, Luck, WI (+\$1,000 fine)
Sr. Mary Dennis Lentsch, 69, Oak Ridge, TN
Edward "Naed" Smith, 38, Harrisburg, PA
Fr. Jerome Zawada, 68, Cedar Lake, IN
Sentenced to 12 months probation:
Jamie Walters, 41, Columbia, MO (+\$1,000 fine)
Sentenced to time served (after 72 days in county jail):
Priscilla Treska, 66, Cleveland, OH

Awaiting sentencing:

Charles Carney, 47, Kansas City, KS
Jonathan Robert, GA

Convicted in November at arraignment, currently serving sentences:

Christine Gaunt, Grinnell, IA, six months
Don Nelson, Summertown, TN, 90 days

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

THE INSIDE LINE



~from Muscogee County Jail

December, 2005

The 15th annual School of the Americas gathering at Ft. Benning this November was larger than ever - 19,000+ and included more young people than ever. Although the focus continues to be closing the School of the Americas (renamed WHINSEC), the event included a broader range of issues, particularly ending the war in Iraq and raising awareness about various forms of injustice and oppression. We are not only concerned about U.S. teaching "torture" and "interrogation" and such methods of intimidation in Latin America, but also the involvement of the U.S. in torture at places like Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo Bay, and other locales in the Middle East and throughout the world. Sr. Helen Prejean reminded us of the "torture of the death penalty," while others spoke of human trafficking, especially of women and children for sexual and economic exploitation. In personal and public testimonies, we heard of the growing disparity of the very rich who place the world in peril for corporate and personal greed, and the desperately poor struggling to survive. Our special role (as representatives of Nevada Desert Experience - NDE) was to underscore the "muscle" for global domination that underlies "superpower might" through the reckless, world-threatening expansion of nuclear weapons by the U.S.

In our NDE special workshop we explored the connections between the SOA and the nuclear threat. Later, at a panel discussion, the above concerns were reiterated in plenary. Medea Benjamin opened with a view of the progress being made to stop the School of the Americas and the growing solidarity in world-wide movements for justice and peace. We closed with an energizing call to direct the growing nonviolence movement. We called for the closure of SOA/WHINSEC in 2006 and the end of the Iraq War along with a world-wide shut-down of nuclear domination, localized domination by torture anywhere, exploitation of the vulnerable and the taking of lives "to save lives."

The net result is that our efforts are succeeding. Though we could be on the verge of global annihilation, we are on a course to transform this possibility into the dawn of a "new creation" where peace, justice and integrity of all creation are on the horizon. The persistence of "old warriors" still marching in procession and crawling under the fence and the growing life force of the youth signals to all of us a new hope not yet experienced for sometime - "nosotros venceremos" - "we shall overcome."

Fr. Louis Vitale, OFM and Fr. Jerry Zawada, OFM
[Frs. Louis Vitale and Jerry Zawada, OFM, refused to post bail following their arrest last November at Fort Benning. Reprinted from NDE's newsletter Desert Voices, January 2006.]

ONE AWOL OBJECTOR FREED, ANOTHER JAILED

Vietnam-era military refuser Jerry Texiero was finally discharged from the United States Marine Corps on January 20. After four months of solitary confinement in Florida, and a month in the brig at Camp LeJeune, a final flurry of allegations and countercharges flew around his case before he was granted a separation in lieu of trial (SILT), and an other-than-honorable discharge for desertion. Texiero is now back in Florida, recovering health lost while in prison, and seeking dismissal of a state charge for living as "Jerry Conti" since the 1970s.

With Texiero in their custody, the Marines stalled and kept changing their story about how they intended to handle his case. Attorneys Tod Ensign and Louis Font of Citizen Soldier, a G.I. rights advocacy group, held a press conference January 4 in Jacksonville, North Carolina, just outside Camp LeJeune. Hoping to speed resolution of the case by raising its profile, they charged the Marines were holding a man ten years too old to law-

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Calling on Congress

Over the last 15 months, anti-war activists in Maine have promoted a "Frequent Visitor Program" to Maine's congressional delegation. In small groups they drop into the district offices seeking first private, then public meetings on the war, and an opportunity for the voice of opposition to the war to be heard directly, even if the solon's position is not changed. Sit-ins have evolved into solemn, dramatic readings of the names of U.S. and Iraqi war dead, sure to put the brake on office efficiency. Two Representatives have agreed to hold town meetings.

On December 15, nearly one hundred activists rallied outside the Bangor office of Sen. Olympia Snowe to deliver another letter, signed by over 440 constituents, requesting a town meeting on the Iraq War. The office manager was hardly accommodating, and Bruce Gagnon literally put his foot in the door to make sure he and Pat Wheeler could get in and try to communicate their request. Other supporters sat in the hallway until police came and eventually arrested 19 people. All but one were released on bond that evening. Jim Harney was released the next day on his own recognizance. Trial is pending. For more information, contact Bruce Gagnon at (207)729-0517, globalnet@mindspring.com

Next door in New Hampshire, similar persistence included near-daily drop-ins at the Concord office of Senator Judd Gregg, asking for a public meeting to discuss U.S. policy and an exit strategy from Iraq. On June 2, a fourth written request was delivered, and six people sat-in, waiting for the Senator's response. All were arrested at closing time.

In court February 7, the six argued a defense of competing harms: the loss of life in Iraq vs. the harm of sitting in to seek a public forum with an elected representative. But they were found guilty of criminal trespass. Before imposing and then suspending a \$200 fine, Judge Michael Sullivan called the Concord Six "people of conscience." The judge also agreed with the prosecutor that there is no right under the law to meet directly or face to face with one's elected representatives.

NATIONAL STAND DOWN DAY

More than a dozen cities reported demonstrations at recruiting stations on November 18, National Stand Down Day. The day of action was a project of the Iraq Pledge of Resistance's National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance. Arrests were reported in three cities.

In Eugene, Oregon, dozens of people holding signs with graphic images from the Iraq war surrounded ROTC headquarters on the University of Oregon campus. Seven people were arrested for disorderly conduct, booked at the downtown station and released. Later that morning, the protest converged on an Army recruiting center in west Eugene, where four more people were arrested. One juvenile's charge was dropped, the others were reduced to violations and most have paid a fine or were given community service.

Fifty people shut down a military recruiting center in Lakewood, Colorado, just west of downtown Denver. Police, informed that the demonstration would occur, stationed themselves inside the locked center, while the recruiters themselves had been ordered to physical training for the day. Twelve people were cited for obstruction of passageway and trespass after they refused to quit their blockade. They'll be in court next on February 21.

An hour down the highway in Colorado Springs, three people were arrested for trespass after police were called to a demonstration at the recruiting center near the Air Force Academy. A banner had been hung from the roof and body outlines chalked on the sidewalk.

In northern California, demonstrators at a Eureka recruiting station were joined by Critical Mass cyclists who peddled in from nearby Arcata under the strict eye of the highway patrol and local police. After the cyclists arrived at the demonstration, police issued eleven citations for moving violations alleged to have occurred during the ride.

OTHER RECRUITING PROTESTS

Kansas

Six people closed down a Lawrence, Kansas, army recruiting center on Saturday morning, December 21. Front and back doors were locked shut, with the activists locked on as well. Police responded with eight patrol cars, a van and ambulance, secured the area, ordered the two trios to unlock, and waited. One person was arrested after repeatedly being warned off the parking lot. After a few hours, the blockaders agreed to be

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Sen. Gregg will still not hold a public meeting, so the office visits and written requests have continued. Another eight Peace Action of New Hampshire activists were arrested sitting-in at Gregg's office on December 5. They await trial in March.

Peace Action hopes to widen its campaign and encourage Senator Sununu and New Hampshire's U.S. representatives, Bass and Bradley, to oppose further war funding.

For more information, contact Peace Action of New Hampshire, 4 Park Street, Suite #210, Concord, NH 03301.

In Pennsylvania, nine people from the Lehigh Pocono Committee of Concern (LEPOCO) visited the office of Rep. Charles Dent on January 17 to seek his support for Pennsylvania Rep. John Murtha's bill calling for an immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq. Staff informed them that Dent would likely continue his strong support of Bush's war. The activists presented a petition and various anti-war statements, then began reading from the list of dead soldiers and Iraqi civilians. When they did not stop the reading at 5 pm, police were summoned and the nine were arrested. They were cited for defiant trespass and released at the station. A preliminary hearing will be held in March. For more information, contact LEPOCO, 313 West Fourth Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015, (610)691-8730, lepoco@fast.net

North Texas anti-war activists have asked to meet with Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison for months, to no avail. The last issue of this newsletter carried an incomplete report of one consequence of their effort, noting only the arrest of a constituent, Mary Steffenhagen. Steffenhagen coincidentally stopped by to call on her senator on October 25, just as a small group prayed for peace out in front of the office building. They were asking for a meeting that day on the occasion of the 2,000th U.S. military fatality in Iraq. We wrote that Steffenhagen was stopped and arrested for trespass before she even got near the door of the sealed-off building.

Missing from our report was the fact that Walt Harrison, one of those wanting to talk peace with the Republican lawmaker, was arrested a few minutes later when he did not leave the property as ordered.

Offended by the preemptive arrests and no promise of a meeting, demonstrators returned again the next day, and the next. On the 27th, Nel Labar, Rev. Peter Johnson, and Iman Zacatee Ilddeen were cited for trespass and jailed overnight when they tried to get to Hutchison's office.

Steffenhagen's charges have since been dropped in exchange for her not filing a civil suit for false arrest. The other four cases are pending.

For more information, contact Walt Harrison, (800)490-8161x103, baldeagle152@hotmail.com

THANKSGIVING AT CRAWFORD

When the President spent Thanksgiving at his Crawford, Texas ranchette, protest followed. A neighbor gave pasture space for the temporary peace camp where a large tent was pitched and a banner hung: "No Pardon for Crawford's Turkey."

It was the next chapter in a story that began last August, when Bush was vacationing in Crawford. Cindy Sheehan and others established Camp Casey nearby, a roadside anti-war outpost named for her soldier son killed in Iraq. Since then, McLennan County has prohibited camping and parking on the roadside. A federal lawsuit was filed in mid-November, challenging the ban.

On November 23, a dozen people were arrested after they purposefully defied the new rules and began setting up camp along the road leading to the Bush home. The twelve were cited for trespass and released.

Iraq war vet Charlie Anderson, one of the "Prairie Chapel 12", blogged this update in January:

"It's been nearly two months since that beautiful fall day in the ditch at Camp Casey where we were arrested for living in a ditch and still we have not been charged... We learned this week that the Sheriff's office has still not forwarded our paperwork to the District Attorney! It certainly appears that they do not want to charge us... In any event, the county has two choices: either charge us and let the court decide or leave the light on for us, we'll be back in that ditch for Easter dinner."

For more information, contact the Crawford Peace House, 9142 E. Fifth St., Crawford, TX 76638-3037, (254)486-0099, crawfordpeacehouse.org and visit www.prairiechapel12.org



SHUT DOWN VERMONT YANKEE

From a report by Marcia Gagliardi

Activists who want to shut down the aging Vermont Yankee nuclear power reactor in Vernon have been arrested on three recent occasions. They've brought a series of nonviolent direct actions to the Brattleboro headquarters of Entergy Corporation, owner and operator of the nuke.

Vermont Yankee is a boiling water reactor located in an isolated southeastern corner of Vermont on the Connecticut River, bordering sparsely populated New Hampshire and Massachusetts areas. It has experienced many difficulties over its 33-year history and its owners had agreed to shut it down in 2012, when its 40-year license expired. However, when Entergy bought Vermont Yankee in 2003, the corporation immediately asked for a 20% extended power uprate, additional storage for highly radioactive waste and a 20 year license extension.

Activist communities in Vermont and Massachusetts have repeatedly requested an independent and thorough examination of Vermont Yankee before allowing an uprate and licensing extension. However, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, relying on a routine oversight process for reactors, has established that the plant is well maintained.

After years of futile meetings, secret sessions, and stonewalling by those who are able to require such an independent safety assessment, it seemed unlikely that the concerned citizens will prevail, leading to the direct action campaign.

On November 7, 2005, the Reasonable Women affinity group crossed the line. Seven women from Massachusetts and Vermont were arrested. They were taken to the police station, cited for trespass and released.

Five Massachusetts women in a second affinity group, Shut it Down, were arrested December 5 when police stopped them short of being able to use large padlocks they carried to lock the doors of Entergy's headquarters. They were also cited and released.

Celebrating a forebearer of nonviolent direct action, a third group of eleven women and men from both states, aged 18 to 78, trespassed at Entergy on January 16, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Brattleboro police ran out of handcuffs, but all eleven went peacefully down to the station where they were cited for trespass and released. By then the county attorney had already dismissed charges against the Reasonable Women, and a filing deadline had been missed on the charges against the Shut It Down group.

Organizers from the Citizens Awareness Network (CAN) and Traprock Peace Center say community outrage over official support for the uprate and license extension is fueling the protest.

Jane Newton, arrested on King Day, told the Brattleboro Times-Argus, "I am here because I have family - children and grandchildren - and I am doing this because I simply don't know what else to do anymore. Entergy's uprate request is like war against our human community."

Affinity groups are already preparing for more actions in February and March. To become involved or support these actions, please contact Sunny Miller at the Traprock Peace Center, www.traprockpeace.org or Deb Katz at Citizens Awareness Network, 413-339-5781 or Deb@nukebusters.org, www.nukebusters.org

Torture Taxi on Trial

By Patrick O'Neill

A North Carolina District Court judge allowed 14 anti-torture activists to make their legal case for necessity before finding the group guilty January 5 of trespassing at Aero Contractors, Ltd. The Smithfield-based company maintains and provides pilots for two corporate jets the Central Intelligence Agency has used for "extraordinary rendition," a euphemism for the practice of international kidnapping for the purpose of "torture by proxy." It's another of the affronts to liberty and humanity justified by President Bush's view of his own absolute war powers.

According to numerous media accounts, Aero's jets have been spotted all over the globe in airports throughout Europe and the Middle East. After leaving the Johnston County Airport, the jets make a stopover at Washington's Dulles Airport to pick up a CIA goon squad. From there, the flights head out in search of suspected terrorists, who are sometimes snatched off the streets in places like Afghanistan and Iraq, and brought to places like Egypt, Morocco, Libya and Uzbekistan, where they have reportedly been tortured in an attempt to glean information about terrorist cells.

Aero was recently named in an American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit filed by Khaled El-Masri, a German citizen who claims he was tortured after being abducted on an Aero-operated plane. After five months in custody, he was released without charges.

Aero's complicity in torture, a criminal enterprise, was first reported in the world press last spring. Last November 18, the activists on trial went to Aero to hand-deliver a citizens' indictment for crimes against national and international law and for violating the Geneva Convention and the U.N. Convention Against Torture.

The group, which included activists from North Carolina, St. Louis, and Chicago, was quickly arrested after ignoring police orders to leave Aero's property.

In the trial, the defendants called two expert witnesses: Daniel Pollitt, a University of North Carolina law professor emeritus, and the Rev. W.W. Finlator, a long-time peace and justice activist.

Pollitt said the actions of the defendants were protected by the First Amendment, and that the necessity defense was applicable in the case because the defendants were exercising their free speech. "The First Amendment trumps the law," Pollitt said.

Finlator told the court the Bible "has a bias in favor of justice," and that unlike the CIA's secret rendition policy, the 14 protesters openly engaged in their actions as a way to expose a crime.

Defendant Josh McIntyre of Raleigh testified that he tried to deliver a copy of the indictment to Aero, but he was met at the door by a uniformed man who was pointing a Taser gun at him. He asked the man pointing

the gun to take the indictment. The man refused, so McIntyre left a copy of the nine-page indictment at the foot of the door.

"I entered the property for the sole purpose of preventing a larger and more serious crime," McIntyre told the judge. "We were all there for the same purpose, to expose to the greater community a violation of international and national law."

Defendant Kathy Kelly, the founder of Voices in the Wilderness who has made more than two dozen trips to Iraq, said she personally knew of U.S. torture done behind "closed doors" in Iraq as well as "lethal treatment" of people in U.S. custody.

"I do not have that confidence that our government would not torture," Kelly told the judge.

After hearing the evidence, Judge Robert Ethridge said the defendants did not make their case for necessity, and that the Bible calls on people to "be obedient to the law."

"I believe in Jesus Christ, and I believe what the Bible says is true," the judge said. But the Bible cannot be used "to excuse criminal activity."

Ethridge said he had no choice under state law except to find the group guilty of second degree trespass. Each defendant received a year probation, a \$50 fine and was ordered to pay \$110 court costs. The case is now under appeal, which means the 14 are now entitled to a jury trial in North Carolina Superior Court. They remain released on cash bonds of \$250 to \$500 each.

Following the trial, most of the defendants and their supporters returned to the Johnston County Airport for another protest outside Aero's gate.

The following day, another group of activists went to the Global TransPark in Kinston, N.C., where Aero maintains a Boeing 737 in a hangar. This jet has also been traced to rendition flights. Under the watchful eyes of local sheriff's deputies, they cordoned off Aero's hanger with yellow crime scene tape and implored the deputies to investigate Aero's activities. For awhile, a large banner was unfurled in the parking lot - "STOP AERO TORTURE TAXI NOW!" More copies of the indictment were also delivered to various state officials including Governor Mike Easley, who is chairman of the Global TransPark board.

Police made no move to stop the protest. A spokesman told the Kinston Free Press that after discussions with Aero and the airpark managers, "everything that happened today was tolerated. We didn't have any arrests, because the most they ever did was put up crime scene tape."

For more information, visit stoptorturenorw.org, or contact the Center for Theology and Social Analysis at 314-558-1197.

Washington, D.C. Updates

Trials for people arrested last September 26 in front of the White House continued in December and January.

The second of the three defendant groups were convicted after a one-day trial December 21. Some of the 28 codefendants shared the tasks of presenting their own case, with the assistance of Marc Goldstone, an experienced D.C. protest attorney. The personal testimony of a handful about what brought them to the President's door to demand an end to the Iraq War moved many present to tears.

It may even have touched the judge. Defendant John Bostrum reported that "[w]hen Judge Facciola returned, the way he delivered the verdict was markedly different from his manner in the whole rest of the trial. He had been joking, in very good humor, speaking clearly and in a normal tone, looking people in the eye. But he mumbled the verdict almost under his breath, very rapidly and without looking at anyone, as if he were ashamed to be delivering it and wanted to get it over with as quickly as possible. Many people remarked on this."

They were fined \$75.

A third group was in court January 18. Several had their charges dismissed, three paid a fine, and another case was continued. Observers said Judge Deborah Robinson's attitude was markedly more sympathetic to the defendants than the two previous judges. She encouraged no contest pleas, and over the two days of trial, seven of the twenty on trial took the plea and a sentence of time served. Defense arguments again questioned the necessity of a park permit to petition the President, and pointed to District of Columbia law that limits police powers to arrest those engaged in First Amendment-protected activity.

Rather than pass judgment immediately, Robinson announced that she would take the case under advisement while studying the applicable federal and District of Columbia law. Her decision is still pending.

More than 40 defendants who did not pay a fine or show up for trial have had their cases continued to April 19.

Also in court April 19 will be defendants from a White House die-in on October 26, on the occasion of the 2,000th U.S. war fatality.

With most of the cases settled in January, none of more than 40 people arrested at the Pentagon the morning of September 26 have been sent to jail.

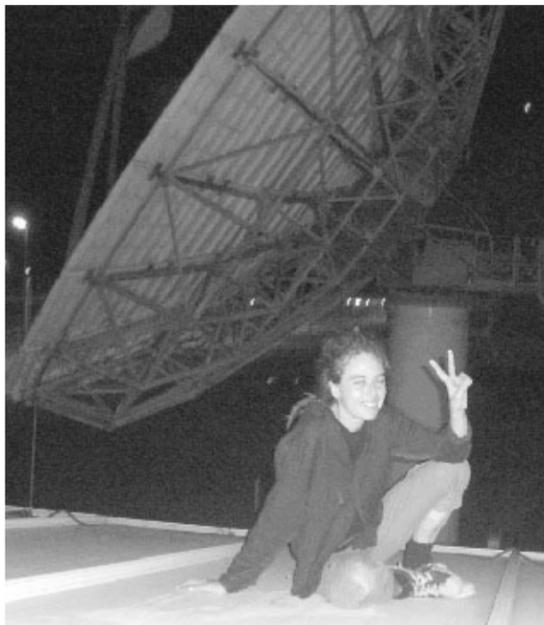
Citizens' Inspection at Pine Gap

Four members of a Citizen's Inspection Team, Christians Against All Terrorism, face four counts each related to trespass and damaging government property. On December 8, Jim Dowling, Adele Goldie, Bryan Law, and Donna Mulhearn entered the remote Pine Gap radar facility in the Australian outback. They had permission of the aboriginal owners to enter the high security site to expose its connection to state terror and condemn its critical role in providing communication links for U.S. global war making.

Their inspection was preceded by public meetings and educational displays along the long route from Brisbane, and full disclosure to authorities of their intent. Nonetheless, all four walked for hours in the night, unobserved, to reach the security fence. Law and Mulhearn were finally seen and arrested as they cut through the first fence. Dowling and Goldie entered from another direction, and hung their banner on the fence, quoting Genesis 4:10 "What have you done? Your brother's blood cries out to me from the earth!" A barbed-wire crucifix was placed near the fence, and they cut a hole in it. Dowling writes, "We climbed through and I cut the second fence about ten meters away. Again we climbed through and realized all the power of the greatest empire in history could not stop two untrained, unfunded, unarmed Christian pacifists from entering one of their most important and secure bases - even after we had told them we were coming." They were arrested as they prayed atop a building next to one of the massive radar dishes. Two more members of the team who held a banner in front of the base were also arrested, and Sean O'Reilly is charged with obstructing police. Trial is expected as early as February.

While traveling to Pine Gap, the team also attended the trial of ten people arrested last June during a series of actions opposing Operation Talisman Sabre, the biennial joint Australia/U.S. military exercises. Four people were fined and will have no criminal record; judgment for six others was reserved until later in February.

For more information, contact Jim Dowling at penangke@octa4.net.au



Adele Goldie on the roof of a building at the Pine Gap military communications base, Australia.

AWOL OBJECTORS, CONT.

continued from page 4

fully remain in the Corps.

Camp LeJeune's spokeswoman responded by releasing confidential information from Corporal Texiero's personnel file to at least two news reporters. A faded document alleged that after he went AWOL in 1965, Texiero was suspected of taking merchandise from the Camp Pendleton exchange. The attorneys shot back that Texiero's privacy and federal law were violated by release of the ancient accusation, which in fact lacked any evidence and had never been investigated. The spokeswoman was quietly replaced with a more tight-lipped professional after Texiero's attorney's promised a civil suit over the privacy violation.

Meanwhile, on January 11, the day Texiero was finally approved for separation, the same Marine AWOL apprehension unit responsible for tracking down Jerry Texiero made headlines again, catching up with another Vietnam objector. Ernest McQueen enlisted in January, 1968, when he was still 17. His decision to walk away from Camp LeJeune in November, 1969, was influenced by the March, 1968 disclosure of the My Lai massacre, in which U.S. troops killed 500 Vietnamese civilians. "I just decided I didn't want to be a part of killing anybody," McQueen told the Ft. Worth Star-Telegram. "That's about as plain as I can say it."

He knew the Marines had been on his tail in the past. A relative tipped them off that he was in Texas, living with a girlfriend. Afflicted with prostate cancer and other ailments, McQueen - known to the Marines as Ernest Johnson, the family name of his absent father - was tired of running, and easily apprehended.

Citizen Soldier again spoke out, this time on McQueen's behalf. Ensign chided the Pentagon for wasting money on decades-old AWOL cases, and promised his organization's political and legal support.

News of McQueen's arrest went global, perhaps influencing the speed with which "Buck" McQueen was discharged at Camp Pendleton on January 26. He received an other-than-honorable separation in lieu of court martial.

For more information, contact Citizen Soldier, 267 Fifth Ave. #901, New York, NY 10016; (212)679-2250 or citizensoldier1@aol.com



RAFIL DHAFIR: The founder of Help the Needy charity has been moved to the federal prison in Fairton, New Jersey. Due to his conviction on felony charges, including those related to the charity's unlicensed violation of the economic sanctions against Iraq, Rafil Dhafir's New York state medical license was revoked without dispute January 27. On February 6, the day Congress began hearings into President Bush's warrantless wiretapping, seven supporters of Dhafir and his imprisoned co-defendant, Ayman Jarwan, filed requests with multiple law enforcement and intelligence agencies under the Freedom of Information Act. Because the defendants were repeatedly and falsely tarred with a terrorism brush, these supporters want to know if they've been spied upon without a warrant...

FREE SPEECH ZONES: Last October the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the federal conviction of Brett Bursey, a South Carolina organizer, for "knowingly and willfully enter[ing] into, and refus[ing] to leave, an area secured by the Secret Service" with an anti-war message when President Bush visited Columbia in October, 2002. Bursey is the only person known to be tried and convicted under the statute used to corral free speech at such events (other prosecutions have been reported under local ordinances). In January, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear Bursey's appeal. "I told the police that I was in a free speech zone called the United States of America," Bursey said, but the courts don't agree. Even though the prohibited area was not clearly identified as required by law, the court opinions cited "this age of suicide bombers" and the need for "flexibility" in giving latitude to the Secret Service for enforcing the statute. Bursey seeks 499 others to join him at a dollar each, to pay his \$500 fine. More info at scpronet.com...

MORDECHAI VANUNU: Trial of the nuclear whistleblower on multiple counts of talking to foreigners in violation of his post-release restrictions began January 25 in Jerusalem. The date was originally set for January 15, but presumably was switched to coincide with the Palestinian elections. It was not the first time Israel took decisive action against the internationally honored Vanunu behind the cover of newsworthy events in Palestine. Consequently, no foreign media attended court. A second session was held on February 9, and the third is scheduled for February 22. In other legal news, in late November Vanunu lost a libel suit against a newspaper that claimed he taught imprisoned Palestinian militants how to make bombs (despite a prison official stating that he lacked contact with Palestinian prisoners, making the story impossible). He was ordered to pay costs of 36,000 shekels (more than \$7,500). Then on January 12, the High Court of Justice again affirmed the restrictions on his travel and contacts with only minor revision...

TIMES SQUARE RECRUITING STATION: A Manhattan Criminal Court judge will decide March 2 whether to simply dismiss disorderly conduct charges against seventeen "Raging Grannies", or go with prosecutors who asked for adjournment in contemplation of dismissal (ACD), which, after six months without another arrest, would result in dismissed charges. The Grannies were arrested during a protest at the Times Square military recruiting station last October...

ALLIANT TECH: Under a new local ordinance denying a jury trial for trespass at the local ordinance maker, twelve anti-war activists were found guilty on December 12. (Three days later the convicting judge, spouse of a Republican functionary and only three months on the district bench, was appointed to the Minnesota State Supreme Court by the Republican governor.) They were ordered to pay a \$142 fine or do 24 hours community service...

DULUTH ARMY RECRUITING CENTER: Eleven people charged with obstructing a public sidewalk during two demonstrations last November had the charge dismissed for lack of evidence. John Heid's additional charge of obstructing legal process will be considered by a jury on March 8...

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY: January 25, the day President Bush picked for a pep talk to the NSA spooks at their Ft. Meade, Maryland, headquarters, Ellen Barfield and Max Obuszewski were due in federal court to be tried for trespass there last July 2. On their way to court, the defendants and two other members of the Baltimore Pledge of Resistance stopped off at the NSA and vigiled briefly in opposition to warrantless spying on

witness against torture

The Catholic Worker communities that initiated the March to Guantanamo (see p. 2) are planning direct action in Washington, DC, on March 1 (Ash Wednesday) against the use of torture. For more information, contact Jonah House, 410-233-6238, disarmnow@verizon.net.

lockheed-martin

Nonviolent Resistance to the War and Lockheed-Martin are planned for March 20 (Iraq invasion anniversary) and Good Friday, April 14. For more information, contact Brandywine Peace Community, POB 81, Swarthmore, PA 19081. brandywine@juno.com www.brandywinepeace.com

faith and resistance

The annual Faith and Resistance Holy Week Retreat in Washington, DC, will occur April 12 - April 15. For more information contact Jonah House, above.

mother's day

Return to the roots and celebrate Mothers Day, May 14, as a day of peace, by resisting nuclear weapons at the Navy Submarine Base in Bangor, Washington. For more information, contact the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Road NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370, info@gzcenter.org.

faslane 365 - a call to action

North American anti-nuclear activists are invited to take part in Faslane 365, a civil resistance project focused in Scotland to apply critical public pressure for the disarmament of Britain's nuclear weapons by a continuous peaceful blockade of the Trident submarine base at Faslane. The blockade will not begin until 100 groups have signed up for the first hundred days, hopefully on 1st October 2006.

More info at www.faslane365.org. American activists interested to participate are encouraged to contact Stephen at skobasa@snet.net

U.S. citizens. Documents released two weeks earlier revealed that last summer's Pledge of Resistance demonstration that led to the arrests had been monitored almost minute-by-minute by NSA security and the Maryland Terrorism Task Force. Magistrate Beth Gesner quickly dismissed the charges against Barfield and Obuszewski because the NSA had failed to produce subpoenaed documents about this surveillance. She also noted that because six other Pledge members at the same demonstration were on "protected property" and not charged, she had yet another reason to dismiss. The judge then ripped prosecutors for wasting both the defendants and her own time...

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE: MacGregor Eddy's federal trespass trial began January 19 in Santa Barbara, California. Pre-trial stipulations included the government not opposing defense testimony from experts Richard Falk (International law) and Daniel Ellsberg (defense of necessity). Prosecutors presented their case, and the defense just got started before trial was adjourned until March 16. The judge must now decide whether to hear this expert testimony in support of Eddy's defense of necessity for demonstrating at the nuclear missile test base...

REP. NANCY PELOSI'S OFFICE: Seventeen people arrested in the lobby of the federal building last September 26 have had their cases resolved. Some charges were dropped, some paid \$40 fines, some did five hours of community service...

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE: Two men who painted NO WAR on the landmark Sydney Opera House on March 18, 2003, have completed nine-months of periodic detention in Australia, and with contributions from supporters have paid damages of \$151,000 to clean the pavement marking paint from the glazed tile roof...

MICHAEL POULIN: After about ten weeks in a Spokane halfway house, Poulin was paroled on January 25...

ARLINGTON, TEXAS: Two women accused of assault with hard candy at a Republican fundraiser last November ("Don't be a sucker for the GOP") where they were protesting the war, have court dates in March...

PITTSBURGH MILITARY RECRUITING CENTER: After police used dogs, tasers and pepper spray to break up a nonviolent rally that shut down the main military recruiting station last August 20, four people faced multiple charges. A woman bit by a police dog had all of her criminal charges dismissed for lack of evidence, as were some of the others' charges. Three people will go to trial on May 8 for charges ranging from disorderly conduct to simple assault...

Amidst the many calls for protest on the third anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, these directly encourage and support nonviolent civil resistance:

national campaign for nonviolent resistance

A project of the Iraq Pledge of Resistance, the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance (NCNR) has initiated A Call to Conscience for the U.S. Congress, encouraging local groups to pressure their representatives by engaging in nonviolent direct actions between Martin Luther King Day and the March 20 anniversary. Text of the Call and other resources for grassroots organizing can be found at www.iraqpledge.org. An email list and periodic teleconferencing calls are already in place, coordinating local actions at Congressional offices and other war-related sites with national publicity and connection to the march on the Pentagon and mass civil resistance planned for March 20. To bring your local group into the process, send an email to pledgecoordinator@star-power.net.

In December, the Global Call For Nonviolent Civil Resistance to End the U.S.-Led Military Occupation of Iraq was launched at www.aglobalcall.org, bearing the signature of many notables of faith, human rights and literary culture. The Call encourages a "sustained, growing campaign" through 2006. Five international days of nonviolent civil disobedience to end the military occupation of Iraq are set forth: March 19/20, the third anniversary of the invasion; May 1, May Day; August 9, Nagasaki Day; September 11, the fifth anniversary of the terror attack; and, "if necessary," December 10, Human Rights Day. For more information, contact dm@aglobalcall.org

lenten desert experience

Speaking From the Heart: Testimony & Healing in the Desert is the theme for the 25th Annual Lenten Desert Experience, March 30-April 2, in Las Vegas and at the Nevada Test Site. Organizers are working to bring together hibakusha, downwinders, and former Test Site employees with those who opposed nuclear testing over the last quarter century, to connect compassionately with the humanity of each other. Event includes liturgy and nonviolent direct action at the Test Site. \$120-\$90 includes meals, no one turned away for lack of funds. Send \$25 deposit, or request more information, from Nevada Desert Experience, 1420 W. Bartlett Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89106, (702)646-4814, info@nevadadesertexperience.org. Related events include an ecumenical Ash Wednesday service at the Test Site, 10 am-2pm March 1; the United Methodist Lenten Desert Experience March 17-18, and the Holy Week Peace Walk, Las Vegas to the Test Site, April 9-14.

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JURISDICTION ARGUED IN PELTIER CASE

February 6, 2006, marked the thirtieth anniversary of Leonard Peltier's illegal extradition to the United States from Canada, using coerced and fraudulent testimony. This was the beginning of the odyssey that resulted in his false conviction in 1977, in Federal Court in Fargo, North Dakota, for the June 1975 murder of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Supporters screened *Incident at Oglala* at many educational events in Peltier's honor on that day. A six-day People's Fast for Justice by supporters took place in at least thirteen states, calling for his freedom.

On February 13, attorney Barry Bachrach will ask the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis to reverse Peltier's double-life sentence as illegal, because the U.S. District Court had no jurisdiction at that time over crimes that occurred on a sovereign reservation.

"The appellate courts have recognized the undisputed misconduct in Peltier's case - fabricated and suppressed evidence, as well as coerced testimony - yet have refused to take corrective action for over three decades," Bachrach said. "This is clearly an abuse of the legal standards of American justice. It is our belief that this appeal should ultimately lead to Mr. Peltier's release."

For more information, contact the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, 2626 North Mesa # 132, El Paso, TX 79902, (915)533-6655. The February 2006 issue of *In the Spirit of Crazy Horse* is available at www.leonardpeltier.org or by postal subscription for \$15/year.



Letters of support can be sent to Leonard Peltier at his address on page 3.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

...**Peace on Trial** is a 35 minute DVD/video reporting on the first trial - and mistrial - of the Pit Stop Ploughshares 5. They are charged with \$2.5 million "criminal damage" to a U.S. navy war plane at Ireland's Shannon Airport in February, 2003. With a second mistrial now on their record, and a third trial set for next summer, it's a timely and provocative resource for schools, universities and community groups. Features the Pit Stop Ploughshares 5, U.S. Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, Iraq veteran Kelly Dougherty, Nobel Peace Laureate Mairead Corrigan Maguire, former U.N. Assistant Secretary General Dennis Halliday and "Voices in the Wilderness" founder Kathy Kelly. The video also contains file footage interviews with Dorothy Day and Fr. Daniel Berrigan SJ. Cost (includes postage): € 10/Ireland, £10/Britain, 20/Australia, \$15/USA*. *If in U.S. designate whether you need PAL or NTSC format. Send currency or checks payable to "Ploughshares Defence Fund", 518 South Circular Rd. Rialto Dublin 8 Ireland.

STAND DOWN, CONT.

continued from page 5

unlocked, and were taken into custody. All seven were released later that day, so far without being charged.

Alaska

Military recruiters visit the high school in Homer, Alaska, several times a year. When the Marines showed up again January 19, three counter-recruiters brought an alternate point of view to students having lunch in the school's commons. Vietnam veteran Michael LeMay, Hope Finkelstein and Debby Poore were arrested and cited for trespass when they refused requests to leave the school. At arraignment February 14, they will plead not guilty, and argue at trial for equal time to promote non-military alternatives for youth.

Last Plowshares Nun Released

Ardeth Platte was released from Danbury Federal Prison on December 22. Due to prior convictions, she served 41 months, the longest prison sentence of the three Dominican religious sisters arrested on October 6, 2002. Acting as citizen inspectors for weapons of mass destruction, Platte, along with Carol Gilbert and Jackie Hudson, cut the lock and entered the compound of a nuclear missile silo on the Colorado prairie, marked it with blood and symbolically disarmed it.

Delighted to be out, Platte told a reporter, "I don't regret one minute of it... I feel deeply that we need to establish new kinds of ways to relate to God's people in the rest of the world. And it shouldn't be through bombings and killings."

The nuns, who named their action Sacred Earth and Space Plowshares, in the tradition of such nonviolent direct disarmament, had been convicted of sabotage and damage to federal property. All are serving terms of probation. Shortly before her release from prison, Platte was approved to return to her home and community at Baltimore's Jonah House while on probation. She would have in any event, as did her co-defendants: Hudson to her home community in Washington State, and Gilbert also to Jonah House. All three were first told they must serve probation and work in Colorado, where they were convicted.

One condition of probation is to pay restitution. The women have not paid, and the court has yet to rule on a plan submitted by the sisters to substitute pledges of community service by supporters that far exceed in value the payment sought by the court.

For more information, contact Jonah House, 1301 Moreland, Baltimore, MD 21217, disarmnow@verizon.net, or visit jonahhouse.org

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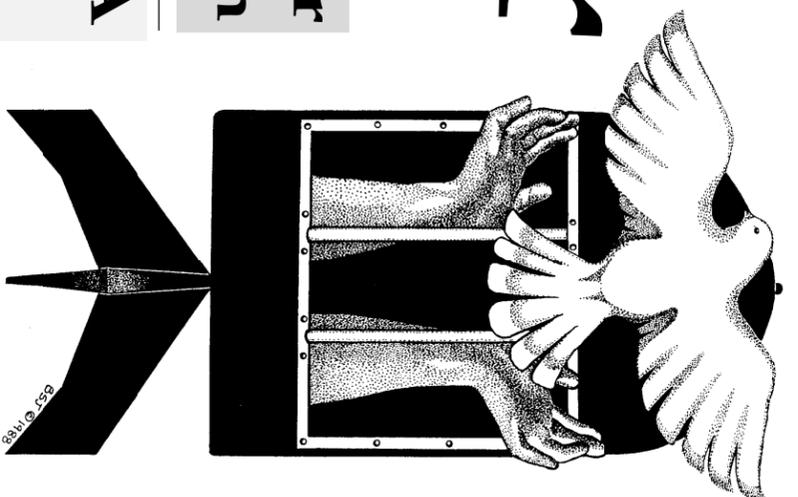
St Patrick's Four
Sent to Prison

Record Numbers at SOA
Vigil; 3 Dozen Jailed

CODEPINK Cofounder
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War Tax Resisters
In & Out of Prison

Direct Action to
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