

the Nuclear Resister

"A Chronicle of Hope"

No. 145

February 18, 2007



photo by Ted Stein/Resistance Media

In black hoods and orange jumpsuits, scores of surrogates for Guantanamo prisoners kneel and petition the Federal Court in Washington, D.C. to close the illicit prison.

SHUT DOWN GUANTANAMO!

As a principal weapon of the so-called War on Terror, the torture and apparently endless imprisonment of hundreds of men at Guantanamo Bay and elsewhere without charges or evidence is an affront to human rights to be opposed as surely as war itself.

by Joy First

January 11 marked five years since the first men were illegally brought to Guantanamo. There are currently over 400 men in Guantanamo being held with no hope of release. They have not been charged with any crime, have not seen a judge, and they are being tortured and abused. Many of the prisoners in Guantanamo are there because they were sold to the United States government by bounty hunters and they have committed no crime. This is a national shame, but this January 11 was also a day of action with over 80 demonstrations all over the world protesting the horrors of Guantanamo.

I flew to D.C. on Wednesday with my daughter Jennifer. I was so glad Jennifer was able to go along with me and would be a support person for the action. This action felt so important to me because we would be speaking for people who have no voice. We had a planning meeting Wednesday night. We left the meeting early to go to the White House to protest the speech that Bush was making about increasing the troops in Iraq. I heard from one news source that our protest could be heard in the background as Bush was giving his speech.

I was very nervous about the action on Thursday. The plan was that we would not give our ID information because we were doing the action on behalf of the men in Guantanamo. I knew it was likely that this would land me in jail overnight, and this would be a new and scary experience for me. But it was something that I felt I had to do.

We met our affinity group and others at a coffee shop near the Federal Courthouse at 9:30 on the morning of January 11. It was our plan to go to the courthouse ahead of the procession to be sure we would be able to get inside. The Center for Constitutional Rights and Amnesty International were holding a press conference on the steps of the Supreme Court. From there, nearly 200 people dressed in orange jumpsuits with their hands tied behind their backs would be marched in a somber procession several blocks to the Federal Courthouse.

Each of us risking arrest was there on behalf of a particular man being illegally detained in Guantanamo. I was there on behalf of Abdul Zahir, a 34-year-old man from Afghanistan. Having the names of the individual detainees put such a painful human face on what we were doing. I thought about Abdul Zahir and knew that

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8, 12 & 15 MONTHS FOR DISARMING ND'S WMDs

Last summer, three men dressed as clowns broke the lock off the fence surrounding an unguarded nuclear missile launch site in North Dakota, on Fort Berthold Reservation farmland of the Three Affiliated Tribes (Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nations). There they hung a banner declaring "Weapon of Mass Destruction Here", as well as painting slogans such as "Stop Nuclear Terrorism Here" and hammering and pouring blood on the buried missile silo's massive reinforced concrete cover. Their action on June 20, 2006 was the latest in the U.S. in the 26-year tradition of the Plowshares nuclear disarmament movement. In that time, hundreds of nonviolent resisters around the world have given flesh to the biblical prophecy of Isaiah and Micah, and begun the work of beating swords into plowshares. Many, if not most, have spent time in prison or jail as a consequence.

The "Weapon of Mass Destruction Here" Plowshares defendants were sentenced November 16 in federal court in Bismarck, North Dakota, for destruction of government property. Fr. Carl Kabat OMI was sentenced to 15 months in federal prison, Greg Boertje-Obed was sentenced to 12 months, and Michael Walli received an eight month prison term. The men have been jailed since their arrest at the site, and were given credit for time served in local jails.

Fr. Carl Kabat also took part in the inaugural Plowshares Eight action of September, 1980. You may read his recent sentencing statement on page 6. On page 8 is "The Inside Line" from Greg Boertje-Obed, and on page 2, "Resistance Reflections", is the post-sentencing letter of Michele Naar-Obed, Greg's wife, to U.S. District Judge Daniel Hovland.

Michael Walli was released from prison on February 16, and welcomed home with an ice cream party that evening at the Loaves and Fishes Catholic Worker community in Duluth.



Letters of support can be sent to Greg Boertje-Obed 08052-016, Duluth Federal Prison Camp, FPC, P.O. Box 1000, Duluth, MN 55814 and Carl Kabat, 03230-045, Federal Prison Camp, P.O. Box 12014, Terre Haute, IN 47801.

Largest Gathering, Shorter Average Jail Sentence Marks Annual Ft. Benning Vigil

From across the Americas, 22,000 people came together November 17-19 outside the gates of Ft. Benning, Georgia to demand a dramatic shift in U.S. foreign policy and the closure of a military training school at the fort that is synonymous with torture and repression for millions around the world.

Protest attendees cited the resumption of U.S.-backed military training in Latin America, the Bush administration's support for legislation allowing torture, and the results of the recent mid-term elections as catalysts for this growing, hemisphere-wide movement for human rights. The demonstration - at times lively and at others solemn - was the largest yet in a 17-year history of opposition to the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, formerly called the School of the Americas (SOA/WHINSEC), a combat-training school for Latin American soldiers.

Two days of workshops and caucuses and a mass rally on Saturday were followed on Sunday the 19th with a colorful, symbolic funeral procession to the gates of Ft. Benning. It was led by torture survivors from Latin America, SOA Watch founder Father Roy Bourgeois and other human rights activists. Sixteen people managed to enter the base in acts of nonviolent civil disobedience, digging under or cutting through some of the double and triple 10-foot barbed-wire fencing on the base's perimeter.

They were quickly apprehended and cited for trespass. All were released except for Margaret Bryant-Gainer, who declined to sign a promise to return for trial. Bryant-Gainer stayed in the Muscogee County Jail until her scheduled trial with the others on January 29.

All 16 defendants were present in the court of Federal District Judge Mallon Faircloth on January 29. One defendant pleaded not guilty, was convicted in a bench trial, and received a 2 month sentence. All the others pleaded guilty. Margaret Bryant-Gainer was sentenced to time served, 71 days, and released from custody. Alice Gerard, who previously served a six-month prison sentence for crossing the line at Ft. Benning in 2004, was sentenced again to the maximum 6 months. Thirteen of the remaining defendants all received a shorter prison sentence, and Whitney Ray, a minor, was sentenced to 1 year probation and 50 hours of community service.

Sentences for the other 13 were as follows:

Valerie Fillenwarth - 3 months & 10 days
Julianne Oldfield - 3 months
Sheila Salmon - 3 months & 10 days
Mike Vosburg-Casey - 3 months & 10 days
Martina Leforce - 2 months
Melissa Helman - 2 months
Nathan Slater - 2 months
Cathy Webster - 2 months
Don Coleman - 2 months
Tina Busch-Nema - 2 months
Philip Gates - 2 months
Joshua Harris - 2 months
Graymon Ward - 1 month

The defendants expect to be notified soon about when to report to a designated federal prison and begin

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Resistance Reflections

Letter to the Judge Who Sentenced My Husband to Federal Prison for Protesting Nuclear Weapons

by Michele Naar-Obed

Dear Judge Hovland,

Thank you for making the arrangements for me to visit Greg in jail after you sentenced him to a year and a day in federal prison. The jail officials had been rather adamant in their unwillingness to allow me to visit, so your intervention made the visit possible.

At trial and again at sentencing, I noted your willingness to educate yourself even beyond requirement about matters relating to the Weapons of Mass Destruction Here Plowshare action and the three who carried it forth. I found your openness rather exceptional and am confident that you will take these thoughts into mind and heart.

I was rather dismayed to hear you berate and chastise Greg for being an irresponsible father and spouse. Your presumptions about what we need from him were not only erroneous, but belligerent and disrespectful. To call his participation in this witness a "juvenile act of vandalism" is an insult to every one of the Saints and Heroes who have ever taken a stand to protect the sacredness of life. You had made it abundantly clear that you didn't agree with their methods, an opinion to which you are entitled, but to attack Greg's integrity as you did was disgraceful.

Our daughter Rachel and I love and admire Greg for the stand he has taken to make this world safer. Yes, we are saddened by this lengthy separation, but we are strengthened by emotional and spiritual bonds that far transcend physical ones. Those bonds are further deepened because we know the good and decent intentions with which Greg acted. If you get an opportunity, take another look at the picture of the banner "Swords into Plowshares." Rachel did the artwork. The peace sign, flower, heart and smiley face were the hopes that she entrusted her dad with to make present in the world through this disarmament action.

I recently watched a documentary about the scientists, including Oppenheimer, who left their families to

create the atomic bomb which was eventually used to annihilate the people of Japan. Many of our history books refer to them as heroes. After Oppenheimer realized what he did, he felt disgraced as a human being, not only in his own eyes but in the eyes of his blood family and in the eyes of the human family. When soldiers leave their families to go off to war, they are referred to as heroes. Many of them come back feeling disgraced for having left their families to kill other people's families. This is a feeling I can assure you, that Greg will not have to live with nor die with.

Finally, I have to say I was quite disappointed in the defeatist attitude you seemed to take regarding the efficacy of this action. You consistently referred to their action as a waste of time because it did not result in the elimination of nuclear weapons. Again, you insult the lives of all who have ever worked for the abolition of sins and crimes such as slavery, military occupation of homelands, government sponsored oppression, etc. I believe you are smart enough and well educated enough to know that it has sometimes taken centuries to abolish such crimes.

Thank God for all of those that never gave up hope, that withstood years of imprisonment, defamation of character, mockery, isolation and death in their struggle to enhance the dignity of all life. Greg, Rachel and I will not let those hopes die in vain. We stand with the sentiments expressed by Fr. Kabat, that this action is not the only way, but it is one way and a way worth living for.

Blessings on your life's journey.
In peace,
Michele Naar-Obed

[Michele is married to Greg Boertje-Obed of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Here Plowshares group, who was sentenced to a year and a day in federal prison for hammering on the concrete lid covering a nuclear missile silo.]

Solidarity Action at Ft. Huachuca

In Sierra Vista, Arizona, more than 120 people from Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico and Mexico gathered outside the main gate of Ft. Huachuca on November 19, in solidarity with the Ft. Benning protest. Ft. Huachuca is the home to the U.S. Army Intelligence Center, where training that fosters torture is carried out.

A score of counter-demonstrators and a dozen loud motorcycles cruising back and forth sought to drown out the rally against torture. At the end of the rally, Franciscan Fr. Louie Vitale and Jesuit Fr. Steve Kelly were arrested when they crossed the street and tried to enter the base to speak with enlisted personnel and deliver a letter to Major General Barbara Fast, commander at the post. Their letter denounced torture and the Military Commissions Act of 2006. When they were not allowed to proceed, the two men knelt in prayer before being taken into custody. They were cited for federal trespass and released.

Major General Fast is the highest ranking intelligence officer tied to the torture at Abu Ghraib, yet she has never been punished. Two soldiers with ties to Ft. Huachuca are among 28 implicated earlier this year in the 2002 beating deaths of two prisoners in Afghanistan.

Nearly two months later, the priests were summoned to an "arraignment" on February 13 at Ft. Huachuca. Upon arrival that morning, the pair, along with five supporters, were escorted by armed men to a meeting with JAG (Judge Advocate General) Capt. Evan Simone. Simone, acting on behalf of the U.S. Attorney's office, told Vitale and Kelly that they would not in fact be arraigned that day. Instead, Simone was only there to discuss a plea agreement. Believing they are guilty of no crime, the two men declined any pretrial agreements. Before they departed, Vitale and Kelly were each issued a second violation notice under the state statute, for failure to comply with a police officer. If found guilty of both charges, they face a maximum sentence of ten months in prison.

Arraignment on the federal charge is now scheduled for April 3 at the U.S. District Court in Tucson, Arizona. Arraignment on the state charge is pending.

For more information, call 520-323-8697 or email nukeresister@igc.org.

COMPUTER WOES

Thanks to all of you who contributed to the fund appeal enclosed with the last issue of the newsletter at the end of 2006, including a few of you who made a pledge to send a regular donation. It is with your support that we are able to continue this work.

If you intended to make a donation but haven't yet gotten around to it, this would be a very good time to send something in the enclosed envelope! We need to upgrade our computers as soon as possible and it will be expensive to do so.

We have been very fortunate over the 26+ years of publishing *the Nuclear Resister*. Since entering the computer age in 1986, we've only had to purchase a new computer twice, many years ago, and that was possible because of reader donations just for that purpose. Mostly, we've inherited slightly dated used machines, and managed okay.

We use Apple computers, and now find that our old machines with slower processors that run only their old operating system (OS) are inadequate for today's internet. When the used laptop we had that could at least surf the increasingly sophisticated internet sites where we glean much of the information for our stories recently died, we knew we had to face the inevitable and upgrade. It's time to buy a new computer that can run the new operating system. We've been reluctant because of the expense and besides, we're not techies. We are fine to not have the latest, fanciest equipment, but it has to function well enough to keep us from pulling our hair out from frequent computer crashes!

An added incentive is that a new machine and the website tools now available that were not just a few years ago will also prepare us to make better use of the internet so we can get the word out more widely.

The routine applications that we use on the old OS are not compatible with the new OS, so we'll also need to get new software. Some we hope to get via techsoup.org at nonprofit rates, but others we may need to purchase retail.

This will all cost much more money than *the Nuclear Resister* typically has in its modest budget.

Thanks so much to supporters in Tucson who have responded to a local call to help with these computer needs. If you are able to donate at this time, too, it will be greatly appreciated, and put to immediate good use!

Jack & Felice Cohen-Joppa, editors

Thanks

Thanks to Cathy, Beth, Steve, Paige, Faith, Polly, and Racheli for helping to mail the last issue.

the Nuclear Resister

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YOU CAN HELP!

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS and BULK ORDERS

One-year subscriptions are US\$15 in the United States, US\$20 to Canada, and US\$25 overseas. Payment can only be accepted in US currency or checks drawn on US institutions. All subscriptions are sent via First Class or Airmail.

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

THE NUCLEAR RESISTER ON MICROFILM

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

SOA, cont.

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their sentence. In recent years, most SOA resisters have begun their sentences in April.

Since protests against the SOA/WHINSEC began sixteen years ago, 211 people have served prison sentences of up to two years for civil disobedience.

Thousands of people took part in simultaneous events calling for the closure of the School of the Americas throughout Latin America over the November weekend -- in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Paraguay and Peru.

In December, Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri, strongly influenced by its Sisters of Loretto founders, as well as faculty and students, severed its graduate program relationship with WHINSEC.

The SOA/WHINSEC narrowly averted closure earlier this year when a bill to cut funding to the school lost in Congress by a margin of 15 votes. The mid-term elections saw 34 Representatives who opposed the bill lose their seats, raising hope that this year, the lobby effort now underway that compliments the civil disobedience campaign will be successful.

Support for the SOA/WHINSEC is eroding across Latin America. Earlier this year, the governments of Argentina and Uruguay became the second and third countries to announce a cessation of training at the SOA/WHINSEC.

A confusion over the release date of 2005 SOA resister Jonathan Robert was finally cleared up and he was cut loose from federal custody on December 1. Robert was unintentionally arrested after using his pocket multi-tool to cut a hole in the tarp-covered fence that obscured view of the many people who intended to risk arrest. Once in custody, he was held on unresolved charges related to a protest at the 2004 G-8 summit in Sea Island, Georgia, and eventually served one year and nine days between both charges.

For more information and resources for lobbying your congressional representative, please visit soaw.org, or call SOA Watch at 202-234-3440.

The Occupation Project Keeps Pressure on Congress

The Democratic majority elected to the U.S. Congress in November continues to be pulled along in the wake of a resurgent peace movement. In congressional offices across the country, constituents are demanding enforcement - at the point of Congress's check-signing pen - of their "troops out!" mandate.

Several groups on parallel paths of organizing nonviolent anti-war direct action - The Declaration of Peace (DoP), the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance (NCNR), and CODEPINK - have all joined under the banner of the Occupation Project to support this campaign of sustained civil disobedience among their members. The Occupation Project was initiated by Chicago-based Voices for Creative Nonviolence (VCNV) to target Congress this winter while it deals with the new budget. Among those now endorsing the campaign are the United for Peace and Justice Coalition, Iraq Veterans Against the War and Veterans for Peace.

The public kick-off came February 5 with the occupation of at least eight local congressional offices across the country including the Fairbanks, Alaska office of Senator Lisa Murkowski (D), San Francisco offices of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D) and Senator Diane Feinstein (D), and the Portland office of Senator Gordon Smith (R). Not all who joined in would risk arrest this time - The Occupation Project, in its various manifestations around the country, envisions returning again and again to occupy an office until the lawmaker agrees to vote for a funding cut-off. As more groups get organized and join the campaign, more occupations are expected until votes change or arrests are made.

At noon eastern time on February 5, four people were arrested holding a funeral service in the Chicago office of Senator Dick Durbin (D). Across town at the office of Senator Barack Obama (D), Occupation Project spokesperson Dan Pearson and three others were removed by police after the office manager told them they could stay until closing time if they stopped reading names of U.S. soldiers and Iraqis.

Pearson responded that, "We didn't come here to sit down and be quiet. We are responding to an emergency. If an apartment were on fire across the street I would bang on every door and interrupt whatever the neighbors were doing and I wouldn't feel bad about it."

Following a press conference at the same hour in Washington, D.C, ten people entered the office there of Arizona Senator John McCain (R), presidential hopeful and fervent supporter of the "troop surge" policy. They sang the names of the 75 U.S. servicemen and women from Arizona who have been killed in the war in Iraq, alternating with the names of Iraqi civilians who have been killed. All were arrested when they refused to leave, and two women were held overnight in jail. McCain's offices in Phoenix and Tucson were also visited.

In Fairbanks, Alaska, about 20 people entered the office of Senator Lisa Murkowski, where two weeks earlier a group had presented the Declaration of Peace and asked for her endorsement. After songs of peace and a recitation of Wilfred Owen's poem *Dolche et Decorum Est*, they began reading the names of American war dead, beginning with the youngest. By the end of their list of 20-year-old fatalities, they were ordered to leave the premises. Rob Mulford refused, and was cited for failure to obey a lawful order and released.

Shortly after her release from jail in Washington, Kathy Kelly of Voices for Creative Nonviolence explained, "We are insisting that the U.S. people, who themselves have given mandates to elected leaders that they don't want to see this war continue, that they can see through the ruse of continuing to sustain corporate military growth at the expense of so many people's lives, including lives in the United States. If we continue to

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DHAFIR MOVED TO SPECIAL NEW PRISON

In December, Rafil Dhafir was taken from the federal prison in Fairton, New Jersey, to Terre Haute, Indiana, and the newly created Communication Management Unit at D-Unit, FCC Terre Haute. At the first opportunity, he wrote to a supporter:

"I am writing you from Terre Haute, Indiana where I was just moved. I was put in isolation for 2 days before the move in what I know now was a nationwide operation to put Muslims/Arabs in one place so that we can be closely monitored regarding our communications, be it our phone calls or visits or correspondence. We had to endure a total of about 20 hours of bus ride in complete shackles. No one seems to know about this top-secret operation until now. It is still not fully understood. The order came from the Attorney General himself. The staff here is struggling to make sense of the whole situation. There are 16 of us, all Muslims but two, with one non-Arab Muslim..."

Then he was unable to read or write for several weeks until his eyeglasses were returned from his personal property.

Rafil Dhafir is serving a 22 year sentence. The Syracuse, New York area oncologist was arrested and jailed in February 2003, and held without bond for violating U.S. sanctions with his unregistered philanthropy to the Iraqi people, beginning in the 1990s. The severity of his sentence is mostly due to more than 50 added counts of disputed Medicare overbilling, and a manipulation of the media. Dr. Dhafir, a conservative Iraqi-American Muslim who worked from faith against the effects of war in his native land, was publicly painted by prosecutors and politicians as a financial supporter of terrorism. Despite the ongoing official insinuations, terrorism was never an issue in his trial, and defense was forbidden to talk about the public slander in court.

Now, he is being held in a new unit where all communication with "persons in the community" is monitored. Like Dhafir, men in this new unit are reportedly not convicted of terror-related crimes, but are deemed suspicious and threatening because they are Muslim or Arab, and are to be monitored as if they were terrorists.

Prisoners must correspond in English only. All incoming and outgoing letters are being sent to Washington, D.C., for screening before delivery. Phone calls are limited to one brief call per week, must be conducted in English, are live-monitored and subject to recording. All visitors must reapply. All non-legal visits are non-contact, live-monitored and subject to recording. Calls and visits will be terminated immediately if any other language is spoken.

Religious activity is unrestricted, but no educational programs are being offered, and medical attention has lagged as staff is also learning the routines ordered from Washington for this special new prison within the prison. Prisoners have no contact with any other prisoners outside their own unit, and were told their "general conditions of confinement ...may also be restricted as necessary to provide greater management of your communications."

Civil libertarians and attorneys for Dhafir and other men in the Communication Management Unit are monitoring the situation and considering legal challenges. Up to 60 prisoners could be moved to the unit.

Meanwhile, Dhafir's co-defendant and a partner in the Help the Needy charity, Ayman Jarwan, was released from federal prison on December 22. He was held in a Pennsylvania county jail pending deportation in February to Jordan, where he reunited with his family. While at the jail, prosecutors continued to interrogate Jarwan about his alleged terrorist connections.

For more information, visit dhafirtrial.net.



Letters of support should be sent to Rafil Dhafir, 11921-052, FCI Terre Haute, POB 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808. Please do not send incriminating or confidential information and remember that ALL of his mail is read and may be delayed for weeks.

Inside & Out

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

NUCLEAR RESISTERS, USA:

Greg Boertje-Obed 08052-016 (12 months + one day, out 5/13/07)
Carl Kabat, O.M.I. 03230-045 (15 months, out 7/22/07)
Federal Prison Camp, P.O. Box 12014, Terre Haute, IN 47801.
("Weapon of Mass Destruction Here" direct disarmament of nuclear missile silo E-9 in North Dakota, 6/20/06)

Helen Woodson 03231-045 (106 months - out 9/9/11)
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:

Federico Bonamici
Casa di Reclusione, via Nuova Poggioreale 177, 80143 Napoli Poggioreale (NA), Italy.
Silvia Guerini
Carcere "La Dozza", Via Del Gomito 2, 40127 Bologna, Italy.
Costantino Ragusa
Casa Circondariale, Via Prati Nuovi 7, 27058



Voghera (PV), Italy.
Benedetta Galante
Casa Circondariale, Via E. Novelli 1, 82100 Benevento, Italy.
(Eco-anarchists on remand, charged with 9/05 sabotage of nuclear electricity pylons)
Igor V. Sutuyagin (15 years)
163050, Arkhangelsk; Ul. Pirsovaya, d. 27; FGU IK-1, 5 otryad; Russia. (letters only, no parcels)
(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

Rafil Dhafir 11921-052 (22 years - out 4/26/22)
FCI Terre Haute, POB 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808.
(Convictions resulting from providing humanitarian and financial aid to Iraqis in violation of U.S. sanc-

tions, 2/05)

Kevin McKee 40886-050 (24 months - out 11/5/07)
FCI Schuylkill Satellite Camp, POB 670, Minersville, PA 17954.

Joseph Donato 40884-050 (27 months - out 1/31/08)
FCI Fairton, POB 420, Fairton, NJ 08320.
(Convicted 12/04 of felonies related to religious refusal to pay war taxes)

Brendan Walsh 12473-052 (five years - out 7/15/08)
FCI Elkton, POB 10, Lisbon, OH 44432.
(Arson at military recruiting station, 4/02)

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. Navy bombardment of Vieques, Puerto Rico)

MILITARY REFUSERS

(not including those restricted to base while awaiting possible court martial or discharge)

SPC Agustin Aguayo (awaiting court martial)
Unit 29723, Box LL, APO, AE 09028-3810.

PREVIOUSLY LISTED, RECENTLY RELEASED:
Kim Ji Tae, Ayman Jarwan, Jonathan Robert, Walter R. Clousing, Michael Walli

Honoring King with Persistent Nonviolent Resistance

Lockheed Martin

Bob Smith writes that as of January 15, 2007,

"Thirty years have now passed since the Brandywine Peace Community's first observance of Dr. King's birthday as part of a campaign of nonviolent resistance to war-making. First, for twenty years at General Electric, and now, for more than a decade, at Lockheed Martin.

"Nearly 100 people gathered as we do throughout the year at the Valley Forge/King of Prussia, Pennsylvania site of Lockheed Martin. This year, however, the King Day observance was in the immediate wake of the 3,000th U.S. casualty in Iraq and Bush's announcement of an escalating war.

"The observance began with a reading of names of the war dead - U.S. and Iraqi - and the tolling of our bell of peace. Professor Alan Dawley, historian, spoke of the evolution of Dr. King's organizing focus from civil rights to human rights and peace, repeating 'you don't remember Dr. King if all you remember is...'

"Later, as we broadcast a recording of Dr. King's 'Time to Break Silence' anti-war speech (April 4, 1967), those prepared to face arrest for nonviolent civil disobedience began to build a memorial to Dr. King and the ongoing struggle for peace and justice across Lockheed Martin's main driveway. A large, heavy black cloth with the words 'WAR', 'POVERTY', 'IRAQ', 'DEMOCRACY' was laid onto the blacktop. A large picture of Dr. King was held over the cloth as we formed the memorial: chain and ashes, empty shoes and boots, a lit candle, and roses.

"Banners reading: 'Remember King's Dream: Make War No More', 'We Declare Peace', and 'Resist Lockheed Martin, the face of war-making today' were stretched across the driveway on both sides of the memorial. Eleven people vigiled in the driveway, as the voice

of Dr. King echoed over the crowd of demonstrators, security guards, passersby, and police.

"As the broadcast ended, the line of vigilers turned and began walking with the banners toward the police/security line and the Lockheed Martin weapons complex. All were stopped, warned to leave, and arrested by Upper Merion Township police."

The eleven were taken to the police station and released on disorderly conduct citations. For more information, contact Brandywine Peace Community, 610-544-1818, brandywine@juno.com

Bangor

More than two hundred people were present at the demonstration commemorating the life of Dr. King at the gates of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor on January 15. Located 20 miles west of Seattle, the base at Bangor is the last active nuclear weapons depot on the West Coast. It's the home port to the Pacific fleet of Trident nuclear submarines, armed with about 1,360 nuclear warheads. Another 1,000 warheads are stored on the base in inactive reserve. The Trident base at Bangor has the largest stockpile of nuclear warheads in the United States.

At 2 p.m. on Sunday, demonstrators walked from the nearby Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action to the entrance of the base. Seven demonstrators then blocked the highway with the "Abolish Nuclear Weapons" banner they held.

As they were arrested by Kitsap County sheriffs, five more people crossed onto federal property at the base entrance. The five were arrested by naval base security. Demonstrators also hung a large banner over the entrance to the base, quoting Dr. King, "When scientific power outruns spiritual power, we end up with guided missiles and misguided men."

Feds Give In to Nuns' Noncooperation

Dominican religious sisters Carol Gilbert, Jackie Hudson and Ardeth Platte kept vigil for two weeks in late November on the sidewalk outside the U.S. Attorney's office in Denver, Colorado. They were there in violation of probation to collect canned food for the children of military families on public assistance. It was their latest effort to find an alternative to paying about three thousand dollars in restitution for damaging property at a nuclear missile silo on the high plains of northeastern Colorado during their Sacred Earth and Space Plowshares disarmament action in October, 2002.

Presenting the first cans to U.S. Attorney Robert Brown, Hudson brought pork and beans (a reference to pork-barrel war funding) and a can of corn, "because this case has been so corny from the beginning."

Platte delivered canned clams, "because the American people have clammed up enough" and now must speak truth to power. She also brought a tin of beef stew, explaining, "With the massive numbers of people who have been killed in this war, I don't want to stew over this any longer."

Gilbert carried sweet peas ("To give peas a chance") and cream of mushroom soup, representing the radiation cloud from a nuclear bomb like that atop the missile they exposed.

The gifts were refused by the U.S. Attorney's office and the Judge's office, as well.

The day after their vigil began, Gilbert and Platte's probation officer phoned, ordering them to return to

Maryland within 24 hours. The women replied that they would first finish the task they set out to do, as other groups came forward to help them distribute the cans of food that had begun to roll in. With help from local affiliates of CODE PINK, the American Friends Service Committee, Disabled American Veterans and Veterans for Peace, arrangements were made to deliver two truckloads of canned goods on November 28 to nearby Buckley Air Force Base and Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs.

But by the time the delivery truck was directed from the gate to the designated building for receiving the donation, Buckley officials had had a change of heart, and rejected the relief. Officials there placed a phone call to Peterson Air Force Base, and that donation was rejected as well. Eventually, the donations were distributed to the homeless in Denver and Colorado Springs. An inventory of the donations, the value of which exceeded the amount of the nuns' restitution, was given to their probation officer.

Early in January, the probation office asked the sentencing judge to terminate the nuns' supervised release, saying the sisters have "continuously used their supervision status as a forum to espouse their political and social beliefs." "In the interest of justice" he wrote that his office's time would be better spent supervising people who might pose a threat to the community. The court has not yet ruled on this request.

For more information, contact Jonah House at 410-233-4067 or visit jonahhouse.org



The base has been recently rebuilt for the deployment of the larger and more accurate Trident D-5 missile system. Each of the 24 D-5 missiles on a Trident submarine is capable of carrying eight of the larger 455 kiloton W-88 warheads (each warhead is about 30 times the explosive force as the Hiroshima bomb.)

The seven arrested by the county were booked and later released in Port Orchard. They face a new charge, "attempted disorderly conduct", and up to 90 days in jail and \$1,000 fine.

The five arrested by naval base security were booked at the Trident submarine base and released. They may face trial in federal court.

Bangor Trial Update

One week later, on January 22, three Ground Zero activists went on trial in Kitsap County Court for blocking the road at the Bangor base on two occasions last year.

Carol Ann Barrows, Shirley Morrison and Brian Watson faced two counts each of disorderly conduct for their arrests on May 15 (Mother's Day) and August 7 (Hiroshima/Nagasaki anniversary).

Their trial marked the first prosecution of Trident resisters since April 2006, when a jury failed to convict four people charged with "failure to disperse." For the six years before that trial, Kitsap County prosecutors had simply given up prosecuting Ground Zero demonstrators, following a string of failures to convict any of the people regularly arrested at Bangor.

The trial began with a hearing before Judge James Riehl on the admissibility of expert testimony by Dr. David Hall, a child and family psychiatrist long involved in the nuclear disarmament work of Physicians for Social Responsibility, and John Burroughs J.D., executive director of the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy in New York. Both testified for the court, as did defendant Watson, who was asked how the experts' testimony would relate to his own, should it be admitted.

After deliberating overnight, the judge accepted the relevance of the expert testimony. A jury was then selected and the trial began.

Burroughs testified for the defense about the spectrum of international law as it affects the nuclear weapons at sub base Bangor, concluding that he believes the defendants had "lawful authority" to block the road into the base. Dr. Hall provided details about the Trident submarine system that delivers nuclear weapons, and the environmental and medical effects of nuclear war.

The defendants also testified over the next two days of the trial, and on Friday, the six-member jury took the case and returned with guilty verdicts on all counts just three hours later. Sentencing of the three is set for February 22.

The next planned nonviolent direct action at Bangor will be in honor of Mother's Day in May, 2007.

For more information, contact Ground Zero at 16159 Clear Creek Road NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370, info@gzcenter.org.

ANTI-WAR VOICES LOUD AND CLEAR ON CAPITOL HILL...

Anti-war actions of all sorts targeted Congress after the election, and some have resulted in arrests.

During the week after the massive January 27 anti-war rally and march that encircled the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C., demonstrations and lobbying there continued to target Congress. Both the Rayburn and Hart office building atriums have provided dramatic venues for anti-war statements that senators and representatives cannot overlook. Arrests occurred on Monday, January 29, at another banner drop in the courtyard of the House of Representatives' Rayburn office building. This time, the 5' by 20' black cloth read WAR in white letters, and was accompanied by reading of the names of war dead. Evoking the WWII German "White Rose" resistance movement, hundreds of white roses were laid out in the atrium to be tossed into its frozen reflecting pool as the names were read, and cards declaring "We Will Not Be Silent" were placed on the balconies of the atrium and passed among the crowds. Passersby began to toss the roses into the water, even as police with bullhorns demanded the creators of the memorial "cease and desist." Eventually, nine people refused to clear the area and were arrested for unlawful assembly, including two people who had joined in solidarity after coming upon the demonstration.

On January 30, 40 CODE PINK women delivered a message to Sen. Hillary Clinton's Capitol Hill office: despite their desire to vote for a woman for President, they will refuse to vote for a candidate who still supports the war on Iraq. While they crowded the hall and pushed into the office, the women wove a "web of war" with pink fabric strips, "giving Hillary a chance to cut her web of war and join the majority of people in this country who want to bring the troops home," said one. The web impeded the arrest of six women who refused to leave the building, including one constituent of Sen. Clinton's.

...AND AROUND THE NATION

In Tucson, people headed to Washington for Saturday's demonstration were given a send-off on Thursday afternoon, January 25, when over 250 people marched two miles through downtown. The march concluded at the federal building, surging attendance at the rush-hour peace vigil held there weekly since 1981. Nancy Gallen and Richard Boren stepped into the empty plaza right in front of the building's main entrance and unfurled a banner reading "Stop the Killing." They were quickly hustled out of view by Homeland Security and local police, and charged with trespass. Gallen was released soon on her own recognizance. Boren was jailed overnight because he refused to identify



photo by Mary-Ann DeVita Palmieri

Marcia Gagliardi, Julia Bonafine, Dorthie (her full name), Claire Chang, Frances Crowe and Hattie Nestel, from left, during a Shut-It-Down affinity group demonstration Tuesday morning, January 23, 2007 at the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor in Vernon, Vermont. With Paki Wieland of Northampton, who also chained herself to the group in the driveway, they were arrested by Brattleboro police and charged with trespass and disorderly conduct. The women are scheduled to appear for arraignment in Windham County District Court March 20, but charges have been dropped in each of three previous blockades.

fy himself until his arraignment the following day, a personal act of solidarity with unnamed "enemy combatants" now imprisoned without access to a court of law. They await trial dates.

In Seattle, more than a thousand people marched for peace on January 27, and police arrested one woman who allegedly hit an officer in the arm after he tried to move her anti-war sign.

Military Refusers

On Election Day, November 7, U.S. Marine Lance Corporal **Ivan Brobeck**, 20, of Arlington, Virginia, returned from being absent without leave (AWOL) in Canada to the United States and turned himself in to military authorities.

During a tour of duty in Iraq in 2004, Brobeck witnessed the abuse of Iraqi detainees and the killing of Iraqi civilians at military checkpoints. He chose Canada over a second tour in a war that he came to see as illegal and contrary to the interests and moral standards of most Americans.

"I was not willing to go back and fight a war that I did not believe was right, and I didn't want to put myself in a situation where I would possibly kill an innocent civilian," Brobeck wrote in an open letter to the President, Congress, and American people.

"Since I was not willing to return to Iraq, the only option I saw was to go to Canada. I have spent nearly two years there living, working, and married to my wife (who is six months pregnant). Now I feel that I am ready to return to the U.S. and face the consequences of refusing to participate in a war that I do not believe is right..."

Brobeck was taken to the Marine base in Quantico, Virginia, and in December a court martial found him guilty of missing movement. He was sentenced to 8 months in prison, later reduced to 62 days via pretrial agreement. Brobeck was released February 6, and intended to return immediately to Canada where his Canadian wife is due to deliver their first child.

Sgt. **Ricky Clousing**, whose tour of duty as an Army interrogator in Iraq convinced him he could no longer in clear conscience participate in that war, has completed a three month prison sentence for being AWOL. Clousing was released on December 23.

Spc. **Mark Wilkerson**, who returned from being AWOL in Canada last August 31, has pleaded guilty to desertion and missing movement, and will be sentenced February 22 at Ft. Hood, Texas. He faces up to ten months in prison. For more information, visit Wilkerson's blog, *Red, White & Blurry: My Life as an AWOL Soldier* at markwilkerson.wordpress.com

At a summary court martial on December 14, Spc. **Suzanne Swift** pleaded guilty to missing movement and being AWOL and was sentenced to 30 days confinement. Swift had gone AWOL after being subjected to sexual harassment and assault in addition to the brutality of the Iraq occupation, leading to a diagnosis of post-traumatic

stress disorder. She was released from the military prison at Bangor Naval Base, Washington, on January 3, and must remain in the military until 2009. She is seeking a medical discharge before then.

The court martial of Army Lt. **Ehren Watada**, the first officer to refuse orders to deploy to Iraq on the grounds that the war is illegal, began February 5 at Ft. Lewis, Washington. It collapsed two days later when the military judge declared a mistrial in a questionable manner that may preclude taking Lt. Watada to trial again. In pretrial proceedings, the judge had ruled against Watada's argument that he believed the order to deploy to Iraq was illegal and could not be followed. In that context, the judge found Watada's subsequent stipulation to the facts of refusing the order was tantamount to an admission of guilt, without actually admitting guilt. Watada's defense is now arguing that the retrial set to begin in March would amount to double jeopardy.

When pretrial hearings began January 4, some Iraq War Veterans deployed to establish "Camp Resistance" outside the Ft. Lewis gate, a 24/7 presence that was sustained through the court martial. In San Francisco that day, Watada's supporters marched from Peace Plaza in Japantown to the federal building, where some joined a die-in with Not In Our Name activists. Police arrested 28 people, including many local Nikkei who have rallied in support of their fellow Japanese-American.

Among the unprecedented developments since Watada first went public with his refusal last spring were subpoenas and a prosecution witness list issued in December that named three reporters, a local anti-war activist and two Veterans for Peace organizers. Watada's speech at the Veterans For Peace national convention in Seattle last August gave rise to some of the charges against him.

Independent journalist Sarah Olson, who was the first to interview Lt. Watada last May, went public with her professional refusal to cooperate. "It's my job to report the news, not to participate in a government prosecution. Testifying against my source would turn the press into an investigative tool of the government and chill dissenting voices in the United States."

Phan Nguyen of Olympia, who began organizing local support as soon as Watada went public, reported that the army prosecutor who contacted him "basically demanded that I name the names of any key organizers that had anything to do with the public support campaign created to support Lt. Watada."

Vets for Peace campaigner Gerri Haynes con-

firmed that the prosecution "wanted the names of convention attendees and organizers."

"They are clearly on a political fishing expedition," Nguyen concluded. "Unless we fight back, this could have a chilling effect on anti-war organizing at a time when we have to step up to end the war."

The press issue was resolved January 29, when the army dropped two charges of conduct unbecoming of an officer, namely those arising from his interviews with Olson and Greg Kakesako of the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*. In return, Watada stipulated that he did in fact make the statements reported by the journalists, and the subpoenas for their testimony were dropped.

Two days later, prosecutors backed off further and dropped the activists' subpoenas as well.

Watada faces a possible four year sentence if convicted on the remaining charges of missing movement and two counts of conduct unbecoming an officer.

The court martial of Army medic and conscientious objector **Agustin Aguayo** is set to begin in Germany on March 6. Aguayo remains in the brig in Manheim, Germany, facing up to seven years in prison for desertion and missing movement. He applied for conscientious objector discharge from the Army after being deployed to Iraq in February 2004. He served a full one year tour of duty in Iraq, all the while refusing to load his weapon. Last September in Germany, he slipped out the back window of his home when MPs showed up to force him into his redeployed unit. He turned himself in in Los Angeles a few weeks later, but the Army immediately shipped him back to Germany in handcuffs.

Helga Aguayo, Agustin's wife of 15 years, said of her husband's last deployment, "It changed him, and not in a good way. I've seen my husband die, little by little. The greatest lesson he could teach our two daughters is to stand up for what you believe in, and if you don't, you hurt the people around you. I hope our experience will strengthen others to speak out against the war."

The Aguayo family is in need of financial support for his civilian legal defense. Mail checks or money orders payable to Courage to Resist, and in the memo line write "Agustin Aguayo Campaign." Send to 484 Lakepark Avenue # 41, Oakland, CA 94610. More information is available at www.Aguayodefense.org.

For more information about the military refusers noted here and their specific support needs, visit courage-torealist.org.

Sentencing statement of Fr. Carl Kabat in Federal District Court Bismarck, North Dakota November 16, 2006

Brother Judge, prosecutor and others: We are too much like Pilate. We are always asking "What is truth?"; and then crucifying the truth that stands before our eyes.

Our minds are deformed with a kind of contempt for reality. Instead of conforming ourselves to what is, we twist everything in our actions and thoughts to fit our own deformity.

I believe that you, brothers Hovland and Hochhalter, know that the Minuteman III at E-9 is insane, immoral and illegal, but your actions protected that insanity, that immorality and that illegality.

You refused to let international law be considered and ruled out the testimony of experts on international law. You know that a higher law trumps a lower law. Federal law is above state law and international law is above federal law.

Brother Hovland, you could have possibly been a Rosa Parks, but your actions said "no." You will probably not even be a Judge Miles Lord and unless there is a real turn-around, you will certainly not be one of the German judges who, in 1980, blocked the transport of U.S. nuclear-armed Pershing II missiles. By the way, the U.S. missiles are no longer in Germany.

We all can openly and publicly condemn North Korea for nuclear bombs. We can openly and publicly condemn Iraq for nuclear weapons and go to war with them. We can openly and publicly condemn Iran for nuclearism, but we do not publicly condemn the United States for the same.

All of the Catholic Bishops of the world, in 1965 at the Vatican II Council, declared, "Nuclear weapons are a crime against humanity and are to be condemned unreservedly." Where is the open and public condemnation of nuclear weapons by our brother Bishop Zepfel here in Bismarck, North Dakota? Where is the open and public condemnation of

nuclear weapons by you, brother prosecutor Clare Hochhalter?

As I have said, we are too much like Pilate. We are always asking, "What is truth?", and then crucifying the truth that stands before our eyes.

The judge who sentenced Franz Jagerstatter, an Austrian peasant, to be beheaded in 1944 because he would not be part of the evil Nazi effort, cried when he sentenced Franz to be beheaded and it could be said of him what Shakespeare said of Brutus, "For he was an honorable man."

I ask what is the use of post marking our mail with exhortations to "Pray for Peace" and then spending billions of dollars on atomic armed submarines, thermonuclear weapons and ballistic missiles? This I would say would certainly be what the New Testament calls "mocking God."

It can be said of brother Catholic Bishop Zepfel that he is an honorable man. The Catholic Church in 1965 declared, "Nuclear weapons are a crime against humanity and are to be condemned unreservedly," so Bishop Zepfel, why have you not condemned unreservedly? Brother Judge Hovland, why have you not condemned the Minuteman IIIs unreservedly? Brother prosecutor Clare, why have you not condemned unreservedly the Minuteman IIIs?

Or is it as Shakespeare said, "For are not they all honorable men?"

Our minds are deformed with a kind of contempt for reality. Instead of conforming ourselves to what is, we twist everything in our actions, words and thoughts to fit our own deformity.

[Carl Kabat is serving a 15 month sentence for disarming a nuclear missile silo in North Dakota.]

SHUT DOWN GUANTANAMO, CONT.

continued from page 1

he has people in his life who love him and desperately want him to come home.

Each of us risking arrest carried a motion that we delivered to the Clerk of Courts, asking that our individual prisoner's case be heard in the Federal Court in Washington. In addition, a motion from the Center for Constitutional Rights, asking that the cases of all the detainees at Guantanamo be heard in federal court was also filed with the Clerk.

Between 10:30 and noon, about 89 people had entered the courthouse and filed their briefs. We needed our ID to enter, but after that, most of us gave our ID to our support person.

A little before noon we saw the procession approach the courthouse. They were followed by a crowd of supporters. When they arrived, about 40 of them planned to risk arrest and join us inside the Federal Courthouse. Others planned to continue a vigil outside, including a moving demonstration of the horrors of waterboarding. However, the 40 who wanted to enter courthouse were refused. The courthouse doors were locked. This provided a poignant image of the protesters, dressed in orange jumpsuits, being locked out of the courthouse, just as the prisoners in Guantanamo have been. They remained outside and were not arrested.

At noon those already inside the courthouse gathered in the atrium. Jennifer and other support people were standing off to the side, so that they were not identified as being with our group. Those risking arrest took off our outer shirts and we were all wearing orange t-shirts that said "Stop the Torture" and "Get out of Guantanamo." We began our vigil reading names of men who were illegally detained at Guantanamo, and reading their stories. It was a moving, unprecedented demonstration inside the courthouse, as we thought about the suffering of our brothers being treated in such a horrible way.

Within a few minutes, a federal marshal came and asked us to leave. We told him that we could not leave. There were negotiations between the marshal, the chief judge, and our people. After about 30-40 minutes or so, the marshal said the chief judge indicated that we were in a "free speech zone" - whatever that means. I thought we always have free speech in this country. He said that we could stay there if we put away our banners and covered up our t-shirts. Of course, we could not do that. That was part of our free speech, an important part of our message.

We continued with the vigil, reading names of detainees, even as the federal marshal continued to talk about what we needed to do. Finally, the marshal gave us three warnings, and then others came out and began arresting us. When the first people were arrested, the rest of us dropped to our knees and began to sing "Peace, Salam, Shalom" as the 89 who were arrested were peacefully led away. I was one of the last to be arrested and it was such a moving experience. I heard later that one of the attorneys who works with the detainees in Guantanamo was standing at the window, looking in as we were arrested and tears were running down his cheeks.

Because we were in a Federal Courthouse, we were taken to the holding cells in the basement. We did not have to be transported or handcuffed.

The officers took all our property and each person's property was put in an unmarked plastic bag. Then we were locked in the holding cells. I was in a cell with 19 other women. They held us for five hours without charging us with anything or telling us what they were going to do with us. Finally at 6:00 p.m., we learned that we were going to be given citations and then let go. First they took my picture. My police officer asked me what my name was. That question was very unusual. They always ask for your picture ID in order to get a proper identification. I said I was there on behalf of Abdul Zahir and that was the only information I was going to give. I think he tried to intimidate me when he asked me a couple of times in a loud voice if I was sure that was all I wanted to say. I repeated myself and he wrote Jane Doe on my citation. We were being charged with disorderly conduct. I signed the citation Abdul Zahir and was released. The support people had heard we were going to be released and they were waiting outside the courthouse with hugs, and food, and our identification. It was so good to see them.

We have a court date scheduled for April 18. Of course, there is no way that the authorities can make sure that we will show up because they do not have any identification for most of us. Perhaps the court hopes we will not show up. However, many people I have talked to already, including me, plan to be in court on April 18 and demand to tell the story of the men in Guantanamo. We will not be silenced. We must continue to speak and we must continue to act strongly as long as our government continues to act in such an illegal and immoral way that causes such incredible human suffering.

UPDATE

In a related case, charges against 16 people arrested at the White House last October were dismissed by a federal judge on January 17. They were protesting President Bush's signing into law that day the Military Commissions Acts of 2006, legitimating torture and denying habeas corpus to the Guantanamo prisoners and other victims of his so-called "war on terror."

Also in January, oral arguments were presented in a First Amendment appeal by three people arrested in the plaza of the U.S. Supreme Court on February 9, 2005. They were staging a protest of the confirmation of Alberto Gonzalez as Attorney General, and his part in permitting the torture of prisoners in Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib.

For more information and the report on the second U.S. activist-led march to Guantanamo on January 11, visit witness torture.org

GHOST OF GUANTANAMO

The silent image of a black-hooded detainee in an orange jumpsuit was also brought to life January 11 in Columbia, Missouri. A little after noon, hood in hand, Catholic Worker Steve Jacobs wore the iconic clothing of extrajudicial imprisonment and torture into the office of U.S. Senator Kit Bond. He identified himself as the ghost of Ali Abdullah Ahmed, a Guantanamo detainee who reportedly took his own life last June.

The Ghost of Ali told staff he would leave when Sen. Bond renounced his vote against Sen. John McCain's compromise torture bill. "I'm just going to wait over here, then," he said, and took up a chair in the corner, under the flag, and pulled the hood over his head. There he sat quietly as staff and the media worked around him until 5 p.m., when he was arrested for trespassing.

Outside, a small vigil's sign said "Shame on Kit Bond, Missouri's pro-torture senator." Jacobs was jailed overnight and released after arraignment the next afternoon.

For more information contact Lana or Steve Jacobs at 573-875-4913 or [sfhchw913@aol.com](mailto:sfhcw913@aol.com)



photo courtesy jonahhouse.org

Members of the Atlantic Life Community demonstrate at the Department of Energy, Washington, D.C., December 28, 2006.

Christian Resisters Recall the Holy Innocents

The Atlantic Life Community's annual Feast of the Holy Innocents Faith and Resistance Retreat, December 27-30, 2006, brought a public witness for peace to the Department of Energy, the Pentagon, and the White House.

Arrests occurred on the morning of December 29, when about 30 people marched through the Pentagon parking lot carrying banners, drumming and handing out books. The banners read, "The Massacre Continues, Our Hands are Full of Blood, There are no Innocent Bystanders," "The U.S. is the World's #1 Terrorist. Disarm Now."

They walked to the Metro entrance of the Pentagon, where they read from scripture and gave out about 20 copies of the book *Collateral Damage: Photographs of the Iraqi People* with photographs by George Sapio and text by George Sapio and Maura Stephens. The books were donated by the authors to be given to the workers at the Pentagon.

Bill Frankel-Streit, Susan Crane and Jay McGinley were arrested as they passed the books out to employees and others passing by. Emily Harry, who was not giving away the book, was arrested on the grass in the designated "free speech zone."

Frankel-Streit and Crane went to trial on Friday, January 19. The judge allowed them to present their defense, talk about their moral reasons for being at the Pentagon, why they gave out the books, and their views on depleted uranium, the war and torture.

The U.S. attorney objected only once, and the judge overruled him. Nevertheless, he found both guilty and fined them \$50 each.

For more information, visit jonahhouse.org

'GRAVEDIGGER' JAILED; CAR SEIZED & SOLD TO PAY FINE

British activist Chris Cole was recently sentenced to 28 days in jail for refusing to pay a £661 fine for an Iraq war protest. He was released after 12 days. On the Feast of the Holy Innocents, December 28, 2004, Cole and four others dug symbolic graves in the lawn of the Ministry of Defence in London and spray-painted "Remember the Innocent - Stop the War".

Cole told magistrates that he refused to pay the fine because it had been right to protest the war. "Thousands of innocent people have lost their lives in the illegal invasion and ongoing war in Iraq. Ordinary people have a duty to resist war-making on innocent civilians by their government." Last summer, bailiffs seized the Cole family car and sold it at auction for a mere £52 towards payment of his fine.

Crawford

As the President prepared to meet with top aides at his Texas ranch after Christmas, talk of a "surge" in troops propelled Gold Star Mother for Peace Cindy Sheehan and four others onto the road, blocking the Secret Service checkpoint with a "peace surge." Their action delayed a motorcade going to the ranch and the five were arrested for obstructing a highway. They were held in the local jail overnight, then arraigned and released the next day.

If there was one way to upstage the Guantanamo anniversary protests of January 11, it was for the President to wait until the night before to make public his intent to escalate the war.

By coincidence or design, the President did just that, and "No Surge!" protests proliferated on January 11, adding to those already planned against the extralegal prison.

Portland

The "surge" in Iraq spawned a Surge Protection Brigade in Portland, Oregon. That's the name claimed by a group of women, some of whom chained themselves to the federal building there on January 11. Five were arrested for trespass and disobeying a police officer.

Surge Responses

On January 19, the growing Surge Protection Brigade (SPB), now numbering eight grandmothers, arrived at a military recruiting center to hold a sit-in. But the center had locked the doors before noon. The SPB returned early a week later, and placed themselves on rocking chairs and easy chairs in front of both front and back doors. A stand-off ensued, as a recruiter arrived, police converged, and the women sat, peacefully knitting with protest signs at their knees. Soon, one woman was pushed aside just enough by the recruiter, who slipped inside the door. The office was open, but business had again been disrupted, and when the women began to move their rockers inside the office building, police responded. Six women, ages 49 to 75, and three rocking chairs were taken into custody.

The women were released later, and all charged with interfering with a police officer. Five were also charged with disorderly conduct. They are due in court on March 7.

The recruiting center was closed again for the fourth week in a row on February 9, when SPB vigilers staggered their presence through the entire day. For more information, contact surgeprotectionbrigade@yahoo.com

Greensboro

In Greensboro, North Carolina, more than one hundred people with signs filled four corners of the intersection of downtown Elm and Market Streets during the evening rush hour on January 11. A local drum corps provided music. Around 6 p.m., one group moved into the middle of the intersection, some dancing while others erected a large anti-war sign, stopping traffic. Police on hand moved in to break up the crowd. The first person they encountered who refused to move, Kristopher Hilbert, was tasered. "He was resisting," the officer who fired the weapon was reported to say. He revealed a different motive for his sudden escalation of force as he continued, "and when you have a crowd situation like that, you have to start somewhere." Hilbert fell to the ground, where police handcuffed him and then put him in the back of their cruiser. Eight more were arrested, including Liz Seymour and her adult daughter Isabel Seymour. Liz Seymour said, "I was standing right next to (Hilbert) doing the exact same thing that he was doing, and they didn't taser me. I guess it's that the scruffy-looking kids get taken to the ground and the older women don't."

Again on February 12, two more people were arrested in Sen. Smith's office, seeking assurance that he would vote to cut funding, and not simply on a nonbinding resolution opposing the war. By the next day, the Senator's office, like others around the country, had locked the door and adopted a policy of not admitting the public unless they had a prior appointment. For more information, visit defundthewar.com.

In many more congressional districts, Occupation Projects are underway but have not yet resulted in arrests.

For more information including contact information for local groups involved in the Occupation Project, contact Voices for Creative Nonviolence at 773-878-3815, occupationproject@vcnv.org, or visit vcnv.org.

Occupation Project, cont.

continued from page 3

express this directly and clearly through nonviolent civil disobedience, we believe that elected leaders with conscience will pay attention."

Three days later, on February 8, police in Brentwood, Missouri, responded to a call from the office of Rep. Russ Carnahan (D) after seven participants in the Occupation Project refused to leave at closing time. They were seeking a written or public statement that Carnahan, who speaks against the war, will not vote for more war bucks. All were charged with trespass, and two additionally with resisting arrest after their peaceful noncooperation.

Again on Valentine's Day, three members of the local Occupation Project's Women of Faith affinity group were arrested for trespass when they refused to leave Rep. Carnahan's office.

The next day, February 15, two more women, members of the Chimes affinity group, were arrested after sitting in at the Congressman's office. They were released on \$500 bond.

Then on Friday, February 16, eight members of the Prelude affinity group entered Carnahan's office and sat down in the reception area. They were asked to move out of sight into a conference room, and when they chose instead to remain in the front office, police were called and seven people were arrested for trespass. By now, after 20 recent arrests, police are demanding \$750 bond.

In Campbell, California, the South Bay Occupation Project has targeted the offices of Representatives Mike Honda and Zoe Lofgren. When

the Peninsula Raging Grannies took their turn occupying Rep. Honda's office on February 8, they served tea and cookies with icing that identified the legislation they want Honda to support, "HR 508." Two people were arrested at closing time when they refused to leave.

In some states, groups joining the Occupation Project have been taking action at legislators' offices for awhile, through independent initiative or affiliation with the DoP or NCNV. Oregon Senator Gordon Smith (D) has been the focus of a Defund the War Campaign in Portland. Four people visited his office December 12 to conduct a simple sit-in with small signs seeking assurance that "...Smith would not vote any more funding for the criminal occupation of Iraq." Some time later, four police arrived with a building representative, and warned the activists that they would be arrested if they did not leave. They were, when they did not, and after six hours in custody they walked out of the jail.

Tom Hastings pled guilty and was sentenced to community service, and the other three are waiting for a trial date. Defendant Vernon Huffman writes, "It's going to be interesting to see if they can find a Portland jury that will convict people for politely petitioning for redress of grievance in a U.S. Senator's office during business hours."

On January 25, two men visited Sen. Smith's office to again politely insist that he pledge to stop voting to fund the war, and bring his actions in line with his recent speechifying against it. When Joe Walsh and Tony Horton declined to leave without such a pledge, even at closing time, they were cited for trespass on the rather reluctant complaint of the office staff. A court date was set for February 26.

CONNECTICUT ACTIVIST ARRESTED AS THREAT TO GOVERNOR

A Connecticut man found out he was under special surveillance by state police when he was arrested at the governor's inaugural parade on January 3. Ken Krayske, who managed the Green Party gubernatorial campaign last fall and has been arrested for both anti-war and anti-nuclear protest, is also a photographer and journalist. When he stepped from the crowd to snap photos of Gov. Jodi Rell, Krayske was grabbed by Hartford cops, who charged him with breach of the peace and interfering with police.

Later it was revealed that state police had circulated a photo of Krayske as a potential threat because of his arrest record and vocal public challenges to Rell last fall that she debate the Green Party candidate.

Hartford cops initially set bail at \$75,000 and accused Krayske of being "evasive" and "uncooperative" because he refused to answer questions and asked for a lawyer. A state bail commissioner set him free without bail 13 hours later, after the inaugural ball was over.

Ahead of his March 2 appearance in Hartford Superior Court, editorials have condemned the process that placed Krayske on a threat list, and called for the charge to be dropped. Even Gov. Rell believes police overreacted and has asked police officials to review the matter. Updates will be posted to Krayske's blog at the40yearplan.com

Students Challenge California Regents Over Nuke Labs

Students with the Coalition to Demilitarize the UC attended the November meeting of the University of California board of regents in Los Angeles. By contract with the federal government, the University has long managed both the Los Alamos and Livermore nuclear weapons laboratories. During the public comment period, one student from UC Santa Barbara asked the regents to help the group fold 10,000 origami cranes, one for every nuclear weapon in the U.S. arsenal, every one designed and built by a UC employee. She emptied several bags full of their folded symbols of peace, about 500, onto the floor, and observed, "It's really hard to fold 10,000 of these."

Later, when the Chair tried to convene the DOE Lab Oversight Committee, the students began to clap and chant, and soon the meeting was adjourned and the board retreated. Police moved in and arrested nine. Charges were later dropped, but an administrator remarked during their booking that the students "wouldn't want to jeopardize their future [at the University] by doing things like this again."

For more information, email ucsbsaw@gmail.com.

More California War Resistance

On December 7, 200 people held a die-in at the San Francisco federal building, symbolic of the carnage of the U.S. war in Iraq. Twelve people were arrested, including the Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of California.

California Highway Patrol officers blocked all bicycle and foot traffic across the Golden Gate Bridge on New Year's Day to prevent some 60 CODE PINK women and men from joining the San Francisco holiday tradition with their peripatetic commemoration of the 3,000th U.S. military fatality in Iraq. Ten women were arrested but the circumstances and public outcry led to dismissal of the charges several days later.

The anniversary of the February 15, 2003 worldwide protest against the invasion of Iraq was the occasion for a student walk out at the University of California/Santa Barbara and many other campuses. In Santa Barbara, up to a thousand students and community supporters walked off campus and down Highway 217 until they met a line of California Highway Patrol autos and officers. Two women were arrested for disobeying police orders during a 2-hour peaceful standoff that kept the students from reaching the major coastal highway, U.S. 101. Both were released within a few hours.

MILITARY RECRUITING SHUT DOWN

GREENFIELD

A thirty-member choir of Raging Grannies sang their anti-war parodies outside the army recruiting office in Greenfield, Massachusetts on November 15. Five of the women entered the office to ask the recruiters to cease soliciting young men and women to wage war, and when they refused to leave, they were arrested for trespassing.

Paki Wieland and Hattie Nestel refused to post bail and were held overnight for arraignment with the others the next day. A date has not been set for their jury trial.

CHAPEL HILL

The December 16 grand opening of the Army Career Center in Chapel Hill, North Carolina was picketed by 30 people chanting "Out of Iraq! Out of our schools! Out of town! Shut the war down!" The property manager told them to move back to the public sidewalk.

Barry and Janie Freeman, 80 and 71, stayed put, holding small signs that read "Hands off my Grandchildren." When they refused to put away their message they were arrested for trespass, as was Steve Woolford, a counselor on the GI Rights Hotline who remained with them. The charges were all later dismissed.

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

THE INSIDE LINE



from Duluth

by Greg Boertje-Obed

"The religion of nonviolence is not meant merely for the holy people and saints. It is meant for the common people as well. I have ventured to place before India the ancient law of self-sacrifice. For Satyagraha and its off-shoots, noncooperation and civil resistance, are nothing but new names for the law of suffering."
M.K. Gandhi

Many people in prison support and understand our action of risking prison when we symbolically hammered on the nuclear missile silo in North Dakota. We called our action the Weapons of Mass Destruction Here Plowshares.

Prior to our action, Michael and I volunteered at the Loaves and Fishes Catholic Worker and we helped by cleaning, cooking, making repairs, dealing with crises, listening, sharing reflections, and sometimes playing Scrabble or other games while doing house duty and answering the phone.

Here we don't have to answer a phone or cook, but we find ourselves doing many of the same other activities. From our study of Jesuits and from our learning from Dan Berrigan, we are aware that sometimes Jesuits studied an area of expertise, such as astronomy, and then took that knowledge to a different region of the world, such as China, and used it to build relationships and to gain a foothold for sharing about their faith.

We have begun a similar process here with our interest in Scrabble. We are in awe of the high quality, expert skills here, and the saying of Padre Pio, "Humility is truth", keeps returning to us. We are finding that engaging in the game is a means of building community which leads to discussing other issues.

Some of the issues that arise include the urgent need for massive prison reform. Overcrowding and warehousing of inmates are serious problems here. Rooms which are about 10 feet by 15 feet are sometimes packed with 6 people. The close quarters often make it difficult to stay out of each other's way. The prison camp is said to be designed for 400-600 inmates, but about 900 are currently here. The city of Hermantown's zoning regulations are said to be violated by the high density of people here. Also, mold is reported to be a health problem in some buildings, and some say it is not being dealt with by state safety standards. Many people here are aware that the billions of funds that go to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan could have been used instead for job-training or educational programs which could improve people's lives.

While Michael and I most of the time do not think of ourselves as sacrificing or suffering greatly, now and then other people mention those ideas to us. Some people thank us for the sacrifice we're making, and some tell others that we are sacrificing our freedom for the sake of everyone.

Sometimes when I hear these comments, the thought comes of Phil Berrigan saying that activists risk prison and separation from loved ones for the sake of providing enlightenment to those at the high levels of decision-making in our society. Phil would say that we are their hope, because we are speaking and enacting truth for their sake and welfare. We are also reminded that we took the risk of prison for the sake of judges, prosecutors, juries, and their children. Although our sentencing judge repeatedly disdained the value of our risking jail, we are aware that Jesus predicted that some people would not understand the witness of his followers, as his words and actions were not accepted. We pray for those who oppose our witness and hope that a change of conscience might occur in them some day.

Another Gandhi quote which gives us hope is: "Nonviolence in its dynamic condition means the pitting of one's whole soul against the will of the tyrant. Working under this law of our being, it is possible for a single individual to defy the whole might of an unjust Empire and lay the foundation for that Empire's fall or its regeneration."

While what we do is very little, it can be part of the process of waking people up to the injustice of our U.S. empire, which is not carrying out its treaty obligations to negotiate and pursue complete nuclear disarmament.

While our nation may collapse due to our oppressive dominance of the poor and other nations, a change and transformation leading to regeneration is also possible. The experiences we are gaining while here at the federal prison camp in Duluth cause us to ask everyone to stay informed on justice issues. Please strive to keep "in the know" about what our government is doing with prisoners and how our legal system has become a tool of the oppressors.

[Greg Boertje-Obed is serving one year and one day in federal prison in Duluth, Minnesota for pouring blood on and hammering on a thermonuclear missile silo in North Dakota.]

INTERNATIONAL

NOTES

Korean Activist Out on Bail

Kim Ji-Tae, leader of the Village of Daechuri, Korea, was released from prison on bail on December 28. Amnesty International had declared him a prisoner of conscience a month earlier. Kim was jailed in early June, ironically charged with inciting violence by his leadership of the nonviolent resistance to U.S. military base expansion that has destroyed his and neighboring small farming communities with the combined force of thousands of Korean soldiers, riot police, and heavy equipment that razed buildings and plowed up rice fields over the last few years.

The last rice fields were surrounded with barbed wire in November, forcing the remaining 46 families into negotiation with the government about their future without land, crops, or income. In December, it was finally admitted that base expansion will be delayed at least five more years due to construction delays and for renegotiation about cost overruns in the relocation budget. Still, the government demanded the village must be vacated by April, while agreeing to eventually establish one or two relocation villages where the farmers can continue to work cooperatively. For more information, visit savept-farmers.org

'Judges' Kicked Out of Court

Frits ter Kuile of the Amsterdam Catholic Worker writes: "July 8 [2006] we blocked our [Ministry of Defense] dressed as judges to remind the war minister of the ten years since the world court ruled against nukes. In September we had our trial, dressed as judges, and were kicked out of court. March 23, the 2nd trial."

Block the Builders

Monthly demonstrations and blockades of Great Britain's nuclear weapons factory are emphasizing the fact that a majority of the British people are opposed to their government's plan to upgrade the factory and modernize its nuclear arsenal, as the Americans are.

Four hundred people rallied November 27 outside the gate of the Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment. Throughout the day, teams of citizen weapons inspectors sought entry into the sprawling complex. As each was turned away, the inspectors would then post a notice on the fence nearby that all work to replace Trident was in violation of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. One woman was arrested for violating bail conditions.

The road outside Aldermaston was again closed by police for two hours in December during a blockade by a dozen people using a concrete-filled "wheelie bin" and a variety of lock-ons.

Then in January, Scottish activists surprised authorities and blocked construction traffic for four hours. On February 12, about 50 people participated in blockades at Aldermaston, and six were arrested. Two people were subsequently charged and will appear in Newbury magistrates' court on February 22.

For more information, visit blockthebuilders.org.uk

Canadians Challenge War Merchant

About 60 people made another attempt on November 20 to dialogue with executives at Wescam, a war plant in Burlington, Ontario. Wescam is a subsidiary of L-3 Communications, Canada's number one weapons maker. A police sergeant walked in on demonstrators as they gathered at a local church that morning to warn that any lawbreakers would be arrested. Gail Lorimer, who vigils for peace regularly at the L-3 site, handed the sergeant a 15-page Citizen's Inspection Certificate, outlining 22 separate legal violations committed by Wescam through its war production and association with subsidiaries implicated in torture and murder of detainees.

Police took no action on the document, but by the end of the day the police had arrested eleven of the people who tried to deliver the document and have some dialogue with company executives about converting to civilian production. Their demonstration was marked by a two-hour amplified reading of names of war dead. Some were arrested when they crossed a line painted in the grass and tried to approach the building. Most sat down in front of the police line. All were cited and released on site. Their next court date is May 2.

For more information, contact Homes not Bombs, PO Box 73620, 509 St. Clair Ave. West, Toronto, Ontario M6C 1C0, Canada, 416-651-5800, tasc@web.ca or on the web at homesnotbombs.ca

Prestwick Weapons Inspectors Cleared

In December, Scottish prosecutors were unable to sufficiently prove their case against five people charged with breaching security at the Prestwick airport last August and boarding a U.S. military aircraft to protest the transport of U.S. arms to Israel via Britain. The case collapsed and the five citizen weapons inspectors, from Scotland, Finland, and Belgium, walked free. Two other groups of Prestwick inspectors await trial.

One of the waiting defendants, Marcus Armstrong said, "For Prestwick airport, a citizen's inspection was the only reasonable option. Reports that the traffic had stopped were suspect. In relation to similar allegations over rendition flights, Strathclyde police had shamefully refused to investigate what was a strong prima facie case and it was obvious that asking them to intervene would have been a waste of time, especially when an urgent response was required. In such cases, as is the norm with our illegal nuclear weapons, it is down to ordinary citizens to act in a restrained, considered and peaceful fashion. The spotlight now is on Ayr Sheriff Court to uphold the law by acting on the Scottish High Court's acceptance that international law is part of Scots law, and by recognizing the lawful authority the inspectors had. The state must be accountable for its collusion with war crimes..."

Faslane365 Arrests Top 500

The Faslane365 campaign continues the year-long, peaceful blockade of the Trident nuclear submarine base on Gareloch, north of Glasgow. Every other day or so, people from local, national and even international groups representing all sections of civil society are being arrested as they block the main gate. At press time, 55 different groups have participated, resulting in at least 517 arrests.

With police resources already strained by the need for daily mobilization to keep Faslane open, the courts have avoided overload because only four people have been referred for prosecution. Three of these were removed from particularly difficult lock-ons, and one woman has been arrested four times since the campaign kicked off last October 1.



The numbers participating with each blockade group have not met the organizer's goal of 100 per day. This has not discouraged the campaign, which is nonetheless contributing to the current debate over the future of Britain's nuclear arsenal and aging submarine delivery system. Prime Minister Tony Blair wants to replace the four Tridents, but with each passing week, more and more prominent voices are endorsing the vision of nuclear disarmament for Great Britain by the time they are retired in 2024.

Among the recent blockades was a January 7 protest where academics held seminars on papers they had researched on the subject of nuclear weapons. It started on the shoulder, but eventually moved onto the road. Overwhelmed by sheer numbers, with over thirty students and about fifty academics, the police had no option but to leave protesters blocking the main entrance to the nuclear base.

When it was clear that police were in no position to clear the road any time soon, and due to the cold temperatures and heavy rain, protesters erected tents, set up a tea table with a gas powered urn and eventually brought a brazier and lit a fire in the main road. After five hours, Strathclyde police managed to mobilize enough officers and spent a further hour clearing the road of people. A total of seventeen academics and eighteen students were arrested.

There are still spaces in the blockade rota and the Steering Group is keen to book groups ready to take on a minimum 2-day presence between now and the end of September. "The impact of civil resistance depends on sustaining it at a great enough pressure for long enough to effect change," they write. An organizing structure, some hospitality and logistical support are provided for visiting groups.

The Steering Group meets regularly with police to discuss safety and other issues, but "We do not consider that our nonviolent disruption of preparations for mass murder should be policed at all, and continue to call upon the police to investigate the crimes going on inside Faslane and to help us put an end to war crime preparations," the Steering Group writes. One recent topic was the possibility of timing some blockades so as not to interfere with morning school bus traffic during exam days in May. The Steering Group has recommended to the base, via the police, that their regular hours of operation be shifted one hour earlier, if they would like the blockades to have less impact on the lawful business and local traffic around the base.

For more information about bringing a group or joining one at Faslane, plus photos and reports from all the blockades so far, visit faslane365.org

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Verdict Due in Vanunu's Latest Trial

Israeli nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu was again on trial in Israel last month, charged with 21 counts of violating the restrictions imposed on his liberty and speech when he walked out of prison in April, 2004. Since completing an 18-year prison sentence for unmasking Israel's nuclear weapons capacity in 1986, Vanunu has asserted his humanity by ignoring the restriction on his contact with foreign media.

Top among the state's charges is that Vanunu gave his first interview to British journalist Peter Hounam through an Israeli proxy, Yael Lotan. Hounam is the former *London Sunday Times* reporter who first met with Vanunu and brought his story to the public. After the 2004 interview, Israel arrested and jailed Hounam overnight, threatened to charge him with espionage, and expelled him from the country. He was permitted to return to Israel and testified in Vanunu's defense on February 2, the final day of the trial. The two men were permitted to speak briefly during a recess in the proceedings. Israeli media did not attend and made no mention of the trial.

The court will announce its verdict in April, at around the same time that a decision is to be made about whether the restrictions, which also forbid Vanunu to leave Israel, will be renewed for another year.

Vanunu has moved out of the apartment at St. George's Cathedral, where he was given sanctuary after his release from prison. Police, whose surveillance of one of the most recognized people in East Jerusalem is well known, picked him up in December and questioned him for 40 minutes in their car, asking why he was not reporting his new address to them.

For more information, visit vanunu.com, or contact Mordechai Vanunu, P.O. Box 20102, Herodian Post Office, East Jerusalem 91384, Israel.

Chinese Nuclear Whistleblower Jailed, Family Harassed & Followed

by Human Rights in China (HRIC)

Gansu-based activist and whistleblower Sun Xiaodi, who has spent more than a decade petitioning the central authorities over radioactive contamination from the No. 792 Uranium Mine in the Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Gansu Province, was presented December 1 with the Nuclear-Free Future Award for 2006.

Sun's award in the Resistance category recognized his "moral courage to petition for an end to the toxic mismanagement corrupting Chinese uranium production," and was presented at the Indigenous World Uranium Summit hosted by the Navajo Nation in Window Rock, Arizona. Because Sun remains under strict surveillance and cannot leave China, Human Rights in China (HRIC) Domestic Advocacy Program Officer Feng Congde attended the Summit to accept the award on Sun's behalf.

Sun began reporting the illegal resale of contaminated equipment, illegal mining and careless disposal of untreated water in 1988, while working as a warehouse manager at Mine No. 792. However, his repeated petitions to provincial and central government officials resulted in nothing more than his dismissal in 1994, and discriminatory treatment of his wife and daughter.

In the face of constant persecution and harassment, Sun continued his campaign against the illegal mining practices, which went on even after the mine was officially closed in 2002 and became a private company with many local officials as shareholders.

Sun observed how a region of green fields, clear waters and woodlands filled with wildlife has been transformed into a wasteland in which plants wither, livestock die and people suffer from birth defects and abnormal cancerous growths. Tibetan medical workers

have attributed nearly half of the human deaths in the region to a variety of radioactivity-related cancers and immune system diseases.

In April 2005, Sun disappeared while petitioning in Beijing, shortly after meeting with foreign journalists to describe the environmental degradation in Gansu. After being secretly moved from place to place for eight months, he was finally released from Lanzhou Prison on December 27, 2005. Despite official warnings and restrictions on his movement, Sun resumed his petitioning, and was detained again in April 2006. He was released soon afterward, but remains under constant police surveillance, and is now forbidden even to talk on the telephone, much less leave China to attend an award ceremony.

Sun has reportedly faced more intense harassment since he was presented with the Nuclear-Free Future Award. He is under house arrest, and his family has been harassed and had their home pelted by rocks in the night.

In November, a medical examination revealed a large abdominal tumor, not uncommon in the region where he lives. His application to receive treatment in Beijing was rejected.

For more information, visit hrinchina.org and nuclear-free.com



Letters of support should be sent to Sun Xiaodi, c/o HRIC New York Office, 350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3311, New York, NY, 10118.

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

THE INSIDE LINE



from Gansu Province

Since my release from detention, I have been in an extremely insecure situation in which I am threatened, intimidated, and harassed. I felt tremendously honored and touched when I learned that I had been selected as this year's Nuclear Free Future Award recipient, because I have seen the great power of world peace and development.

At the same time, I feel a deep sorrow, because I have also helplessly witnessed the environmental problems caused by the failure to effectively contain and reduce nuclear contamination.

Breaking through fear to fight for a nuclear-free environment requires a person to take a path full of hardship, bloodshed, and tears, which could end up in either life or death. However, I firmly believe that if all people who are peace-loving and concerned with human destiny and upholding justice can come together and take action as soon as possible, a nuclear-free tomorrow can become a reality.

(Sun Xiaodi lives under house arrest in Gansu Province, Tibet.)

Update Files

OAK RIDGE Y-12: Trial is set for August 8, 2007, for three people indicted for trespass last August at the nuclear weapons plant. All have been arrested and jailed for previous protests there. Five others arrested at the same time pleaded no contest and were fined \$35 plus court costs...

SENATOR SANTORUM: Fourteen people arrested in his office at the Declaration of Peace action last September 25 will face trial in Philadelphia on April 23...

PENTAGON: Art Laffin was convicted of disorderly conduct and fined \$500 last November 17, following his arrest while praying for peace at the Pentagon on August 9. Co-defendant Gary Ashbeck had his charge dismissed because his arresting officer failed to appear in court...

REPRESENTATIVE STEVE CHABOT: Donald Rumsfeld was subpoenaed to testify along with Rep. Steve Chabot at the January trial of five adults arrested after a sit-in at his Cincinnati office last September. Both summonses were quashed, and the trial has been postponed until March 5. Two minors arrested with the others have had their cases referred to juvenile court...

RAYTHEON/NORTHERN IRELAND: It may be next fall before prosecutors sort out all of the evidence and put on trial nine men accused of rubbishing a military software facility in Derry last August. A tenth person has been charged on suspicion of being present and helping the men get into the offices, but she departed before the doors were barricaded...

REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL CASTLE: Three women charged in a Wilmington, Delaware Declaration of Peace action last September are on Probation Before Judgment...

OCEANA NAVAL AIR STATION: Three Catholic Workers will apparently not be prosecuted for climbing atop an F-22 Raptor during an air show last September, and displaying a banner that stated "Weapons of Mass Destruction - Nothing to Celebrate"...

PHILADELPHIA: In December, a judge dismissed charges of defiant trespass against 11 grandmothers who, she said, were in a public place and did nothing more than refuse a request to leave when they were arrested last June as they sought to enlist at a military recruiting center...

Update Files



WASHINGTON, D.C.: Snowstorms closed down the federal court on February 14, postponing separate trials scheduled for people arrested at four different times and places during the Declaration of Peace actions on Capitol Hill last September 26 and 27. Over the next two days, an unusual trial tied together 25 defendants from the different actions who could be present in court. Their First Amendment defense was denied and all were summarily convicted except one woman, an uninvolved visitor to the Russell Senate office building who was caught up in the police sweep. Fines were suspended but \$50 in fees were assessed. A new trial date of March 14 was assigned to about 30 more defendants from the different actions who failed to appear on February 15 or 16, rather than warrants for their arrest. Others among the 97 people arrested in September have paid their citation or simply pled guilty, forfeited a bond, and been sentenced to community service...

PINE GAP: American geologist Edward Cranswick represented himself February 5 in Alice Springs Magistrates Court, Australia, against charges of loitering and obstructing traffic to the U.S.-run spy base at Pine Gap, outside the outback oasis. At arraignment in October, Cranswick did not plead "not guilty" as originally reported, but the plea was entered on his behalf after he refused to acknowledge the court's right to try him, because it was representing the interests of an occupying power rather than the interests of Australia. He was convicted of loitering after the judge dismissed the obstruction charge, and released on good-behavior bond for 12 months. Four people facing special security charges for a citizens' inspection at Pine Gap in December, 2005, now have a trial set for May 28. Pretrial disclosures to the defense included the name of an undercover federal agent and forbidden footage from a surveillance camera...

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY/FT. MEADE: A federal judge has dismissed charges against 13 people arrested last July for entering a military reservation for illegal purposes. U.S. Judge Susan Gauvey ruled in January that the law only prohibits illegal entry, not simply remaining on National Security Agency (NSA) property, and that protesters were never told the NSA objected to their presence before they were arrested. "There was no guard. There was no checkpoint. There was no sign warning them of anything," she said. The dismissal came as the court considered pretrial motions. Earlier, the NSA had responded to the defendants' motion for discovery with a demand that the protesters sign a Federal Protective Order that would allow them to see the evidence against them but not other witnesses or the media. The 13 had refused. Two of the 13, Max Obuszewski and Maria Allwine, were also arrested at Ft. Meade October 7, during Keep Space for Peace Week, but have yet to be summoned to court on the charge...

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: After a five-day trial including 12 hours of jury deliberations in January, retired Navy Lt. Commander Leah Bolger was convicted of disrupting the House of Representatives last fall, when she spoke out in opposition from the Gallery as the House prepared to approve the Military Commissions Act. She was sentenced to five days in jail, suspended, six months probation and 100 hours of community service. Bolger blogged, "What I went through helped me gain a tiny bit of insight into the imperative value of habeas corpus protection. I cannot, nor can anyone, truly imagine what it is like to be imprisoned indefinitely, subjected to torture, held in solitary confinement, and unable to communicate with anyone. If these men are ever released, they will have emotional scars that will never heal. Many of them will have gone insane, and others will take their own lives. The damage that has been done in our country's name is permanent and irreconcilable..."

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON: Former public defender Jim Sheehan was convicted of trespass at the National Guard recruiting center last March. He was sentenced to one day in jail plus one year probation, and fined \$500. A visiting judge had to hear the case in November, because all the local jurists recused themselves due to their familiarity with Sheehan, who also founded a public interest Center for Justice after leaving the public defender's office. An appeal is pending...

FUTURE ACTIONS

carnegie mellon university

Friday, March 2, will be a day of civil disobedience and direct action to barricade the National Robotics Engineering Center, a branch of Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh that develops robotic vehicles and weapons delivery systems for the U.S. Army and Marines. Autonomous affinity group participation is encouraged, with the organizers committed to providing a legal support phone number for the day of events, housing for out-of-town activists, food for your tummy and organized jail support. For more information, visit organizepittsburgh.org/m2/ or contact the Pittsburgh Organizing Group, c/o Thomas Merton Center, 5125 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15224, pog@mutualaid.org

christian peace witness for iraq

A Friday, March 16 evening ecumenical service at the Washington National Cathedral to pray for an end to the war in Iraq will be followed by candlelight procession to the White House, late night peace vigil and non-violent civil disobedience. For more information and resources, visit christianpeacewitness.org

declaration of peace

The Declaration of Peace is working with the Occupation Project and the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance to organize nonviolent actions and civil disobedience to defund the war in cities across the United States, March 16-19, 2007.

Join the call on Congress and the Bush administration to stop military escalation, defund the war, bring the troops home safely, and support a comprehensive peace plan. For more information and resources, including audio and video clips from many of the affiliated actions reported here, visit www.declarationofpeace.org and www.vcnv.org, or contact Voices for Creative Nonviolence, 1249 W Argyle Street #2, Chicago, IL 60640, 773-878-3815, info@vcnv.org

R.A.F. FAIRFORD: Crown prosecutors in Bristol have now failed to win a conviction against five disarmament activists who entered the base in March 2003, intent on peacefully disrupting U.S. military flights that were supporting the attack on Iraq. Two pairs of activists had previously split two juries with their defense based on the illegal nature of the war, and on January 24, Josh Richards's trial for an unsuccessful attempt to "ground one American long range bomber" also ended without a clear verdict. A decision to retry Richards is pending...

SENATOR OLYMPIA SNOWE: Due to conviction on a similar charge in 2003, Nancy Hill was sentenced to spend one day in jail after pleading guilty in December to trespass last September at the Bangor, Maine, office. Ten co-defendants entered no contest pleas on January 9, and four paid a fine plus costs. Six others refused and have also served a day in jail instead...

DONALD RUMSFELD'S HOUSE: The government has said it will not retry three people whose jury hung on the question of unlawful entry onto the then-War Secretary's front lawn...

U.S. MISSION TO U.N.: Four CodePink women who were roughed up, arrested, and jailed overnight last March when they tried to deliver a peace petition, were convicted of trespass after a week-long trial in December. CodePink co-founder and defendant Medea Benjamin wrote about the testimony of Richard Grenell, head of communications for the Mission. "While a videotape we introduced as evidence showed a group of about 40 mostly middle-aged women strolling toward the Mission singing *Give Peace a Chance*, Mr. Grenell testified that he found the group threatening because 'they were wearing pink, they were laughing and they were clearly happy.' When one of our stellar lawyers, Robert Gottlieb, asked incredulously how a happy group of women dressed in pink could possibly be threatening, Grenell gravely replied, 'You had to be there to understand.'" Benjamin, and co-defendants Cindy Sheehan, Missy Beattie and Rev. Patti Ackerman only had to pay a \$95 court fee. Departing court, they returned directly to the U.S. Mission, where their petition was cordially accepted in the lobby by staff members who had earlier in the week testified against them...

REPRESENTATIVE JEB BRADLEY: After taking under advisement a defense under the state Constitution's Right of Revolution, a New Hampshire judge eventually convicted six people of trespass for their May 31 anti-war sit-in, and sentenced five to ten days in jail, suspended in lieu of \$200 fine or 20 hours community service. Serial peace defendant Macy Morse, 87, was sentenced to 30 days in jail, suspended...

continued on page 12

notre dame

A Midwest Catholic Worker Resistance Retreat, March 25-26, will follow the one-day Catholic Peace Fellowship (CPF) conference in South Bend, Indiana, March 24. The retreat will end with nonviolent direct action on the Notre Dame University campus that will challenge the university to speak more clearly for peace. In particular, the action will bring to light the stark contradiction between Catholic teaching and military training, with the objective being the disintegration of ROTC at Notre Dame and all Catholic campuses in the face of growing conscientious objection. Please pre-register! For registration and more information about the CPF conference and resistance retreat, contact Brenna Cussen, South Bend Catholic Worker Community, POB 4232, South Bend, IN 46634, 574-232-2811, staff@catholic-peacefellowship.org

nevada test site

The 2007 Lenten Desert Experience "Many Faiths, One Heart" mobilization will take place on Sunday, April 1, 2007. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., a rally will feature speakers and musicians from many faiths and will end with a nonviolent direct action at the gates of the Test Site. The rally will conclude the annual 65-mile interfaith Sacred Peace Walk from Las Vegas to the Nevada Test Site, March 27 to April 1. A weekend peace camp will be established in the desert near the Test Site. For more information, contact Nevada Desert Experience at 702-646-4814, or nevadadesertexperience.org

washington, d.c.

A Holy Week Faith and Resistance Retreat in Washington, D.C., sponsored by Dorothy Day Catholic Worker and Jonah House, will begin with dinner on April 4, the anniversary of Martin Luther King's assassination. From the announcement: "Christ and King were killed because each challenged the systems of domination that oppressed their people. Both were victims of society's gratuitous violence, mocking derision and intimidating brutality. Both died teaching that defeating the powers of this world means stepping out of a world where violence is the ready solution and into another where the spiral of violence is broken by those willing to absorb the violence in their own flesh... Jim and Shelley Douglass will help us understand how we can bring our message to the public. We will plan to do that; we will do it; and we will evaluate how well or badly we did it. Then we'll repeat the process - led in our discernment of how damaging war is to all manner of life by Iraq War veterans and wives of Iraq War veterans." For registration and details, visit Jonahhouse.org, or call 410-233-6238.

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More Update Files

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ALLIANT TECHSYSTEMS: Edina, Minnesota city prosecutors have dropped trespass charges against two groups of nonviolent resisters arrested at the weapons production headquarters in the Twin Cities suburb. Forty-two people arrested in October, 2005, were finally set for trial November 30, 2006. After a pretrial meeting with three representatives of the defendants, the prosecutor decided to dismiss the case. Then on February 1, more than 40 of 78 people arrested last October 2 at this manufacturer of depleted uranium munitions and cluster bombs were in court for trial. All had earlier rejected an offer to plead guilty and pay a five dollar fine. A pretrial discussion with the prosecutor resulted in charges being dismissed for all but two defendants who pled guilty in an attempt to preserve their legal position on appeal. Defendant Steve Clemens wrote, "To better place this discussion in its rightful context, it must be mentioned there is at present an active appeal which disputes the legality of the new Edina trespass ordinance. The oral arguments will be heard on February 7 with a decision by the Appeals Court required within 90 days. If the ordinance is overturned because it is more restrictive than the state statute or because it was passed by the City Council in a defective and illegal manner, the trespass charges against us would be thrown out. In light of that context, the Prosecutor stated he would move to dismiss the charges against us." Another factor is that the new city ordinance mandates only a bench trial instead of the state criminal trespass charges that brought jury trials and "not guilty" verdicts for four trial groups in recent years. Each group had successfully defended their nonviolent resistance to warmaking by reliance upon a "claim of right" exception to the state trespass law. Clemens goes on: "As a form of protest to our right to a jury trial being removed by the new Edina City ordinance, our trial group chose not to stipulate the evidence against us, putting the burden back on the state to prove we were guilty of the crime of criminal trespass. In our conversation with the prosecutor, we stated if we were able to testify in front of a jury of our peers, we were likely to resume our previous tactic of cooperating and stipulating to the evidence and thus speed up the process of the trial"...

CHICAGO: Bradford Lyttle stood trial December 12, one of four people arrested at a demonstration last March while carrying peace signs on a Michigan Avenue sidewalk. In their cross-examination of the witnesses against him, Lyttle's lawyers revealed the 79-year-old former Pacifist Party presidential candidate had only been given 120 seconds to leave the scene before being arrested, that he had not resisted arrest as alleged, and that an order had been given to stop only demonstrators on the avenue, not other pedestrians. The judge granted a motion to acquit Lyttle before the defense presented their case...

RAYTHEON/TUCSON: The last two of six people who blockaded the missile and bomb factory last March were sentenced in Pima County Justice Court on January 4. Like their co-defendants, they pled no contest to obstructing a highway and were sentenced to eight hours of community service...

LAWRENCE, KANSAS: Seven people were convicted of criminal trespass and ordered to do community service for last June's occupation of the Army/Navy Career Center...

HOMER, ALASKA: Trespass charges were dismissed just before the trial of three people who were arrested while counter-recruiting in January, 2006, on a day when the Marine Corps recruiters were trolling the campus of Homer High School...

REPRESENTATIVE SENSENBRENNER: Two Green Party candidates have paid a fine following their arrest in September for obstructing traffic outside the Brookfield, Wisconsin office during a protest of the Congressman's support for the Iraq war. The fate of three co-defendants is not yet known...

REPRESENTATIVE GENE LARSEN: Two women agreed to perform a few hours of community service after a series of sit-in arrests at the Bellingham, Washington office. Ellen Murphy is waiting for a trial date on two counts of trespass...

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SENATOR HERB KOHL: Four people who blocked traffic in front of the Senator's Milwaukee office last September 21 have been to court. Two entered plea agreements in December, two were convicted in January, and all four were fined \$57. Trial begins February 22 for eight people charged with obstruction for blocking the road in front of the Senator's Madison office...

GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA: Seven people arrested in a melee triggered by undercover surveillance of participants in a January, 2006 post-State of the Union peace march accepted plea agreements resulting in a community service sentence...

SAN DIEGO: Four people arrested after blocking traffic on Broadway during a September 24 Declaration of Peace action have not been charged...

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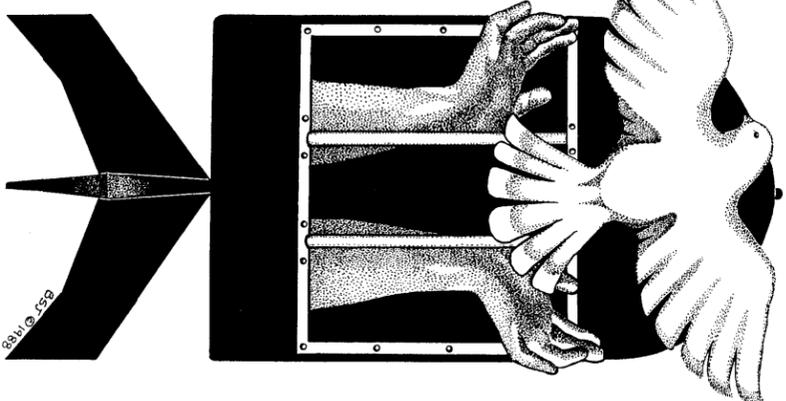
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