The demand of the campaign is simple. Representatives and Senators: Publicly commit to vote against any money for the Iraq war or we will nonviolently occupy your office.

From the kick-off on February 5 and through the passage of the two supplemental appropriations to pay for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Occupation Project has been adapted to many local conditions across the country. At least 440 arrests were reported as a result of more than 90 occupations in or near 61 different offices of 29 Representatives and 22 Senators. Many more also held anti-war sit-ins at dozens of congressional offices, but left at closing time and were not arrested. For some lawmakers, more than one office was occupied, in different towns back home or also in Washington, D.C.

As a consequence, only a handful of people have been jailed beyond an initial overnight stay. The longest sentence, 35 days, was served last summer by Carolyn Binini, coordinator of the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, who got to keep organizing while on work release. This fall, Frank Cordaro served 30 days in county jail in Iowa and Missouri when his refusal to pay fines imposed after earlier Occupation Project sit-ins caught up with him. Convicted activists have mostly been fined, placed on probation, and/or ordered to perform community service. One judge would not impose any sentence. At least 18 people have been acquitted by a judge or a jury, and at least 75 charges have so far been dismissed somewhere along the way.

After the appropriations bill passed Congress in May, Jeff Leys of Voices for Creative Nonviolence suggested that the Occupation Project contributed to a political shift in these districts where arrests had occurred by that time. Fifteen of the 39 voted against the final Iraq war supplemental spending bill that Congress passed in May. Fourteen of the 15 who voted against the final bill had voted in favor of the Iraq war spending bill last year.

The most common element of these actions is the office occupiers, while waiting for the public peace promise, to solemnly read aloud the names of the dead, soldiers and civilians, in the presence of each other and the office staff.

Many of the public servants’ offices became inactivated for a time. Where the office was accessible, not all occupations lead to arrests. Sustained campaigns of office occupations that did not result in arrests took place in such diverse locations as Nashville, Huntsville, Seattle, San Francisco, and across the state of Minnesota. Sometimes, arrests occurred only after repeated visits and occupations, for as many as 52 consecutive days in Sacramento.

Often, a vital role to support and sustain local campaigns has been played by many who were willing to sit in just until ordered to leave, while others in the group are able to leave.

In some cases, a local group has had little or no contact with any of the national campaigns - Declaration of Peace, CODEPINK, or Voices for Creative Nonviolence - whose efforts have brought about these civil disobedience actions under the Occupation Project banner.

These stories and many more are told in the following chronology of Occupation Project arrests and the consequences. Please send us information about arrests we’ve missed, or updates we haven’t reported.

February 16
Six students from the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill were arrested just 30 minutes after sitting-in at the local office of Rep. David Price (D-NC). On that day Price voted in favor of a resolution approving the troop surge in Iraq, and he had voted against the Iraq attack in 2002. Since then, however, he has regularly approved funding for the costly escapade. In court May 7, the charges against Laura Bickford, Ben Carroll, Alisan Fathalizadeh, Sara Joseph, Dante Strobino & Tamara Tal were dismissed at Price’s request, over the prosecutor's objection.

February 20
Nine Alaskans occupied the Fairbanks office of Sen. Ted Stevens (R-AK) all afternoon, reading the names of the war dead. They hadn’t finished by 4 p.m. when the office closed, and police arrested three men who refused to leave. Seth Warncke walked out with police, was cited and released, and the charge eventually dismissed. Don Muller and Rob Mulford had to be carried out. When the arresting officer dropped them off at the jail, he told the men he was honored to take part in their act of conscience. Later, a woman jailer called through their cell window, “You guys are my heroes!” The next morning they pled not guilty to trespass. Don Muller defended himself before a jury on April 18-19. The jury was not persuaded by his defense of necessity, and he was convicted. Muller refused a fine and community service, opting for a 15 day jail sentence. He served eight days, covering three more after appeal, and felt “good time.” Rob Mulford was denied the use of a necessity defense, then showed up for trial September 11, only to find the courtroom locked. Upon inquiry, he then learned the case had been vacated by the prosecution.

Four women reciting a litany in remembrance of war dead were arrested in the lobby of Chicago’s Kluczynski Federal Building at the conclusion of a four-agoned action. Ten “Well Behaved Women” had just met with Sen. Dick Durbin’s (D-IL) chief of staff while others picketed outside or jammed his office phone lines from home. At their trial in April, a police officer testified that the women slowed down business with their lobby sit-in. Judge Nolan declared that people exercising their First Amendment rights sometimes business as usual, and acquitted Marjorie Fujara, Katie Jean Dahlaw and Laura Bernstein of failure to comply with signs at the federal building. The fourth defendant, Rosalie Riegel, was out of the country.

February 21
Suzanne Renard and Jeff Duer never got past the guards at the St. Louis Federal Building, despite assurance from Sen. Claire McCaskill’s (D-MO) Washington office that the local outpost upstairs was open and ready to receive them. The women persisted until being cited for failure to comply for commitment and detained for 45 minutes. They were among about a dozen people cited at the Senator’s office who had refused to pay a fine, and have ignored letters urging them to call a number to pay up or request a court date. No further action has been taken. Another six people who were refused to be escorted out were taken to the police station and then released without charge.

Seventeen members of the Northwest Ohio Peace Coalition filled Rep. Marcy Kaptur’s (D-OH) Toledo office, met with her staff, and vowed to stay until she pledged to vote against funding the war in Iraq. Kaptur refused to make that pledge and the protesters began reading the names of war dead. The cooperative staff tried to explain that Kaptur is on their side about the war, despite voting for it. How can she be on one side when she’s sitting on the fence?” asked their attorney. After waiting 15 hours for an answer, Jeff Klein, Trudy Bond, Steven Miller, and Laurence Coleman were arrested for trespass shortly after midnight, and released a few hours later. In municipal court May 7, their “no contest” pleas were accepted by a Republican judge who imposed no fine, and assessed court costs for only one of the four.

continued on page 8
At the annual CITCA Retreat in North Carolina in 2002, SINALTRINA union organizer William Mendez called out for solidarity with the Colombian peoples’ struggle for justice, for life, against the state-paramilitary power structure that was so strongly supported by the United States and the School of the Americas. I decided two things that weekend: (1) that I didn’t have to have the grand plan for global peace and justice all understood all by myself, and (2) that change definitely won’t come if we don’t believe it will. If we do believe it will? Anything can happen. That fall, I crossed the line at the School of the Americas.

What I knew most about my subsequent prison experience is that it had the exact opposite effect I suppose Judge Mallon Faircloth had intended when he handed down the six-month sentence. Before I knew, little of U.S. state-sponsored terror within the country. I had, of course, spent a few years already learning about the SOA, but I was still naïve enough to believe that the U.S. government was good for nothing in people.

I learned – or started learning – about the effects of racism within the United States, and another face of the drug trade. For this, families are ripped apart for years, by and large. These laws target women, mothers and sisters and aunts, in prison because the government that sponsors death squads around the world is attraverso the fence, but it was the U.S. govern- ment up that was trespassing on Western Shoshone land.

As spiritual leader of the Western Shoshone, Corbin Harney traveled around the world as a speaker, healer and spiritual leader with a profound spiritual and environmental message for all. He received numerous national and international awards and authored two books: The Way It Is: One Voices, One Earth (Blue Dolphin Publishing, 1995) and a forthcoming book, The Nature Way. In 1994, Corbin founded the Shoshunah Network to work with people and organizations to respond to spiritual and environmental concerns on nuclear issues. He also established Poo Ha Ha, a native healing center located in Tecopa Springs, California. He died of cancer on July 10 at the age of 87.

In Memory

We mourn the passing this summer of two good and gentle men - who both were an integral part of the anti-nuclear struggle for many years.

Corbin Harney

We saw Corbin Harney regularly at Nevada Test Site protests over the past 20 years. Always welcoming us, he conducted sunrise ceremonies and led processions of protesters to the cattle- guard, where he reminded us that it was not us/we who were trespassing when we stepped “across the line” or through the fence, but it was the U.S. govern- ment up that was trespassing on Western Shoshone land.

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protest convictions for which she went to prison.

The next day, three people who had been arrested at Y-12 in August, 2006, were convicted in county court of blocking a roadway. Rev. Tom Lumpkin, Rev. Erik Johnson and Sr. Pamela Beزاит returned to court on October 5 for sentencing. Because each has a long record of civil disobedience arrests, including at Oak Ridge, they were each sentenced to 30 days in jail. State law provides for release upon completion of 75% of such a sentence, and the three completed their sentences on October 22.

For more information, contact the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, POB 3747, Oak Ridge, TN, 38564-5820, crep@earthlink.net and www.stopthepohombs.org

SOA-Watch Prisoners Serve 1-6 Month Sentences

After their conviction and sentencing in late January for unlawful entry, fourteen people arrested last year at Ft. Benning, Georgia turned themselves in to federal custody during March and April and served sentences of one to six months. As reported in the previous issue of the Nuclear Resister, they were among sixteen people arrested last November at the annual vigil and demonstration to close the School of the Americas (aka WHINSEC).

While the 226 SOA-Watch prisoners have collectively spent over 95 years in prison. Over 50 people have served probation sentences. Their actions have given tremendous momentum to the effort to change oppressive U.S. foreign policy and to close the SOA/WHINSEC.

SOAW Organizer Arrested and Threatened With Deportation

Hendrik Voss, a German national who volunteers for SOA Watch at their office in Washington, D.C., was stopped by Capitol police on March 23 for allegedly putting a “Close the SOA” sticker on a parking meter on Capitol Hill. Several officers of the Intelligence Unit were called to the scene. After Voss retained his right to refuse a search of his belongings, he was arrested and held overnight.

Apparent in court the next morning, Voss was told that the Department of Homeland Security’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement had placed a hold, preventing his release. Compared to thousands of immigration detainees, Voss was lucky that he had an advocacy network outside of prison or support address (action & date)

NUCLEAR RESISTERS, USA:

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:

Igor V. Sutyavin (156) 15821-038, Arkhangelsk, POB 45, d. 27; FGU IK-1, 5 otraya; Russia. (letters only, no parcels)
(Imprisoned since 10/27/1999, now convicted of sabotage for researching public nuclear weapons information - sentenced 4/07/04)

Costantino Ragusa (serving sentence on another charge)
Casa Circinardile, Via Prati Nuovi 7, 20708 Voghera (PV), Italy.

Benedetta Galante (serving sentence on another charge)
Casa Circinardile, Via E. Novelli 1, 82100 Benevento
(Eco-anarchists on remand, charged with 9/5 sabotage of nuclear electricity pylons)

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

Louis Vitale (five months - out 3/16/08)
R.A.D.F, Booking #879645, ID #292487, Imperial County Jail, POB 679, El Centro, CA 92244.

Stephen Kelly 08016-111 (five months - out 3/16/08)
CCF, POB 6300, Florence, AZ 85232.
(Trespass and failure to obey an officer during torture policy protest at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona, 11/06)

Rafid Dhahir 1921-052 (22 years - out 4/25/22)
FCCI Terre Haute, POB 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808.
(Convictions resulting from providing humanitarian and financial aid to Iraqis in violation of U.S. sanctions, 2/05)

Joseph Donate 40884-050 (27 months - out 1/31/08)
c/o RODY, POB 801, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. (Convicted 12/04 of felonies related to religious refusal to pay war taxes)

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

QUIEUS

José Pérez González 21519-069 (5 years - out 1/17/08)
Address unavailable at halfway house in Pulaski County, (Conspiracy, damage to federal property, & or probation violation 5/1/03 - celebrating U.S. Navy departure from Vieques, Puerto Rico)

PREVIOUSLY LISTED, RECENTLY RELEASED: Kevin McKee, Agustin Aguyado, Greg Boertje-Obed, Carl Kabat, Mark Wilkerson, Federico Bonamici (to house arrest), Silvia Guerini (to house arrest)
MILITARY RECRUITING BRINGS CONFLICTS HOME

TUCSON, ARIZONA

Since the winter of 2003, the Army/Marine recruiting center in midtown Tucson, Arizona has been the site of a weekly anti-war picket visible to thousands of morning commuters along Speedway Boulevard.

Aggressive counter-demonstrators, led by the families of two servicemen killed in Iraq, launched a parallel picket replete with Marine Corps banners, Old Glory, and the occasional Israeli flag. They arrive early to hold territory in front of the small office building. Members of this group - including several men in black t-shirts declaring themselves "INFIDEL" in large white letters - physically intimidate and verbally harass the peace pickets as they arrive.

Attempts at mediation were understandably futile. "We cover their signs up with our flags," one Marine's father complained. "We don't think people should have to be subjected to their opinions." Police and city council have been minimally responsive.

As Gretchen Nielsen crossed Speedway to take up her post on March 7, a woman from the pro-war crowd came into the street and tried to grab away Nielsen's sign. Nielsen held on and crossed the street safely.

Nielsen went into the recruiting office and asked them to call police to issue a citation for her own protection. Then she returned to her usual post, and soon the woman followed to harass her. To avoid the bad-mannered pickets and so her simple No War sign could be seen, Nielsen carefully stepped into the bicycle lane. Police saw the infraction and ticketed her for obstruction.

After Nielsen's arraignment, the prosecutor spoke with her as he prepared for trial. She explained the situation and days later the charge was dismissed.

And the story continues. No police were in sight on June 20 when the same woman and another hounded Nielsen. Police walked in and forth along the sidewalk. Nielsen would bring her sign into view only to have it quickly obstructed. She finally moved sideways, safely into the bike lane. Her stalkers called police and Nielsen was again arrested for obstructing the street.

Nielsen represented herself before a judge on August 13, and was found guilty. The city court judge suspended a $500 fine and gave Nielsen 12 months unsupervised probation, plus an order not to step onto Speedway while demonstrating there.

STOW, OHIO

Tim Coil, a veteran of the first U.S. war on Iraq, and his wife Yvette, were visiting the Stow Monroe Falls (Ohio) Public Library on March 12. Soon after they arrived, two uniformed military recruiters walked in, entering a study room and settling down to their jobs.

Yvette Coil complained to the librarian, and told her she planned to write comments on index cards and place them along the study room window frame. The librarian said she didn’t mind, but after Yvette placed two cards that stated, “There is no honor in fighting for a lying President” and “Don’t do it! Recruiters lie!”, one of the recruiters angrily removed the cards, confronted the Coils, and took the cards to the library director.

The Coils placed four more cards in the window before the director accosted them, demanding they stop. A discussion ensued about free speech and public property, and concluded with the director asking that no more cards be placed. The compliant couple, but 20 minutes later the director returned with the police for more discussion. The Coils were formally asked to leave, which they started to do.

As he exited, Tim Coil called out, “Don’t recruit in the library!” and was promptly arrested for disorderly conduct.

Following a bench trial June 5 in Cuyahoga Falls Municipal Court, Coil was convicted and sentenced June 27. He is banned from the library for 2 years, and was fined $100 plus court costs. Coil is appealing.

For more information, contact Yvette Coil at coilptsd@gmail.com

NEW YORK CITY

Also on March 12, about 100 students with the re-vitalized Students for a Democratic Society marched from Pace College and the New School in lower Manhattan to the military recruiting center on West Chambers Street. While the students filled a central hallway and rallied outside, the recruiters locked themselves in, effectively shutting down the center for the day.

Police responded and after about two hours, arrested 20 students for trespass. All were held overnight, and released after arraignment the next day. Some cases were adjourned contemplating dismissal, and others resolved with no jail time.

In September, the War Resisters League recruited about a dozen New York City activist groups to carry out Operation No Recruits, a week-long series of pickets and blockades of the Times Square recruiting station. On Saturday the 8th, pickets arrived before the two recruiters had opened the doors. They were threatened with arrest, but instead the recruiters soon departed and the station remained closed for the rest of the day.

War resisters offer career advice in Times Square.

PORTLAND, OREGON

More rocking-chair sit-ins led to arrests at a Port- land Army recruiting station. Some “ Seriously Pissed off Grannies” are at the core of an ad hoc protest group that formed in January, calling itself the Surge Protection Brigade. On March 23, four grannies and one grandpa were arrested after refusing to move their blocking rocks away from both front and back doors. One week later, three grannies and two grandpas were taken into custody for the same crime, cited and released. Sentences of 8-16 hours of community service were served following plea agreements.

The following week was Good Friday, April 6. The Brigade returned with no intent to risk arrest, but to bring a sense of grief and mourning to the building. The scene for a silent vigil was set with fake blood poured on the sidewalk and windows, and flowers laid on the sidewalk. Police added to the drama, arresting six mourners for criminal mischief and a graffiti offense. Trial for the six is tentatively set for September 28.

About 40 Brigade bicyclists, mostly seniors and young adults, converged at the Army recruiting center on April 20. The “No Blood for Oil” picket resulted in the arrest of two women and their bikes for blocking the door. The women served eight hours of community service. The tank rolling along in the Portland Rose Parade on June 10 seriously pissed off Bonnie Tinker and Sara Graham. The grannies stepped in front of the tank, with police hot on their heels. They were quickly carried away and hand-cuffed for the brief trip to the pokey. The women will be arraigned later this summer.

Update: The five Surge Protection Brigadiers arrested January 11 at the federal building negotiated with the federal prosecutor to plead guilty and serve 16 hours community service. The five plus a sixth Brigadier were ar- rested February 2 at the Portland Army recruiting center, and sentenced in city court to 8 and 16 hours community service.

For more information, contact friendbonnie@gmail.com.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Scores of demonstrators marked the March 19 Iraq invasion anniversary with a march and evening rally outside a closed Army recruiting station near the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. When a handful, some with masks covering their faces, threw paint and broke windows at the office, police overreacted. They swept through the crowd and rounded up 21 people, seven aged 13-17, and none older than 24. Police videotaped the booking procedures, where shoes, cell phones, cameras and even one person’s pants were confiscated. Some were held overnight before being released.

A handfull pled no contest or guilty, and in July, the city attorney dismissed the remaining charges, citing a lack of evidence. An organizer for Peace Action Wisconsin was quoted in the Milwaukee press observing that, “We do not use those tactics ourselves, but the movement is very broad, and as this war continues, the anti-war movement is going to take many forms - not all of which everyone feels comfortable with.”

AUSTIN, TEXAS

In Austin, the University of Texas’ Campus Anti-war Movement to End the Occupation organized “10 Days of Defiance” in April that included an occupation of the Army recruiting station at Dobie Mall on the 24th. When twenty people arrived with signs and slogans, police were already blocking the locked entry and ordered the demonstra-tors to leave.

Two were arrested later, without fanfare, and found the door unlocked. Student Spencer Crowl and CodePink member Sylvia Benini continued to engage the recruit-ers after police returned and again ordered the counter-recruits to leave the station. Both were arrested for a misdemeanor violation and released in the middle of the night. They were later sentenced to community service. Crowl was also fined $200 and Benini is barred for one year from within 1000’ of the recruiting station.
Who Would Jesus Train to Kill?

The fifth annual Midwest Catholic Worker Resistance Retreat took place March 25-26 in South Bend, Indiana, hosted by Notre Dame's nationally known Catholic university, Notre Dame also proudly hosts a military Reservist Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program. To dramatize the irony, about 20 Catholic Workers staged a walk-on cameo past the central campus war memorial. Joe Mueller and Tovar in front of the Marine recruiting booth at the Dia de la Familia festival June 24 and demanded that he leave. Tovar added, public intoxication, although Tovar had not been drinking. They were accompanied by plenty of community support -ers who shared their interest.

A chorus of Raging Grannies and others joined father and son in the march and residents threw stones on their way preventing them, but to no immediate avail. After an hour of con-
versation, Trevor’s dad David Hofvendahl set the record straight as he appealed to recruiters.

“Good use”? That’s a lie. I’m asking for your help. Search your own heart. Do what you can to stop the killing: you know what is going down. Let’s end it.”

When they persisted in disrupting recruiting, the Hofvendahls plus seven women and one other man, ages 60-90, were arrested and released later at the police station. All charges were eventually dropped.

SPokane, WASHINGtoN

A federal grand jury in May indicted Spokane, Wash-
ning activist Travis Riehl for throwing rocks through the windows of both an Army and an Air National Guard recruiting station on October 16, 2005. Graffiti left at the scene. An outspoken advocate for anarchy, Riehl's fingerprints were identified on a paint can found at the scene. Riehl was arrested...
phael Egger were arrested when they refused to leave the Democratic Senator Paul Sarbanes' (D-MD) office at the end of a day-long occupation. One had been told to not display pictures of injured Iraqi children because it disturbed the office staff, the other was just asked to stay until the Senator and his staff would hear them. After a three day trial, the six jurors agreed, and acquitted Elton Davis, Chester Condon, Carol McElveen, and Donald Webb. Defendants Edi Blosser and Christine Gaunt had previously pled guilty and were fined.

In Cedar Rapids, the group wanted the Senator to at least hear them out. They were arrested for trespass. He was not in. He did, and 11 people were arrested at closing time, cited for trespass, and held overnight in the Linn County Jail. At the week-long vigil they were held, Senator Grassley testified that he truly believed Grassley would meet with the group, based on his own long association with the Senator.

Grassley was Castle's sponsor for appointment to the U.S. military academy at West Point, and Castle then told the court of his own experience as an interrogator at Abu Ghraib, and the trauma of seeing torture inflicted during interrogations. He thought Grassley would want to know. Three weeks after the trial, the judge ruled that the "completely speculative nature of the outcome" of the action was "inadequate reason for the crime of trespass." At sentencing on July 6, Frank Cordoro, Joshua Castle, John Paul Hornick, David Goodwin, Timothy Gauger, Megan Felt, Conor Murphy, Ryan Merz, Justin Shetterly and Pat Wheeler. Six pled no contest and paid a $40 surcharge. At sentencing on July 6, Frank Cordoro, Joshua Castle, John Paul Hornick, David Goodwin, Timothy Gauger, Megan Felt, Conor Murphy, Ryan Merz, Justin Shetterly and Pat Wheeler. Six pled no contest and paid a $40 surcharge. At sentencing on July 6, Frank Cordoro, Joshua Castle, John Paul Hornick, David Goodwin, Timothy Gauger, Megan Felt, Conor Murphy, Ryan Merz, Justin Shetterly and Pat Wheeler. Six pled no contest and paid a $40 surcharge.

February 22

Veteran for Peace Tom Palumbo was simply trying to deliver anti-war petitions to the Virginia Beach office of Rep. Thelma Drake (R-VA), but when he arrived with a small crowd of supporters, staff locked the door and Palumbo, who was arrested for trespass. He was not in. He did, and 11 people were arrested at closing time, cited for trespass, and held overnight in the Linn County Jail. At the week-long vigil they were held, Senator Grassley testified that he truly believed Grassley would meet with the group, based on his own long association with the Senator.

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February 28

Susanna Gilk, Roberta Thurstin and Don Timmerman were arrested for disorderly conduct when they refused to leave the Senator's Westminster office after first visiting his Portland office. Castle was interrupted by Senator David Voinovich's (R-OH) office, who said Senator Voinovich was meeting with someone. Senator Voinovich denied there was a meeting on his schedule, but said he would meet with the protesters, who then sat down. After a three day trial, the six jurors agreed, and acquitted Elton Davis, Chester Condon, Carol McElveen, and Donald Webb. Defendants Edi Blosser and Christine Gaunt had previously pled guilty and were fined.

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A November 9 shipment of Stryker assault vehicles bound for Iraq is blocked by war opponents at the Port of Olympia, Washington.

MISTRIAL IN OLYMPIA

Back in Olympia, trial began March 26 for the remaining 15 PMR defendants arrested in May, 2006. Three days later, the case collapsed in a mistrial, with the jury leaning seven to one for acquittal.

Mere minutes into her opening statement, the lead prosecutor violated a pretrial agreement about what could be said, prejudicing the defendants. Two days later she suffered an emotional breakdown and had to leave the case to an assistant presenting unreliable witnesses and taking yet more actions prejudicial to the defendants.

Their case in shambles, the prosecution then revealed that police surveillance of the activists included not only monitoring their e-mail, but also a detective or an informer who exploited a software configuration error and joined the defendants’ e-mail list. Confidential attorney-client discussions from the list about prospective jurors was then leaked to the prosecution, who used evidence of the leak to maneuver for a mistrial.

After a string of new pretrial hearings, the judge finally dismissed the case entirely on the eve of a June 13 deadline for a speedy retrial. He blamed prosecutors’ “gross negligence” for repeatedly failing to share evidence required by the defense under discovery.

War equipment was on the move through Olympia again during the first week of November, and hundreds of people mobilized for nonviolent direct action to stop it. Police repeatedly forced people out of the roadway on Wednesday, November 7, late into the night, letting loose with batons and pepper spray on protesters. Only two people were arrested. The Olympian newspaper reported that “Protesters halted shipments of some military equipment from the Port of Olympia” on Friday, the result of the Olympia Police Department’s lack of available manpower to move the 40 or so people who blocked the gate.

On Wednesday and Thursday, pepper spray compost mixed with coastal fog as resistance moved into downtown Olympia. On November 10, two streets were blocked to keep truck transports from reaching the I-5 freeway. PVC-arm locks reinforced one blockade, and police used electric saws to cut the tubes and locks. At least 12 people were arrested and released at the jail the same afternoon, but police said no citations were issued.

PORT HADLOCK

On April 21, the arrival of the USS Ohio to the Naval Magazine Indian Island (NMII), at Port Hadlock, Washington, was met with a quickly arranged protest. The nuclear-powered, now conventionally armed submarine arrived with little advance public notice. It’s the first this year to visit Indian Island, recently added nuclear submarine maintenance to its mission.

Sixteen people rallied near the gate, and then moved in front of the gate. The man poured the blood-colored contents of a jar of organic marinara sauce in the shape of a dollar sign on the pavement. Police soon arrived to order the group to move, and the group dispersed, led by Bethel Alice Prescott stayed the pet. The women were arrested for disorderly conduct. Prescott posted bail, and Goldstein was jailed until her arrangement two days later.

Weil was arrested for crossing the fog line. About 100 people protested on Monday night, March 13 deadline for a speedy retrial. He blamed prosecutors’ finally dismissed the case entirely on the eve of a June 13 deadline for a speedy retrial. He blamed prosecutors’ “gross negligence” for repeatedly failing to share evidence required by the defense under discovery.

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PORT OF GRAYS HARBOR

The Army moved operations again in May, this time to the Port of Grays Harbor, near Aberdeen, Washington. There were no arrests reported among the 80 or so people who marched. The women objected, preferring to face a jury as warranted by the original charge. Goldstein’s restrictions were lifted, and the women now face trial sometime in the spring. The judge has agreed to hear their defense of necessity at trial before ruling on whether to let the jury consider it.

On May 29, the same court had dismissed all charges remaining against 37 people arrested during a September, 2006 PMR blockade at NMII. The court dropped the charges to infractions in February and complaining of the cost of prosecu-

The Occupation Project, cont.

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the exasperated Democrat told the three over the phone from Washington. In video court, Ufer pleaded not no contest and was fined $185.50, which she refused to pay. Heid pleaded not guilty, and Miles pleaded to “Put an end to war before war puts an end to us.” This was accepted as “not guilty” by the judge. Both men were convicted in a bench trial and also fined $185.50, which they refused to pay.

Rob Mulford was trying to get to Rep. Don Young’s (R-AK) office but was arrested for trespass just inside the Fairbanks federal building. On September 5, the second day of this trial, the prosecution successfully moved to dismiss because they mistakenly believed they were prosecuting the case of Mulford’s February 20 arrest at Sen. Ted Stevens’ office, which was set for trial for the following week. September 13, police let the breaker from the start, was then vacated (see February 20).

Robert Braum brought the Occupation Project to Rep. Jerry Weller’s (R-IL) office but, was arrested for trespass. $100 bond was posted but then removed when he came to court to find no complaint had been filed.

March 15

Seven people arrested during a dual action at the downtown Chicago offices of Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) (three at the former, four at the latter) were all fined $100 for a charge of failure to obey, but the judge declined to impose any sentence.

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German prosecutors have indicted 13 people for their part in the “extraordinary rendition” and subsequent torture of a German citizen by U.S. agents and contractors. The indictments are for pilots employed by Aeron Contractors, a Smithfield, North Carolina company already notorious for its clandestine role in the global lawlessness of state-sponsored kidnappings.

At the behest of the North Carolina Stop Torture Now and others, the state Attorney General asked the FBI to investigate the alleged crimes. But with no FBI action likely, on April 9 the human rights group led about 40 people on a march to Aeron’s headquarters at a local airport. Nine people were arrested for trespass when they carried citizens’ arrest warrants onto company property, calling on the indicted pilots to surrender to the FBI.

Among those taken into custody were Patrick O’Neill and his 12-year-old daughter Moira. O’Neill was hit with an additional charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. After Moira met with a juvenile court counselor and answered his questions about “extraordinary rendition” and her reasons for joining the protest, he closed her case and her father’s additional charge was dropped. The trespass charge against 16-year-old Ellen Bie-sack was also dropped.

Before a packed courtroom a month later, Johnston County District Court Judge O. Henry Willis heard testimony about Aeron’s involvement in the international kidnappings and subsequent torture of the captive suspects. Three of the seven remaining defendants were found guilty. A sheriff’s deputy could not identify the other four, whose charges were dismissed. Barbara Zelter was given a suspended sentence of one day in jail. Steve Woolford and Francis Cuyin were each fined $300 and given 14-day suspended sentences. An appeal is pending, which will bring their case before a jury.

D.C. ARRESTS

In Washington, D.C., federal charges were dismissed for 99 anti-torture activists arrested January 11 in the atrium of the U.S. District Courthouse. Dressed in orange jump suits and black hoods, most of those arrested carried no identification, and had given their names as those of Guantanamo prisoners. Court officials were surprised when more than half of the June and John Doe defendants appeared at the same building on the morning of April 18 for their assigned trial date.

The government was unprepared for trial, and while the court considered the matter, most of the defendants left the court to march through the imperial city and call for the closure of the detention center at Guantanamo Bay. Once outside, they donned the jump suits and black hoods for a march to the Rayburn House Office Building, the Supreme Court, the Department of Justice and finally the White House. Along the way, they learned from defendants who waited behind that the court had dismissed the charges.

At each site, the advocates demanded justice and due process for the detainees. At the White House, to emphasize the dire conditions faced by the detainees, fourteen of the demonstrators locked themselves to the White House fence on Pennsylvania Avenue. One told police, “We are connected to the White House, to the prisoners of Guantanamo.”

A large number of tourists and students on spring break trips witnessed the demonstration. Coincidentally, Code Pink women came to the White House to chant anti-war slogans as the President had a high-profile meeting for lunch at the White House. After about an hour, the U.S. Park Police brought out bolt cutters to sever the locks and took the resisters into custody. They were released later from the Park Police Jail in Anacostia.

In court July 18, Peter DeMott, Steve Baggary, Bill Pickard, Nancy Gwenn, Mike Walli, Tom Lewis, Mike Foley, Bill Streit, Tom Feagley, Emmett Jarrett, Susan Crane, Lindsay Hagerman and Eve Tetaz were each found guilty of making a “statutory demonstration in a restrict-ed zone” and sentenced to time served plus a mandatory $25 fee.

In June, the demand for an end to state-sponsored torture returned to the White House in the form of the 10th annual anniversary fast and vigil in observance of the United Nations’ International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (June 26). The annual vigil is sponsored by the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition, as part of Torture Awareness Month. This year, a series of related events were sponsored by many human rights and civil liberties organizations, all demanding repeal of the Military Commissions Act of 2006, which suspends habeas corpus and endorses torturous interrogation techniques for selected prisoners of the so-called “war on terror.”

A high point of the vigil was the arrest on Saturday, June 23, of 16 people who stood in silent protest in front of the White House. They were charged with failure to obey a lawful order and released a few hours later. Most of those arrested forfeited bond. One woman did two days community service, and Susan Crane, who pled not guilty, was in court for trial November 1. The prosecution asked for a postponement, but Crane told the judge she was there, protesting war and torture, and asked for the charges to be dismissed. The judge agreed.

For more information, visit tass.org.
March 15

Repeat occupiers Dianne Lee, Marty King, and J'Ann Allen were arrested inside the Brentwood office of Rep. Russ Carnahan. Bill Ramsey, in the building lobby providing coffee for the women, was told to leave and then arrested for loitering as he made his way out the door. Most of at least 22 people charged with trespass or obstructing the peace during this and earlier occupations of the Missouri congresswoman's office accepted plea bargains that included a $125 fine and community service. Ramsey was convicted of loitering in a bench trial, but his sentence was suspended. Eight who are seeking a jury trial have just offered a sweeter plea agreement, with no fine.

March 16

Peter Bergel, Bob Projangsky and Michael Glaze were stopped at the door of the World Trade Center in Portland, just as two other constituents of Sen. Gordon Smith were on March 2. They also refused to leave and were arrested for trespass.

On trial in June, Bergel fumed, "It's outrageous that a senator denied us permission to visit our senator's office. It was an unlawful order to leave and that's why we didn't obey it." The Oregon Constitution (article 26) guarantees that "instructing their Representatives" is a protected right. "That's exactly what we intended to do," Projangsky said. "Senator Smith needs a lot of instructing - at the very least, he needs trumps a property owner's right, or the other way around. Five months later, the judge hasn't decided.

Judith Pedersen-Benn spent put when it came to close the door of Rep. David Loebuck (D-IA), the man she said she helped to defend the war. He still had not promis ed to sign the Declaration of Peace, so she was willing to wait, and was subsequently arrested. "I've been prot essed in my Local 690 for Rapid Action." "This is really a matter of principle. If you're really going to end the war, you can't compromise it, and you certainly can't charge more troops." Pedersen-Benn pled guilty and was fined $288 including court costs.

The No War 12 occupied the Rochester offices of New York Senators Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and Charles Schumer (D-NY) all afternoon. Mary Lou Loveman was ticketed about 5 p.m. when she left Clinton's office for the lavery, and Tom Malthaner and Trish were ticketed about the same time for when Schumer's office was closed. At 7 p.m., police persuaded the handful remaining in Clinton's office to leave by promising to tear up the ear lier tickets.

March 19

Five arrests were reported during a Christian Peace mala lation action at the Chicago office of Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.).

Three arrests were reported during a Christian Peacemaker Alliance action at the Chicago office of Rep. Rahm Emanuel (D-Ill.).

Seven people spent an hour with the LaCross staff of Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI), seeking in vain the congress man's commitment to vote against funding the war. Dave Wenzlum, Katlio Fettig, Gaugh Vail, Anita Zibon, Mary Jane Lowman were all arrested and refused to leave after telling police that short of Kind's promise, only a citation would compel them to leave. They want to bring Kind into court over his failure to follow the voters' mandate to end the war. A trial is expected early next year.

Trappock Peace Center director Sunny Miller met with Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT) in his Washington, D.C. office to urge his vote against war funding. After the meeting, Miller continued to sit in and was arrested. The govern ment later disclosed that 23 people were voted against the funding bill and wrote a letter saying Miller was welcome in his office.

March 20

The Rural Organizing Project and Code Pink led an eight month campaign to set a meeting with war critics on the House Appropriations Committee even as begin ning a set of town halls during the February congressional recess. Walden was a no show, but a resolution calling on the congresswoman to end the war, you can't compromise it, and you certainly can't charge more troops." Pedersen-Benn pled guilty and was fined $288 including court costs.

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escorted her away and charged her with failing to follow directions. Trial was set for late August, but in the meantime, Sen. Bayh finally met with anti-war constituents on August 21 and the government dropped the case against Eleuterio.

May 9

After occupying the Manchester office of Sen. John Sununu (R-NH) for nine hours, Karen Barker, Tom Barker, Jordan Butterfield, Nellie Grant, Christine Hobby, Jon Hutchinson, Anne Miller, Mary Lee Sargent and Pat Walczycki were arrested for trespass. One posted bond, the other eight were jailed overnight before being released on their own recognizance over the objection of the prosecutor, who declared their commitment to civil disobedience a “threat to the public at large”.

May 15

“For over five years we have spoken and written a torrent of words against the U.S. war on Iraq... We have phoned, we have emailed, we have petitioned, we have written letters, we have written op-eds, we have held signs and we have marched with banners. We also, not incidentally, have met with congressional aides and have voted... All these words have aimed at ending the dismemberment of our Constitution — at ending this heinous war.

With this written statement, eight people silently blocked the employee entrance of the Syracuse, New York federal building, holding signs that stated simply “Not One More Day, Not One More Dollar, Not One More Death.” A couple of dozen supporters vigilied nearby for nearly four hours, until five of the group were arrested for failure to comply with a lawful order to stop the blockade. In August, the federal case against the five longtime Syracuse Peace Council activists, ages 38 to 94, was dismissed due to the “Interest of Justice and Lack of Prosecutorial Interest.”

May 30

Gail Vaughn, Anita Zibton, and two girls, Zoe Zibton, 13, and Katie Lamb, 12, again visited Rep. Ron Kind’s LaCrosse office to press the issue of war funding. Police were waiting and arrested them all. They were convicted of trespass on November 1, and only the adults were fined $50.

At Harkin’s office, the occupiers were also removed at closing time and cited for trespass. Charged were Michael Rack, Lara Elborno, Kerry Hoffberger, Chris Gaunt, Rose Persaud, Jamie Fredericksen, Daisy Espino, and John Paul Hornebeck. Gaunt and Espino later pled guilty and were fined the minimum.

The remaining 17 pled not guilty. The Harkin defendants are scheduled for trial November 26, and those arrested at Grassley’s office have a December 17 trial date.

July 10

One person was arrested at the Washington, D.C. office of Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT).

July 23

Christian Peacemaker Team trainees enacted a mock trial of Sen. Dick Durbin inside his Chicago office. They demanded evidence that would acquit or convict the Senator: Would he approve funds for life, or for more war in Iraq and Afghanistan? Police arrested the eight trainees who were sitting in. They were later released from Durbin’s staff. St. Paulette Schroeder, Martin Smedjeback, Jushua Hough, Jessica Frederick, Sr. Jean Fallon, Charletta Erb, Rachel Cloud and Dennis Murphy were released from the city jail with trespass citations.

August 6

In a pair of actions organized by the Finger Lakes Peace Alliance, five people were arrested for trespass when they refused to leave the Bath, N.Y. office of Rep. John Kuhl (R-NY). Three others were arrested at Kuhl’s Fairport office.

After a two-day jury trial in September, the five Bath defendants - Daniel Burns, Ellen Grady, Richard Saddler, Mark Scibilia-Carver and Christopher Tate - were convicted of trespass and face sentencing November 29.

In Fairport, Wendy Painting, Cindy and Louise were charged with trespassing on the private property where Kuhl’s office sits as they provided support for six others who were sitting in. Police arrested the women after questioning them about who was taking photos when, and reviewing Painting’s photos for evidence. At closing time, police led the six out of Kuhl’s office under pretext of arrest, then let them go without charge.

August 8

Military Families Speak Out and their supporters attended Rep. Loretta Sanchez’s (D-CA) annual open house in August. When they reached her after waiting in the long receiving line, they asked that Sanchez sign a promise to vote no on the upcoming Iraq war appropriations bill. Though she had voted against authorizing the Iraq war, Sanchez demurred, because the appropriations bill also included $2.1 billion for a military transport airplane built in her district. Fourteen people then took the peace protest to the front lobby and began a sit-in. The staff welcomed them to stay but let them know the office would be closed for the next week. Late in the evening, after bringing in pizza, the group cascaded and six could commit to camping out overnight, or maybe as long as necessary to persuade Sanchez. However, by 8 a.m. the next morning, Nagasaki Day, the welcome was worn out and police had surrounded the building. Edward Garza, Jareel Lovell, Abraham Rodriguez, Thuan Tran, Patricia Alviso and Jeff Dietrich were removed in handcuffs and taken to the city jail. Charged with trespass, five were released on their promise to appear in court in October, but Dietrich refused and was jailed overnight. In court, the district attorney dismissed the case because it was a peaceful protest, and later opposing affidavits told the defendants that the anti-war movement was making a difference.

August 21

Three people were arrested after refusing to leave Sen. Dick Durbin’s Chicago office, where they sought not only his signature on a declaration of peace, but also staff member’s support for the pledge to end war funding.

September 7

Seven people were arrested for obstructing a sidewalk, after they taped off a crime scene in front of Sen. Herb Kohl, where local authorities had set up cameras recording the names of war dead. Arraignment is pending.

September 14

The day after Bush told the nation we had to soldier on in Iraq, a midday anti-war rally outside the Bend office of Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR) ended with both lanes of Northwest Hawthorne Avenue blocked. Police re- sponded, and ordered protesters to leave the street. Two who did not escort to the court and face a fine.

September 17

Constituents again gathered at her Sacramento office to implore Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA) to sign a Declaration of Peace. Less than an hour into their occupation of her office, ten people, including four military veterans and the mother of a soldier in Iraq, were arrested for creating a disturbance. All but two went to court November, and will face trial in federal court sometime in 2008.

September 19

Geeny Kortes, Troy Horton, Reverend Lynn Smouse-Lopez and Tressa Thomas visited Sen. Durbin several times and entered the Portland office building of Sen. Gordon Smith and deliver their message to stop funding the war. Before their arrest, demonstrators testified from the sidewalk to “Gordon Smith” (a cardboard cutout) and his “convincingly officious, uncouth, dissembling and euphemistic” “staff,” played by Peter Bergel. The four were later sentenced to community service.

September 20

In March, the San Diego Civil Disobedients (SCD) were persuaded to leave the district office of Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA) when Rep. Davis phoned from Washing- ton to tell them she would take their anti-war concerns to heart. Nonetheless, her political head voted to fund the war, so the four SCDs put up to make the point. In the early evening, five were evicted and charged with trespass, and one left willingly. They’ll be in court December 12.

September 21

High school students organized an anti-war occupation of Sen. Grassley’s Des Moines office, and were joined by local Occupation Project activists Frank Cordaro, 56, and Renee Espland, 46. The occupation ended with the arrest of Cordaro, Espland and four students. Three minor students were referred to juvenile authorities. In court October 5, 18-year-old senior Aaron Glynn and the two adults pled guilty to trespass. Glynn and Espland were fined, but Cordaro’s extensive resistance record and recent nonpayment of fines led to a suspension of his cost evictions. Judge Cynthia Moisan sent him to jail 30 days in jail. Before being taken into custody, Cordaro told the court, “I want you to know that I have a right to the privilege to act with these young people to stand up against this immoral, illegal and unjust war. Any time I serve in jail will only add to that honor and privilege. Cordaro served most of his sentence at a jail in Missouri.

September 25

War crimes warrant impeachment in the minds of many Yankee poets, but this mid-August evening downtown Portland where 250 Maine residents signed letters sup-porting the impeachment of President Bush, most of them proceeded up three flights of stairs to the office of their congressman, Rep. Tom Allen (D-ME), to hand deliver the missives. To emphasize their demand that Allen back impeachment, about 30 remained after the demonstration, including aloud from the founding documents of the republic and a litany of the impeachable offenses committed by the President. At closing time, eight were arrested. Seven posted bond of $40 and the eighth spent a night in jail before her release.

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The Occupation Project, cont.
A recent study by the Citizens Awareness Network shows that Vermont leads the nation in per capita production and storage of high-level nuclear waste, thanks to the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. If that weren’t enough, the 36-year old reactor now has a 20-year license extension and permit to generate at 90% higher capacity.

The license extension is also generating a higher capacity of opposition, including ongoing civil disobedience to shut down the nuke.

On March 5, June Newton, Daniel Sicken, John Ward and Elizabeth Wood climbed to a second story roof and unfurled a 16’ by 20” SHUT VY banner over the front entrance of the Brattleboro office of Entergy, owner of Vermont Yankee. The action was also a call to the Vermont legislature to go on record against re-licensing the aging nuclear waste facility.

The four were cited and released.

On April 25, to mark the 21st anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe, seven women chained themselves together at the entrance of the plant, near Vernon, Vermont. They held a banner declaring “Stop tax subsidies for Vermont Yankee”. Local media were threatened with arrest when they came on the property to report the action.

The women - Julia Bonafine, Claire Chang, Frances Crowe, Donna Holaday, Ellen Graves, and Hattie Nestel - are all part of a slightly larger group, mostly Raging Grannies, who have been arrested five other times since 2003 while trying to shut down operations at the reactor.

This time, the seven were cut loose by the police but again cited for trespass and disorderly conduct.

On July 22, six more people were arrested at the main gate to the plant, while dozens of supporters gathered nearby behind a banner sensibly stating “No New Atomic Waste Without A Plan for Old Atomic Waste.”

The local prosecutor keeps dismissing the charges, determined not to give the nuclear resisters a political soapbox in court.

For more information, contact the Citizens Awareness Network (chapters in five New England states) at nukebusters.org or CAN, P.O. Box 83, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370.

Hiroshima/Nagasaki cont.

onto the highway there to block traffic and were arrested by Kitsap County sheriffs.

All were processed and released, but none have yet been prosecuted.

For thirty years, the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action has nurtured the community of resistance to the Bangor Trident base from an adjacent property.

In 2005, the house/community building on that property was consumed in a devastating fire.

The Center is now in the midst of a major capital campaign to build a new space for the work of nonviolence, disarmament, peace and justice on the property. While some materials and labor have been donated, Ground Zero needs to raise $100,000 to complete the new house, complete with a great room and large kitchen for meetings and retreats, plus a one bedroom apartment for a resident caretaker.

For more information about contributing to the building fund or resisting Trident, contact Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Road NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370, info@gzccenter.org

Lockheed/Martin

At 8:15 a.m., August 6, a siren blast signaled the 62nd anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and the start of a vigil of remembrance in front of the Valley Forge, Pennsylvania weapons complex of Lockheed Martin.

The siren blast was followed by the tolling of a bell sixty-two times, once for each of the past sixty-two years of war, war economy, and the terror posed by the existence and threatened use of nuclear weapons. The hourly siren blasts and bell tolling continued through noon, when Ms. Yuko Nakamura, a Hiroshima survivor, shared her story. Eleven people were arrested for disorderly conduct and released after participating in a die-in and then walking onto the corporate lawn, scattering sunflower seeds, symbolic of nuclear disarmament.

For more information, visit BrandyswinePeace.com.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Atlantic Life Community’s August Faith and Resistance Retreat in D.C. learned about and created actions to confront the global war and the assault on the environment at the Pentagon, the Department of Energy (DOE), Bechtel and the White House.

The first action, August 6, was at the Pentagon. The community walked onto the Pentagon reservation holding banners, and after a prayer service, Eda Uca, Mike Dorn, St. Margaret Mary, Jane Tatar and Bill Frankel-Street planted three tomato plants on the Pentagon grounds. After the plants were in the soil, the five were arrested. Jay McGinn was also arrested for leafleting.

The next day, street theater involved a corporate octopus at the DOE and Bechtel.

On Wednesday, forty people visited the Archdiocese for Military Services. They spoke with the Monsignor, and read sections from the Gospels, while displaying banners that said, “Jesus never would join the military”, “Love your Enemies” and “You can’t serve God and Empire.”

On Thursday, August 9, the dead of Nagasaki and the life of newly beatified Nazi resister Franz Jagerstatter were remembered with a vigil at the White House. Steve Miller, Keeley Coyle and Jay McGinn were arrested, and Miller and McGinn jailed overnight.

For more information, visit jonahhouse.org.


With every passing month, more U.S. soldiers are resisting the war. More than 10,000 are reported to have deserted since 2003. While not all deserters have left as war resisters, the growing experience of conscientious objectors working the G.I. Rights Hotline and elsewhere is that many have left precisely because they object to the war in Iraq, if not to all war.

Courage to Resist (www.couragetoresist.org) has updated its online directory of war resisters. One of the newest entries is Israel Riley, a Marine corporal involved in a non-combat rear detachment. Israel re-enlisted in February 2005, expecting to serve in Iraq. Before he left, he told his commanders he did not believe the United States was fighting a just war. A week after arriving in Iraq, he was fired at a police station he was guarding. He could not fire back although the person who launched the RPG was in clear sight. And finally, how he had not been the same person after returning, and how the flashbacks and nightmares take a toll on him.

Family, friends, and supporters flied the courtroom to capacity, including IVAW members and more than a dozen active-duty soldiers. Four of the soldiers, including his brother, testified to Wilkerson’s “outstanding” performance in the army, and the fact that he did not maliciously abandon his fellow soldiers and had made every attempt to help them. He had requested military as a conscientious objector; and when denied, he sought reassignment to a non-combat rear detachment.

Sarah Wilkerson, Mark’s wife, described in great detail the intense conflict she had engaged in one phone conversation she had with her husband while he was in Iraq from March 2003 until March 2004. She described how his initial honor to serve turned to concern and finally disgust. How he witnessed the changing perception by Iraqis of American soldiers from liberators to occupiers. How when an RPG was fired at a police station he was guarding he could not fire back although the person who launched the RPG was in clear sight. And finally, how he had not been the same person after returning, and how the flashbacks and nightmares take a toll on him.

Wilkerson decided to plead guilty because to claim innocence would require an argument against the legality and justness of the war in Iraq. That process would be lengthy, costly, and practically impossible to defend in a court martial and could incur a punishment upwards of six years.

Mark Wilkerson was released from the brig in late July, and is now working with IVAW. Army medic Agustín Aguayo, who refused to carry a loaded weapon during his first deployment and was later denied status as a conscientious objector, was convicted on March 6 of desertion and missing movement after failing to return from leave on January 3, 2005.

In August, 2006 Wilkerson turned himself in after 19 months of being absent without leave. In December, he signed a plea bargain admitting to his guilt, which reduced his sentence from six years max to no more than ten months.

While not a pacifist, Israel told his commanders he would no longer participate because he believes that the war in Iraq is unlawful.

Israel writes: “...I was illegally confined to a cot in an operations room, placed under 24 hour guard, and eskorted to the bathroom before I was formally charged with refusal to follow an order two weeks later. I remained confined until I pled guilty (with little choice) less than a week after the trial. I was immediately sent to a joint in Arifjan in Kuwait to serve 30 days in a military prison.”

Eli Israel’s discharge, issued when he was released from prison on August 17, reads “other than honorable.” He is appealing that classification with the support of Courage to Resist.

Lt. Watada Retrial On Hold

The retrial of Lt. Ehren Watada on military charges of missing movement and conduct unbecoming of an officer was scheduled to begin at Fort Lewis, Washington on October 9. However, on the previous Friday, U.S. District Court Judge Benjamin H. Settle granted the defense petition for an emergency stay of the court martial, so he could review and weigh the “considerable portions” of the double jeopardy issue before him.

On November 8, Judge Settle took the rare step of intervening to say that the military judge had abused his discretion in declaring a mistrial, and issued a preliminary injunction demanding a new mistrial. The retrial proceedings could occur until his further order or until his injunction is modified or dissolved by himself or a higher court.

The next legal steps were not set, but the government is expected to respond with a motion that Settle modify or dissolve the order.

Meanwhile, Lt. Watada remains in the Army, now past his original discharge date, pending resolution of the court martial and assigned to a desk at Ft. Lewis, under watchful eyes.

On October 4, the day before Judge Settle granted the emergency stay, Army officials had declared their support for Watada’s conscientious objector claim, and also as a prisoner of conscience, should he be convicted at court martial.

Lt. Watada’s first court martial came to an abrupt halt on February 7, when the military judge nullified a pretrial agreement between the prosecution and the defense and declared a mistrial. Details of the double jeopardy situation are posted at www.thankyoutalk.org, along with legal updates and support information.
On February 13, the remaining Pyeongtaek area farm- ers in the villages of Doduri and Daechuri, facing certain destruction of their villages in April to make way for an expanded U.S. military base, were compelled to accept a limited offer of compensation and be relocated by the end of March. As part of the agreement, the government apologized, the defense ministry’s accusation of illegal farming would be withdrawn, and pending criminal charg- es against residents who have nonviolently resisted expul- sion from their land would be dismissed immediately. 

On April 7, a ceremony was held to mark the conclu- sion of the Daechuri struggle. The residents who had left earlier, and those who had stayed until then, were joined by the volunteers who had made their home with the villagers in resistance for the last two years. The villagers set fire to the two bamboo guardian statues that stood at the entrance of the village. They wept as they watched the statues burn. As the Pyeongtaek farmers were finally evicted from their villages, they urged their grandchildren, “When you grow up, you must take the village back.” Despite this defeat, Korean anti- militarists continue organizing to stop the ever-expanding military bases. For more information, visit saveparr.org.

Soon after the Pyeongtaek farmers had charges dis- missed, the government of South Korea arrested photo- journalist Lee Si-woo. He is best known for his reporting on the anti-personnel mines which remain in the de-militarized zone separating South and North Korea, and on U.S. military activity on the peninsula, including stockpil- ing of depleted uranium ammo. Despite working from public documents and freedom of information disclosures, Si-woo is now on trial, charged under the vaguely worded secret equipment used only to produce nuclear weap- ons. Subsequently, he left that job and found his way to Australia, where he converted to Christianity and came to the Dismena nuclear installation, Vanunu photographed top secret equipment used only to produce nuclear weapon- ons. Subsequently, he left that job and found his way to Australia, where he converted to Christianity and came to reveal the photos to a reporter for the Sunday Times of London. That report triggered a bombshell expose of Israel’s nuclear secret in September, 1986. 

In the event of publication, Vanunu was taken out of prison in London, waiting for the fact checkers and the editors to finish the story. In a classic “honey pot” operation, a se- cret police female fatale lured the isolated Israeli apostate to Rome, where he was drugged and kidnapped back to Israel. At a secret trial he was convicted of espionage and treason. Vanunu was released from custody in April 2004, having completed an 18-year sentence, including 11 years in solitary confinement.

For updates and more information, visit vanunu.com
SODaPOP Campaign Begins in Iowa

In November, Chicago-based Voices for Creative Non-violence kicked off their latest campaign alongside Iowa activists: Seasons of Discontent - a Presidential Occupation Project (with the colloquial acronym SODaPOP). The aim is to “bring nonviolent civil resistance and civil disobedience to the campaign offices and headquarters of Presidential candidates—both Republican and Democrat—who do not publicly pledge to take the necessary concrete steps to end the Iraq war, to rebuild Iraq, and to forswear military attacks on other countries, and to fully fund the Common Good in the U.S.”

The Republican and Democratic frontrunners were targeted on November 8. The “law and order” campaign of Republican Rudy Giuliani campaign waited only about two hours to call on the suburban Clive, Iowa police to arrest 10 activists sitting in at the campaign headquarters.

To participate in SODaPOP, contact Voices for Creative Nonviolence at 773-878-3815 or info@vcnv.org. Additional information and resources are available at www.vcnv.org.

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

from Bridewell

By Frank Cordaro

October 25, 2007

In a confined space shared by 64 others and where one’s basic needs are met, the most challenging concerns can be the social ones. The inmate population here is not much different from the inmate populations in other county jails. The most common characteristic shared by the inmates is poverty. The difference between locked up or out on the streets is money.

The old say, “You get all the justice you can afford.”

That truth holds here, and these men can’t afford much. Most of the inmates have yet to be sentenced. They are somehow caught in legal limbo, waiting for their case to be settled, waiting for a parole or probation violation to get sorted out, or waiting for a determination of their incarceration status. Most are nonviolent offenders, charged with crimes that are drug or alcohol related. The mean age is 25; and this contributes to its frequent use. Though use is common and filled with misogyny and homophobia. A few Latinos, and the rest are white.

Dealing with foul and hateful language is difficult. Its use is common and filled with misogyny and homophobia. The hate speech is so frequent and common that many don’t seem to notice it. While it’s spoken primarily by younger inmates, there are a lot of them (the median age is 25); and this contributes to its frequent use. Though some older inmates, too, can be just as foul and hateful in their speech.

This speech added to the lack of privacy, the blare of the t.v. from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and the constant human chatter creates a din that is nerve rattling. Time for prayer, reading, writing, or exercise. Time for prayer or reflection is tough to manage. Time for resting or running around is hard. Time for a real need.

Of course, there are times when the guys are disrespectful such as making noise during sleep hours, and fights do break out once in awhile. What is truly amazing, given the situation, is that most actually get along.

Thirty days is not enough time to carve out a regimen or the discipline for prayer, reading, writing, or exercise. The setting simply limits the possibilities. The first two weeks my primary reading material was the King James Bible, not my favorite translation. I try to frame my experience as an opportunity to learn to be present in the “now,” the immediate moment.

In jail, it is easy to get lost in your own emotional issues and not be in the “now.” Though in reality, I’m here in a small space with 64 others, I’m tempted to hide and spend most of my time inside my own mind thinking about things over which I have no control, worrying about what is happening on the outside, thinking about all the work I left behind, and all the work I have to do when I get out. The self-absorption can become all-consuming.

To offset this, I try to make myself available to those with whom I’m sharing this time and space. I did not take long for the guys to learn who I am and why I’m here, especially since a few have been guests of the Catholic Worker house (plus a few Des Moines Register newspaper workers with stories about me were passed around). Soon, I was spending a lot of time talking one-on-one with guys, hearing their stories, and actively listening.

It comes as no surprise that most come from difficult and broken lives. A lot of their troubles they bring on themselves, and a lot are brought on by factors beyond their control. Each story is far more complicated than it would seem on its surface, and none lend themselves to easy, pat answers. Sometimes just listening and caring seems to fill a real need.

I’m certainly not the only guy in our Pod offering a caring ear. One man stands out for me here as someone who went beyond listening and caring to serve as the Pod minister. Jerry Carr is 57, African American, and from Des Moines. Coincidentally, Jerry is one of those who has been a guest at the Catholic Worker house. Jerry has spent a lifetime on and off drugs and in and out of jails and prisons. He tells me he didn’t have a “real” job until he was in his 30s. His physical bearing alone tells you his life has been hard and rough. He’s lost half of his teeth, and this causes a slur when he talks.

I first noticed Jerry as the guy doing a daily Bible study in the Pod. Sometimes as many as 12 men attended his study group, most of them younger African American men, but not all. He also had a steady stream of people visiting him on his bottom bunk. So, Jerry was the man I approached about getting a Bible. That’s when he invited me to join his group, and I gratefully accepted.

Jerry finally sobered up a few years ago. He secured a minimum wage job and lives with his mother, who’s been praying for him for years. He now attends church regularly and reads his Bible daily. He has two grown daughters and several grandkids and describes himself as “one of the richest men” he knows because he’s survived and now has the love of God in his life. His greatest joys are being with his family, especially those grandkids. And while he acknowledges he can’t do anything about the chunk of life he’s wasted, he’s determined to make the best of the remaining years he says God has given him.

Jerry found himself back in jail after the driver of a car in which he was a passenger was pulled over for a minor traffic violation. The officer ran Jerry’s name through their system and discovered a warrant for an unpaid fine in Las Vegas from several years ago that he’d forgotten. Jerry embraced this return to jail as an opportunity to study his Bible and to reach out to others about the life lessons he had learned and what his newly-found faith had taught him.

Jerry is not an academically learned man. I can barely understand him when he talks. Yet, he speaks from his heart and has a way of speaking directly and effectively to the young men who attended his Bible service.

Jerry left a few days ago. The day before he left, he shared with me his hope of starting a faith-based recovery meeting in Des Moines. He says his time in jail and his experiences with leading the Bible study group have boosted his confidence and his call to do so. He’s promised to visit us at the Catholic Worker. I hope he does. I also hope he starts his faith-based recovery group. He has much to teach and share.

Frank Cordaro was released on November 3, after spending 30 days in jail for his participation in an occupation of Senator Charles Grassley’s office on September 21. He joined an effort led by Iowa high school students who are members of the group, Students Beyond War.

Page 14 THE NUCLEAR RESISTER November 14, 2007
War Tax Resisters Complete Prison Sentences

Kevin McKee was released November 5 from federal prison in Pampa, Texas, after completing a 34-month sentence for felonies related to his religious refusal to pay war taxes. McKee is a member of the Reformed Israel of Yahwee, a Christian sect based in New Jersey that is fundamentally opposed to war. Codefendant Kevin Donato was moved to a halfway house in October, in preparation for his end of the 27-month sentence on the same prison war tax.

Somehow, we missed learning at the time that California attorney Tony Serra, a noted defender of the down-trodden and politically prosecuted for over four decades, completed a ten-month prison sentence in 2006 for willful failure to pay $44,000 in federal income taxes in 1998 and 1999. Serra previously served a four-month sentence in 1974 for failure to file during the Vietnam war, and got probation following a 1986 conviction for filing late returns. Serra long ago took an informal vow of poverty and has what his attorney describes as a “dysfunctional relationship to money.”


“...How did his case get to court, while most war tax resisters rarely see anything more than the odd lien or levy from the IRS? First, Serra has often not bothered to file, and those few years when he does file, he doesn’t pay. Second, he doesn’t respond to notices he gets from the IRS. Just taxes away them. This saves the IRS from having to go after some such as the Hells Angels. Not very productive. They even sent out a blood-donor-type black suits whose sole function was to sit around, intercept the mail, and open all the letters to see if they had a check in them. Serra was billed $50 a day for the honor. Fortunately, that lasted only a couple of days before they gave up. Serra usually just gets cash from his paying clients.

The Justice Department was so intent on get-ting Serra in 2004, they sent prosecutors from D.C. to conduct the case against him. After the local District Attorney’s office declined to do so, Serra reckons that it had to do with Ashcroft’s office trying to make an example of a professional-any professional (“doctor, lawyer, or Indian chief”) – in order to get enough press to scare the average person. Other factors likely include his previous tax convictions; his notoriety; his continuing insistence on “flags, protests, and the tax laws; and that there has been nothing to seize—‘it frustrates them.’

He says he has had time but has not decided whether to compromise his principles by making the required payments towards his $100,000 fine in the 2009 timeframe. “I’m not getting along, I’m going to jail where I belong” is what he’s inclined to tell them. Serra says he doesn’t mind prison because it’s an opportunity to help other inmates with their legal problems. Also, he will have the time-something he doesn’t have now-to read and write. However, if he doesn’t pay, his risks returning to prison for contempt and he won’t be able to help the people in need. At the age of 72-year-old Serra wants to do is until he is 80, and hell’s miss be-ing with his longtime companion Vicki Day.

More War Tax Protest

On Tax Day, 2006, five people were arrested in the Long Island village of East Hampton, New York, for picketing outside the line city cops had established to contain an anti-war protest. Thirteen postmen in post and almost 17 months later, misdemeanor obstruction and disorderly conduct charges were dropped on September 7, 2006, the defendants agreed not to sue the town-ship, which had since taken a more reasonable position regarding protest permits.

In Chicago, five people were arrested after they donned sackcloth and ashes and entered the downtown federal building last April 17. The Tax Day remem-brance of the death and destruction brought upon Iraq by the United States included singing the names of Iraq war dead, and a call for redirection of U.S. resources away from military spending.

IGOR SUTYAGIN: The Russian dissanarmament re-searcher convicted of espionage for his work with public documents recently spent three months in solitary confine-ment, allegedly because a cell phone was found on him. The punishment came three days after his attorney visited Sutuyatin at the remote maximum security penal colony at Arkhangelsk, and reported that Sutuyatin is being press-ured either to confess or withdraw his appeal to the European Court for Human Rights...

SENATOR PETE DOMENICI: On September 6, six members of the “Elevator 9” were found guilty in Albu-queraue of “failure to conform with signs and directions,” a federal crime. Sentencing for the September, 2006 ac-tion is set for December.

Sen. RICK SANTORUM: After hearing the prosecution’s case, a Philadelphia municipal court judge dismissed a criminal conspiracy charge and then, after hearing their defense, declared 14 Declaration of Peace campaigners not guilty of defiant trespass and criminal trespass for their September 25, 2006 sit-ins outside the Republican’s locked office door and in the lobby of the building where his office is located. Before sentencing the 23 trial, the Philadelphia Declare Peace 14, some in their own defense and others with the assistance of lawyers, argued that the First Amendment protected Free Speech and access to elected official to “petition for a redress of grievances” cannot be circumscribed simply because the representative’s office in located in a privately owned building.

REP. RICK LARSEN: Operation Free Larsen scored a moral victory in April, at the sentencing of Ellen Murphy. She was convicted of trespass at the Washington Depart-ment of Defense’s office in October, 2006, as constituents publicly expressed to him about the war out of the trial, but took the rare move of inviting a bystander, Gold Star Mother Doris Kent, to address the court prior to sentencing: “...Ellen Murphy, from the day I met her, gave me hope. Hope that I did not have to bear the burden of our nation’s war on Iraq. Hope that American citizens will rise up and insist that our elected officials not send our brave men and women in uniform into war without just cause. Our nation has done this. Now my son, Corporal Jonathan Santos is dead. Ellen Murphy spoke before I could not. She is insisting someone in our elected govern-ment listen...” Judge Debra Laverd thoughtfully, clearly moved by Kent’s comments, sentenced her to a fine of $1,000, suspended, 90 days in jail, sus-pended, 40 hours community service and court costs...

SEATTLE: All charges in the case of the “Flag 3” have been dismissed. They were charged during an October 5 “Drive Out the Bush Regime” rally, after a fracas that be-gan when police confiscated their anarcho-syndicalist flag and ended in the baseless charges of obstruction, resisting arrest, and assault...

D.C. To conduct the case against him after the local District Attorney’s office declined to do so. Serra sent prosecutors from D.C. to conduct the case against him. After the local District Attorney’s office declined to do so. Serra sent prosecutors from D.C. to conduct the case against him. After the local District Attorney’s office declined to do so. Serra sent prosecutors from D.C. to conduct the case against him. After the local District Attorney’s office declined to do so. Serra sent prosecutors from D.C. to conduct the case against him. After the local District Attorney’s office declined to do so. Serra sent prosecutors from D.C. to conduct the case against him. After the local District Attorney’s office declined to do so. Serra sent prosecutors from D.C. to conduct the case against him. After the local District Attorney’s office declined to do so.

For more information, contact the Oak Ridge Environ-mental Peace Alliance, POB 5743, Oak Ridge, TN, 37831. (865)483-8202, onep(at)earthlink.net and www.stopthebombs.org

Y-12

Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance’s next major Rally, Puppet show, March and Action will take place Sunday, April 13, 2008. The Spring Action timing is in-tended to involve more students (as they are on campuses and often have spring break) and focus more on current nuclear issues (as this is the time of year that budgets are voted on in D.C.).

For more information, contact the Oak Ridge Enviropmental Peace Alliance, POB 5743, Oak Ridge, TN, 37831. (865)483-8202, onep(at)earthlink.net and www.stopthebombs.org

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FUTURE ACTIONS
ANNOUNCEMENTS

...European Peace Action, a European network for direct action and peace, is organizing to create a space for grassroots organizing for peace, direct action and civil disobedience at the European Social Forum in Malmö, Sweden on the 18th - 21st September 2008. The vision is to create a Peace Forum to focus on the following issues: NATO/EU Nuclear Weapons, Militarization of Space, Globalization of Militarism, and last and most important, the Globalization of Resistance. Furthermore, the network looks beyond lobbying and seminars, to coordinate actions even after the forum.

“Join us to gain and spread knowledge about how to resist militarism and work for peace, share experiences from actions, give nonviolent workshops, express ourselves with political art and do lots of actions at various sites in the area. We will create the forum together, everyone who shares our ideas and vision are welcome to participate, organize workshops and take part in actions.”

Contact European Peace Action at europeanpeaceaction@ofog.org to participate in the forum.

...Two recently published books tell the first-hand story of imprisoned military refusers and conscientious objectors whose imprisonment was noted in these pages: Letters from Ft. Lewis Brig, A Matter of Conscience by Sgt. Kevin Benderman, with Monica Benderman (2007, Lyons Press/Globe Pequot, $24.95 hardcover) and Road from Ar Ramadi: The Private Rebellion of Staff Sergeant Mejía by Camilo Mejía (2007, New Press, $24.95 hardcover).

Nuclear Nebraska: The Remarkable Story of the Little County That Couldn’t Be Bought by Susan Cragin is a well-told tale about the 20-year effort to save rural Boyd County from hosting a so-called low-level radioactive waste repository. A story of rural organizing, radical tactics, and strategic lessons for the coming era of nuclear waste dump battles. (2007, AMACOM/American Management Association, $24.95 hardcover).

...The 2008 War Resisters League Peace Calendar is now available. Salaam, Shalom, Sohl - Nonviolence and Resistance in the Middle East and Beyond is a wire-bound desk calendar including 52 pages profiling nonviolent activists and initiatives in the region. $13.95 each, or 4 for $50, plus $3.50 per calendar for shipping and handling. Send all mail orders to: War Resisters League, c/o We-Fulfill, 218 Round Rock Circle, Grand Junction, CO 81503, or order from www.warresisters.org or toll-free: (877)224-8811.

The 2008 War Resisters League Peace Calendar

Salaam, Shalom, SohL
Nonviolence and Resistance
in the Middle East and Beyond
WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE

...Five Months for Prayer at Fort Huachuca

Mother’s Day Action at Bangor Trident Base

On Monday morning, May 14, 35 people walked in the early dawn to demonstrate against Trident nuclear weapons at the Bangor, Washington submarine base. A large banner was hung over the freeway overpass leading into the base declaring, “Create a Peaceful World for All Children, Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Scrap Trident”.

At 6:00 a.m., three demonstrators entered the highway and briefly blocked arriving traffic on the Kitsap County side of the Naval Base’s main gate. The three carried a banner that stated, “The Earth is our Mother, Treat Her with Respect”. Michael Hill, Ann Orleman, and Joy Goldstein were immediately arrested by Kitsap County Sheriff’s deputies, booked and later released in Port Orchard. They were not told what charges might be filed. The previous day, Mother’s Day, approximately 60 demonstrators held a mid-day vigil at the gate.

Bangor Update

Three members of Ground Zero were sentenced on February 22 on two counts each of disorderly conduct. Kitsap County Judge Riehl agreed that international law was relevant in this and other cases in county court, but noted that this jury felt international law did not direct citizens to violate local law. For their arrests at Bangor in May and August 2006, Riehl fined Carol Ann Barrows, Shirley Morrison and Brian Watson $2,000 each ($1,500 suspended) plus 180 days in jail (178 suspended - two days were served in August 2006).

For more information, contact the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, (360)779-4672, info@gzcenter.org