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). 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 to begin 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.


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.

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 Yoburg-Casey - 3 months & 10 days Martina Leforce - 2 months Melissa Holman - 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

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The defendants expect to be notified soon about when to report to a designated federal prison and begin...
Letter to the Judge Who Sentenced My Husband to Federal Prison for Protesting Nuclear Weapons

by Michele Naar-Obed

Dear Judge Holvland,

Thank you for making the arrangements for me to visit Greg in jail after you sentenced him to a year and a day. I’m sure you heard that he was offered (I am not sure) to serve his sentence at home, but he has been adamant in his unwillingness to allow me to visit him, so your intervention made the visit possible.

At trial and again at sentencing, I noted your willingness to create a legal foundation beyond the requirement about matters relating to the Weapons of Mass Destruction Here Plowshares action and the three who comprised it, which is our personal matter rather than official 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 the personal and spiritual bonds that far transcend physical ones. Those bonds are further deepened because we know the good and decent intentions behind Greg’s actions. I believe you insinuate the lives of all who have ever worked for the abolition of sins and crimes such as slavery, military occupation of home and land, and nuclear weapons. Again, you insult the very people you are supposed to protect, those who work hard to enhance the dignity of all life. Greg, Rachel and I will not let those hopes die in vain. We stand with the heroes who have ever taken a stand to protect the sacredness of life. You had made it abundantly clear that you don’t understand and will not let those hopes die in vain.

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 do not refer to the story of Oppenheimer realizing what he did, feeling disgraced as a human being, not only in his own eyes but in the eyes of his blood family and friends. When soldiers leave their families to go to war, they are referred to as heroes. Of many, there are too many feeling disgraced for having left their families to go to kill other people’s families.

Finally, I have to say I was quite disappointed in the distortions and misrepresentations of this action regarding its 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 homes and land and nuclear weapons. I believe you are smart enough and well educated enough to know that it has sometimes taken centuries to abolish such things.

Thank God for all of those that never gave up hope, that witnessed years of imprisonments, defamations 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 Chicago 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.)

Resistance Reflections

SOA, cont.

continued from page 1

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 protesters. 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 avocado-hungry tourists who were galvanized to shout down the rally against torture. At the end of the rally, Franciscan Fr. Louise Vitale and Jesuit Fr. Steve Kelly were arrested when they entered the street and tried to enter the base to speak with enlisted personnel and deliver a letter to Major General Barbara Fast, commandant 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 death or 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 support activists, were arrested after being unable to enter a meeting with JAG (Judge Advocate General) Capt. Evan Simone. Simone, acting on behalf of the U.S. Attorney’s office of Ft. Huachuca and Kelly that they would not in fact be arraigned that day. Instead, Simone was only there to enter the base to speak with enlisted personnel and deliver a letter to Major General Barbara Fast, commandant 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 death or beating deaths of two prisoners in Afghanistan.

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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 mnaarobed@igc.org. Thanks to Cathy, Beth, Steve, Paige, Faith, Polly, and Rachel for helping to mail the last issue.

Thanks

The Nuclear Resister

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SOA/WHINSEC

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 at university campuses, high schools, and non-profit organizations across the Americas throughout Latin America over the November weekend — in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Uruguay and Peru.

In December, Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri announced that it was taking the National School 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 — a verdict 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 the hope that this year, the lobbying 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 confession 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 convicted in 2003 after using his pocket multi-tool to cut out a hole in the tarp-covered fence that obscured the view of many of the 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 swav.org, or call SOA Watch at 202-234-3440.

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 protesters. Ft. Huachuca is the home to the U.S. Army Intelligence Center, where training that fosters torture is carried out.

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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 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 (VCVN) 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 (R), 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 the same offices and making known to their elected representatives the need 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 entered the office of Senator Carl Levin (D), a fervent supporter of the “troop surge” policy. They sang the names of the 75 U.S. servicemen and women and Iraqis killed in the last 24 hours. They later left, and two women were held overnight in jail. A similar act was conducted in Levin’s Washington, D.C. office.

In the evening, 41 people entered the office of Senator John McCain (R), presidential hopeful and a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. They sang the names of U.S. soldiers and Iraqis. After a press conference at the same hour in Washington, D.C., ten people entered the office there 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 emergency. If an apartment were on fire across the street 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 also been killed. All were arrested when they refused to leave. The office manager told them they could stay until closing time if they stopped reading names of U.S. soldiers and Iraqis.

In Fairbanks, Alaska, about 20 people entered the office of Senator Lisa Murkowski, where two weeks earlier a group had protested the Declaration of Peace and asked for her endorsement. After songs of peace and a recitation of Wilfred Owen’s poem Dolche e Decorum Era, 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 left to the praises of Rob Mulholland, and was cited for failure to obey a lawful order and released.

In December, Rafil Dhafir was taken from the federal prison in Fortson, New York, to Terre Haute, Indiana, and now to the newly opened 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 completely 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. Before his release, 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 of 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 American occupation, 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 other men in the Communication Management Unit are not allowed to talk in any other language is spoken.

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.

Prisoners must correspond in English only. All incoming and outgoing letters are being sent to Washington, D.C. for screening and 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 been ascribed to stress related to 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 community activities.”

Civil libertarians and attorneys for Dhafir and other men in the Communication Management Unit are monitoring the situation and considering legal challenges. Up-to-date information could be found at the unit.

Voghera (PV), Italy. Benerecchi

Bensi

Benci

Castellino Raguza

Casa Circinadaria, Via E. Novelli 1, 82100 Bari, Italy.

Corcione Enrico

Casa Circinadaria, Via Prati Nuovi 7, 27058

The following people are now in prison for anti-war related activities

Rafil Dhafir 11921-052 (22 years - out 8/20/22)

FCI Terre Haute, POB 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808.

(Confinements 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 Schuykill Satellite Camp, POB 670, Minersville, PA 17954.

Joseph Donato 40884-050 (27 months - out 1/31/08)

FCI Fairton, POB 420, Fairton, NJ 08320.

(Carried out 12/04/09 for felonies related to refusal to pay war taxes)

Brendal Walsh 12473-052 (five years - out 7/17/2006)

FCI Elkton, POB 10, Lisbon, OH 44432.

(Arson at military recruiting station, 4/02)

VIEQUES

José Pérez González 21519-069 (5 years - out 1/31/08)

FCI Yazo City Medium, POB 5888, Yazo City, MS 39494.

(Conspiracy, damage to federal property, &/or probation violation 5/1/03 - resisting U.S. Navy bombardment removals of the island)

MILITARY REFUSERS

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

SPC Agustin Aguayo 37815-122, FCI United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, KS 66049.

(Jurisdictional confinement for refusal to perform military service)

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 Brandeis 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 vigil-iers turned and began walking with the banners toward the police/security line and the Lockheed Martin weapons complex. All were stopped, warned, turned 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 Brandeis Peace Community, 610-544-1818, brandewine@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 inventory of 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 1,100 warheads are stored on the base in inac- tive 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."

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

Feds Give In to Nuns' Noncooperation

Dominican religious sisters Carol Gilbert, Jackie Hudson and Ardeith 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 thou- sand dollars in restitution for damaging property at a nuclear missile site 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 rot in. With help from local affili- ates of CODE PINK, the American Friends Service Committee, Disabled American Veterans and Veterans for Peace, arrangements were made to deliver two truckloads of canned good 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 offer. Officials there placed a phone call to Peterson Air Force Base, and that donation was rejected as well. Eventually, the donations were distrib- uted 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.

Feds Give In to Nuns' Noncooperation

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

Feds Give In to Nuns' Noncooperation

"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 subma- rine is capable of carrying eight of the larger 455 kiloton W-88 warheads (each warhead about 30 times the explosive force of 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 block- ing 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 direc- tor 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 spec- trum 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.
Marcia Gagliardi, Julia Bonafime, Dorthée (her full name), Claire Chang, Frances Crowe and Hattie Nester, from left, during a Shut-It-Down affinity group demonstration Tuesday, evening, January 23, 2007, in Vermont. Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor in Vernon, Vermont. With Paki Wieland of Nathorp, who also chanted herself to the group in the driveway, they were arrested by Brattleboro police and charged with trespass and disorderly conduct. The women were scheduled to appear for arraignment in Windham County District Court March 20, but charges have been dropped in each of three previous blockades.

...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 coming upon the demonstration.

On January 30, 40 CODEPINK 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. As they crowded the hall and pushed into the office, the women wore 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.

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.

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.

Sgt. Ricky Clousing, whose tour of duty as an Army interrogator in Iraq convinced him he could no longer be a part of the war, was sentenced to 62 days in jail in connection with his interview with Mark Wilkerson, a Seattle journalist who returned from being absent without leave in Canada last August 31, has pleaded guilty to AWOL in Canada last August 31, has pleaded guilty to AWOL. Clousing was released on December 23.

As the biggest 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 my experience will strengthen others to speak out against the war.”

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.”

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 Aurums have provided dramatic venues for anti-war statements that senators and representatives cannot overlook. Arrests occurred on Monday, January 22, at another banner drop in the courtyard of the House of Representatives’ Rayburn office building. This time, the 5”x7” black cloth readWAR 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 memorandum “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.

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 representaionalon behalf of “It’s my job to report the news, not to participate in a government prose- duction. Testifying against my source would turn the press into an investigative tool of the government and chill dissenting voices in the United States.”

Aguayo, Agustín’s wife of 15 years, said of her husband’s last deployment, “It changed him, and not in a good way. I’ve seen his 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 my 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 “Agustín Aguayo Campaign.” Send to 484 Lakepark Avenue # 41, Oakland, CA 94604. More information is available at www.Aguyadefense.org.

For more information about the military refusers noted here and their specific support needs, visit courage toresist.org.
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 law of God is in conflict with our Constitution and with the Constitution of the United States. 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 Guantanamo 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 the 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?

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 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 really 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 Jacobs at 573-875-4913 or sfhcw913@aol.com

Within a few minutes, a federal marshal came and asked us to leave. We were not going to leave. There were negotiations between the marshal, the chief judge and our people. After about 30-40 minutes or so, 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.

In a related case, charges against 16 people arrest-ed 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 Act of 2006, legitimating torture and denying habeas corpus to the Guantanamo prisoners and other victims of his so-called "war on terror."

As the Minuteman III at E-9 is insane, immoral and illegal, but your actions and thoughts to fit our own deformity. Instead of conforming ourselves to what is, we twist everything in our actions, words and thoughts to fit our own deformity.
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 ‘Smith would not vote any more funding for the Iraq war, and bring his actions in line with his redress of grievance in a U.S. Senator’s office during the anniversary protests of January 11, it was for the 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.

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. Three were arrested, as a recruiter arrived, police converged, and the women sat peacefully, kneeling 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 inside, police responded. Six women, ages 49 to 75, and three rocking chairs were taken into custody.

The women were released 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 vigilgers 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 dancers who others erected a large anti-war sign, stopping traffic. Police on hand moved in to break up the crowd. The first person they encountered refused to move in the face of their orders. 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 had said, “I’m ready to go right next to (Hilbert) doing the exact same thing that he was doing, and they didn’t ‘tape me. I guess that it’s 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 737-878-3815, occupationproject@vcvn.org, or visit vcvn.org.

Surge Responses

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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 Krayeske, who managed the Green Party gubernatorial campaign last fall and has been arrested at both the Beltway anti-nuclear protest, is also a photographer and journalist. When he stepped from the crowd to snap photos of Gov. Jodi Rell, Krayeske was grabbed by Hartford cops, whom he charged him with breach of the peace and interfering with police officers.

Later it was revealed that state police had circulated a photo of Krayeske 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 Krayeske of being “evasive” and “uncooperative” 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 (WOMD-H)

While Michael and I most of the time do not think of ourselves as sacrificing or suffering greatly, now and then other people have things to tell 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 for our own.

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 work, and others the next day. A date has not been set for their release.

We have been arrested, but our spirit is intact. We are aware that sometimes Jesus 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, too. 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

传销...
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 small farming communities with the combined force 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.

Starting in the fall, the leader and his followers agreed to eventually establish one or two 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.

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‘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 Wesmac, a war plant in Burlington, Ontario. Wesmac 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 Wesmac 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, 416-451-5800, tnc@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 legal 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 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 dampened 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 Trident submarines before the next election, but 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. “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
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 capability 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 in 2002 and became a private company with many local officials as shareholders.

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

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

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 V-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 $800 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 post-poned 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 rubbing a military software facility in Derry last August. A tenth person has been the No. 792 Uranium Mine in the Gannan Autonomous Prefecture in Gansu Province, where he was given sanctuary after his first interview to British journalist Peter Hounam ings. Israeli media did not attend and made no mention of his return to Israel and testified in Vanunu’s defense 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.

Chinese Nuclear Whistleblower Jailed, Family Harassed & Followed

by Human Rights in China (HRRC)

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 present- ed 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 (HRRC) Domestic Advocacy Program Officer Feng Congde attended the Summit to accept the award on Sun’s behalf.

Sun began reporting the illegal resale of contami- nated equipment, illegal mining and careless disposal of untreated water in 1988, while working as a warehouse manager at Mine No. 792. However, his repeated petition- ings 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 harass- ment, 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 stakeholders.

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 2003, 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 hrchina.org and nuclear-free.com

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

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

community service... arrested in September have paid their citation or sim-
were assessed. A new trial date of March 14 was
the police sweep. Fines were suspended but $50 in fees
the Russell Senate office building who was caught up in
famous actions who could be present in court. Their First
an unusual trial tied together 25 defendants from the dif-
places during the Declaration of Peace actions on Capitol
federal court on February 14, postponing separate trials
a surveillance camera...

pying power rather than the interests of Australia. He
him, because it was representing the interests of an occu-
ationally reported, but the plea was entered on his behalf
October, Cranswick did not plead "not guilty" as origi-
represented himself February 5 in Alice Springs

Serial peace defendant Macy Morse, 87, was sentenced
convicted six people of trespass for their May 31 anti-
REPRESENTATIVE JEB BRADLEY

in the week testified against them...

Missy Beattie and Rev. Patti Ackerman only had to pay a
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Gottlieb, asked incredulously how a happy group of
women dressed in pink could possibly be threatening,
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Mission singing

Benjamin wrote about the testimony of Richard Grenell,
convicted of trespass after a week-long trial in
March when they tried to deliver a peace petition, were
Secretary's front lawn...

U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has said it will not retry three people whose jury hung on
and four paid a fine plus costs. Six others refused and
had 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 Mr. Gates' Secretory'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
convinced 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 chồnging toward the
Mission's sign that reads "Peace a Chance," Mr. Grenell testi-
ied that he found the group threatening because they
were wearing pink, they were laughing and they were
clearly happy. We tried to talk to them," he said. His lawyers,
Robert Gottlieb, asked incredulously how a happy group of
women dressed in pink could possibly be threatening,
Grenell greatly replied. "You had to be there to under-
stand." Benjamin, and co-defendants Cindy Sheehan,
Missy Beattie and Rev. Fatti Ackerman only had to pay a
$95 in fees and were remanded to the care of the U.S.
Mission, where their petition was cordially accepted in the lobby by staff members who had earlier in the week
represented the Club of Presidents.

REPRESENTATIVE JEB BRADLEY: After taking...
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 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 blocked 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...

SENIOR 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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