

the Nuclear Resister

"A Chronicle of Hope"

No. 151

December 20, 2008



Photo courtesy of Jason McGuire

At a die-in outside a space warfare conference in Omaha, the Grim Reaper contemplates his harvest.

Space War Foes Refuse Bail, Stay in Jail

Eight people - all affiliated with midwest Catholic Worker communities - were arrested in Omaha on October 8 after they refused to leave a die-in in front of the Qwest Center, where space warriors and their suppliers were attending the annual Strategic Space and Defense Conference. A statement read aloud as the die-in began explained their action:

"We refuse to surrender the land, sea, air and the heavens above to those who have given their allegiance to the gods of war and greed. For the scriptures remind us of the hypocrisy of those who put their faith in 'gods of metal' to protect them. We call on the city of Omaha and this conference's sponsoring organizations to turn away from this unholy collaboration with global death and evil and to choose life. So, we stage this die-in to say as clearly as we can, that 'Space Weapons Equal Death.'"

The protest was part of the annual international Keep Space for Peace Week of action and educational events, coordinated by the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space (space4peace.org).

Four Omaha residents, Peg Gallagher, Kathy Peterson, Mark Kenney and Jerry Ebner, were cited and released. Out-of-towners Frank Cordaro, Greg Boertje-Obed, Michael Walli and Steve Jacobs were held overnight pending their arraignments in Douglas County Court. Boertje-Obed and Walli both entered pleas of not guilty on the charge of "refusal to leave", and were ordered held until trial on \$15,000 bail.

Cordaro and Jacobs each pled no contest. Cordaro was first fined \$250, but requested instead a sentence of time served. Instead, the judge changed the sentence to four days in jail, with two days credit for time served. When it was his turn at the bench, Jacobs was sentenced to three days, with credit for time served.

Boertje-Obed later sought a change of plea. At a hearing on October 27, he pleaded no contest and was sentenced to time served.

The four Omaha residents were arraigned on November 12 and all entered pleas of guilty or no contest. Judge Stephen Swartz fined Kenney and Peterson \$100 and \$150, respectively, plus court costs. Ebner was given a 30-day suspended sentence, one year probation and a \$500 fine plus costs. Both Kenney and Ebner pledged not to pay their fines and may face jail later.

Peg Gallagher, the last to face the judge and at age 90 the elder in the group, also said she would not pay a fine for protesting a great wrong. Judge Swartz parried with the activist, threatening jail for unpaid fines. "My conscience is equally as bullheaded as your conscience," he told her. "And because I wear a robe, your conscience is probably going to lose out."

In the end, though, he said he did not want jail staff to have to "put up with" someone her age because "they need to be dealing with younger people they're more used to." Swartz stipulated that Gallagher's \$150 fine could be worked off with 20 hours of community service, to which she agreed.

Michael Walli remained in jail until his trial November 14, 38 days after his arrest. His public defender vigorously cross-examined the police and Qwest Center representatives who were witnesses for the prosecution, establishing that the venue is in fact open to the public and that Walli had not been individually told to leave or face arrest. After the prosecution rested, the attorney moved that the case be dismissed. The motion was granted, and Walli was released from custody.

For more information, contact the Omaha Catholic Worker, 1104 N. 24th St. Omaha, NE 68102, 402-502-5887, or cwomaha@gmail.com

AVRUSTA NU! SWEDISH ARMS EXPORTS DISARMED

Direct disarmament in the Plowshares tradition, using handtools and accepting personal responsibility, continued in Sweden this fall with the debut of *Avrusta! (Disarm!)*, a new campaign to stop Swedish weapons exports.

Shortly after midnight on Thursday, October 16, anti-tank missile launchers and other armaments were damaged after activists broke into factories belonging to leading European weapons manufacturers BAE Systems and Saab. In two simultaneous nonviolent actions, four people used hammers to damage arms bound for export to the United States, India and other countries. Two days later, their spokesperson was also arrested after entering one of the factories to continue the work.

Anna Andersson and Martin Smedjeback used hammers and bolt cutters to enter the Saab-Bofors Dynamics production unit in Eskilstuna, near Stockholm. A video at their website shows them at work, hammering and scratching inside the barrels of 14 Carl Gustaf anti-tank grenade launchers, one of the most widespread weapons of the world, before they alerted police of their presence inside the supposedly high-security establishment. Saab-Bofors later claimed damages of at least \$141,000.

Andersson and Smedjeback were charged with trespass, criminal damage and trespass at a place of national security, and were then released.

Sixty miles away, also before dawn, Catherine Laska and Pelle Strindlund had entered the BAE Systems plant at the Bofors industrial site in Karlskoga. They forced open a door to an assembly building and posted a sign on the door, "This factory produces arms used in war - disarmament underway." Once inside, they proceeded to damage parts for weapons, including the Howitzer 77 artillery, clearly labeled for shipment to India where the guns have been used in the disputed Kashmir region. The two were jailed on charges of trespass and criminal damage.

At noon that day, Annika Spalde, a deacon in the Swedish church and the fifth member of the group, held a press conference in Karlskoga. "When your government supports an illegal war and sells arms to dictatorships, it's time for ordinary citizens like us to take action," she said. After inviting media to join her, she made a public attempt to enter the Bofors site but was ushered away by police. Early Saturday morning, Spalde returned. She cut her way through the fence and hung a banner encouraging more disarmament actions. Before she could get inside the factory, Spalde was again arrested. She was soon released and faces possible charges of criminal damage and trespass at a place of national security.

Meanwhile, Andersson and Smedjeback returned to the factory area of Eskilstuna Saturday morning, and were taken into custody by police as they planned how to resume their action. They told police of their intentions, but were again released after a few hours. The pair returned a third time early on Sunday, cut three holes in the fence and placed a welcoming sign at each: "The door is opened- you're free to start disarming." Inside, they left a number of letters for the employees with an invitation to dialogue. Then they called the police, and subsequently were again arrested on suspicion of trespassing and criminal damage. After three trips to jail in four days, both activists were again set free Sunday evening.

Laska and Strindlund remained in custody until their trial began on November 5. The only witness called to the stand was the security director at the BAE Systems Bofors, who had earlier acknowledged to the press that, "This will have an effect on our

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ANOTHER ARMY REFUSER JAILED

Another U.S. Army refuser was sent to prison in November for desertion and disobeying orders, while others have recently taken stances that could result in their court martial.

Tony Anderson was court martialled November 17 at Fort Carson, Colorado. Anderson pled guilty to desertion with intent to avoid hazardous duty and disobeying a lawful order. The judge trimmed one month from the sentence guideline, sending Anderson to military prison for 14 months plus a reduction in rank, and dishonorable discharge upon release.

Tony Anderson grew up in a Pentacostal family in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, acquiring Christian teachings he later drew upon to gird his refusal to kill.

He told *Courage to Resist* that:

...he was never very attracted to military life, but joined the service at the behest of his father, who had always regretted not joining the military himself. Once in the ranks, Anderson realized that he had made an unfortunate decision. During basic training, he found himself ethically opposed to taking a human life in a military conflict. He was disturbed by seeing soldiers on his base return from Iraq deeply traumatized from their experience

in combat. "I didn't want to mess myself up for the rest of my life doing something I didn't want to do to begin with," he says.

Anderson had vague thoughts about filing for conscientious objector (C.O.) status but was discouraged from doing so by his commanding officers, who told him that it would not be possible for him to obtain, and even falsely informed him that he was "not the right religion." Anderson was led to believe that filing a C.O. application would be futile.

Anderson says that when he was ordered to deploy to Iraq on July 1, he "freaked out." "What upset me most was the thought of having to hurt or kill someone else," he said at his trial. "I know this may be hard to believe, but I never really thought about the idea of hurting or killing another human being before I joined the military. And then in training, it just didn't seem real. I knew I could be deployed someday but I just never gave it much thought. But when I got to Ft. Carson and heard that I would be going to Iraq, I realized that this was something I would have to resolve."

Just hours before boarding his flight, he went AWOL, eventually turning himself in after 22 days

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Plane-Top Protest Earns One Day Sentence

Steve Baggarly pled not guilty to trespass in U.S. District Court in Norfolk, Virginia on November 3. Because he had previously been barred from the Oceana Naval Air Station, Baggarly was the only activist prosecuted among four who climbed atop a B-52 bomber and unfurled anti-war banners during an air show in September. For his defense, Baggarly took the stand and began to tell the story of an Afghan village bombed by B-52s during the U.S. invasion. He told the court that the testimony of people under the bombs in Afghanistan and Iraq is the testimony most relevant to why he came to be on top of the B-52. Magistrate Tommy Miller disagreed, so Baggarly stopped and was convicted of trespassing. Before sentencing, Miller gave Baggarly five minutes to make a statement. He returned to the story of two Afghans and their families on the bottom end of U.S. air power. He described the 1,000 pound cluster bombs that "can make an apple orchard into applesauce, or people into hamburger" and how the B-52 he and the others had climbed onto could not only drop cluster bombs, but up to 20 nuclear-capable cruise missiles.

Baggarly concluded, in part:

So it is appropriate that our time on the B-52

led to this courtroom. It is precisely U.S. law and the courts which ignores the desires of most of humanity by protecting such omniscient weapons and the indiscriminate killing they engage in around the globe. In the end, U.S. courts trample God's law of love for all people, by rubber-stamping every war, every new weapons system, and every military intervention, invasion, incursion, occupation, police action, and special forces operation coming out of the Pentagon - and they are many and constant. The courts protect our world's largest stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction despite international treaties and laws the U.S. is a party to that declare them illegal and require their disarmament. U.S. courts ensure that if our weapons of mass destruction are one day used to destroy the planet and all life on it, it will be perfectly legal.

Lastly, blood is on all of our hands. Every U.S. citizen is enmeshed in the structures of empire and militarism. Our troops are put in atrocity producing situations, and we are all responsible through our payment of taxes, our consumption of oil, our votes, and our silence. The gospel call is to turn from indiscriminate killing to indiscriminate love, even for the enemy. We must repent...

He was sentenced to one day in jail, as requested by the prosecutor, and two years limited supervision.

Students Beyond War Seek Answers, Get Citations

Six high school students were charged with trespass on November 3, the day before the presidential election, following a sit-in at John McCain's local campaign headquarters.

Fifteen members of Students Beyond War, a Des Moines area pan-high school organization, visited the office because they still hadn't received a reply to questions about Iraq, Iran, and the draft that they asked in a letter sent to the Senator and his local staff.

Once inside, the students read the letter aloud and again asked for a response. A week prior, they had brought the same letter to the Obama campaign office, and received no response. Now, on the eve of the election, a few of them said they wouldn't be leaving until they had a response.

A campaign worker eventually responded by calling the police, who arrived to find six students, five of them 17 years old, and the younger brother of one, age 15, still inside the office. The other students and supporters gathered outside. Police ordered the six students outside, then told them to leave peacefully or stay and be charged. All six remained, and were cited for trespass before being released to their parents. All have agreed to deferred prosecution and community service that will clear the offense from their record. For more information, contact Students Beyond War c/o Mikey Davis, egtitans27@aol.com.



Thanks

Thanks to Marsha, Jim, Pat, Rosemary, Tom, Kathleen, Cindy, Sally, Polly, Steve, Paige, Allan, David, and Ya-Ching for helping to mail the last issue.

Thanks also to RESIST, Inc., for their recent grant of \$500 towards general support for publishing the Nuclear Resister. RESIST began in 1967 in support of draft resistance and in opposition to the Vietnam War. RESIST provides small but timely grants and loans to hundreds of organizations (in the words of their Board Chair Kay Mathew) "too small or too local - or too radical - for mainstream foundations" that are engaged in grassroots organizing and education for social change. For more information, contact RESIST, Inc., 259 Elm St., Somerville, MA 02144, 617-623-5110, resistinc.org.

ARMY REFUSER JAILED, CONT.

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in hopes of diminishing the severity of his punishment. On his return, Anderson was again ordered to deploy to Iraq immediately. This time, he simply refused, and he says, "They haven't tried to deploy me since then because they realize I'm not going to go."

The young soldier, who remained in tears during much of the trial, did not have family present at his court martial. His mother sent a statement saying she does not agree with what her son did but believes that he was sincerely trying to follow his conscience.

During a break before sentencing, Anderson told a local reporter that once he's out of prison, he can work with his dad in his oil-change businesses. "He's upset with what I did, but he wants to see me happy," he said of his father. "We're just going to put it behind us."

Anderson, confined to barracks since last summer, was taken away in handcuffs to the county jail, and two weeks later sent to the military prison at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma.

U.S. Iraq military refuser **Dean Walcott** was told on December 3 that he must leave Canada by January 6 or face deportation to the United States. Walcott came to Canada two years ago after two tours of duty in Iraq, because "I was getting tired of seeing little kids blown up," like those brought for treatment at a U.S. hospital in Germany, where he was last assigned to duty. The order follows similar ones in the cases of military refusers **Corey Glass**, **Jeremy Hinzman** and family, **Patrick Hart** and family, and **Matt Lowell**.

Canada's federal court stayed the removal orders of Glass, Hinzman and Lowell. The Hart family faces deportation on January 15 and is asking the court for a similar stay.

In Frankfurt, Germany, AWOL Army specialist **Andre Shepherd** came forward and spoke to the media after becoming the first Iraq war veteran to pursue refugee status there on November 26. Shepherd's disillusionment began when he realized that none of the civilians he encountered in Iraq were experiencing the freedom, prosperity and peace he was led to believe the invasion had brought. "Some had the look of fear, while others looked outright angry and resentful. I began to feel like a cruel oppressor who had destroyed the lives of these proud people." As he looked deeper and learned more, he found he could no longer in conscience serve in the illicit Iraq war, but that a conscientious objector discharge was not a possibility since he is not opposed to all war.

Facing possible redeployment, Shepherd walked away from his unit's home base in April, 2007, and lived underground in Germany until last month. Through contact with the Military Counseling Network, a German group, Shepherd developed his refugee claim in part on a European Union regulation providing refugee status to a soldier who is in danger of being prosecuted if military service "would include crimes or acts" which violate international law. A German administrative court, ruling in 2005 on the case of a German army officer who was demoted when he refused to work on a computer project he feared would be used by the United States against Iraq, held that the Iraq war was an act of aggression in violation of international law. Shepherd's application in effect calls on the German government, which plays host to a wide spectrum of U.S. combat support roles, to clarify its stand on the Iraq war.

Several other active duty and reserve soldiers are also at current risk of court martial for their declared intent to refuse orders to Iraq or Afghanistan. These include **Blake Ivey**, **Benjamin Lewis**, **Brad Gaskins** and **Brandon Neely**.

UPDATES

To his surprise, military refuser **James Burmeister** was released from the military stockade at Fort Knox, Kentucky on October 28, three weeks earlier than expected. He told Courage to Resist he was notified of a clemency order from the commanding general only hours before being shown the door. Courage to Resist believes his early release is due at least in part to the public attention focused on this case. Burmeister received over 200 letters while in prison, and thanked all who supported him.

Also released early from the U.S. military detention facility in Mannheim, Germany was conscientious objector **Robert Weiss**, who departed the prison and returned to the United States on November 9, one month early due to good behavior.

On October 29, an Army appeals court heard arguments to overturn **Camilo Mejia's** 2004 conviction for desertion. Mejia was the first Iraq combat vet to refuse further Iraq duty because of the U.S. war crimes he witnessed there. He was not allowed to present evidence proving that his resistance was motivated by a refusal to participate in such illegal combat operations. His appeal is also a first, made possible because Mejia did not enter into a plea agreement. Following his conviction, Mejia served nine months of a one year prison sentence. There is no information about when the appeal will be decided.

Army Lt. **Ehren Watada**, the first commissioned officer to publicly refuse illegal orders to Iraq, has won some support in federal court. Watada's court martial collapsed in a legal thicket and mistrial nearly two years ago. On October 21, U.S. District Judge Benjamin Settle in Tacoma, Washington, ruled that if the Army chooses to retry Watada, it cannot include the most serious charge of missing movement nor two specifications of a second charge, conduct unbecoming an officer (related to statements Watada made against the war and the President). He agreed with Watada's attorneys that new prosecution on these charges would amount to double-jeopardy. Settle left standing two other specifications on the second charge which had been omitted from the plea agreement that entangled the prosecution in the first place. The Army could appeal this ruling. Meanwhile, Lt. Watada remains in the army, assigned to a desk at Ft. Lewis, Washington.

For more information and updates on prosecution of public military refusers, contact Courage to Resist, 484 Lake Park Ave #41, Oakland CA 94610, 510-488-3559, www.couragetoresist.org.

For more information about refusers in Canada, contact the War Resisters Support Campaign, Box 13, 427 Bloor Street West, Toronto, ON M5S 1X7, 416-598-1222, resisters@sympatico.ca, www.resisters.ca.

Military refusers and conscientious objectors, and anyone in the armed forces, veterans or their families, seeking free, confidential, and accurate information and counseling on U.S. military regulations and practices regarding discharge and other issues, should contact the **GI Rights Hotline at 877-447-4487**, www.girights.org (information in English and Spanish) or girights@girights.org; or Citizen Soldier, 267 Fifth Ave. #901, New York, NY 10016, 212-679-2250, www.citizensoldier.org.



Letters of support should be sent to Anthony Michael Anderson, P.O. Box 305, Fort Sill, OK 73503-5305, and to Robin Long, POB 452136, San Diego, CA 92145.

the Nuclear Resister

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YOU CAN HELP!

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

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

THE NUCLEAR RESISTER ON MICROFILM

The Nuclear Resister is available on microfilm as part of the Alternative Press Research Collection (1986 - present) and the Alternative Press Center Supplement of the Underground Press Collection (1980 - 1985) offered by the UMI Division of ProQuest Company, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

ABOUT THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

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

The Nuclear Resister is published about every two months and serves to network this nonviolent resistance movement while acting as a clearinghouse for information about contemporary nonviolent resistance to war and the nuclear threat. We believe that in any significant movement for social change, many committed individuals are imprisoned. Behind bars, they are physically isolated from their supporters and their own resistance activity is limited. Broader awareness of their actions and support for the imprisoned activist are essential to the movement for a peaceful, nuclear-free future.

Each issue provides the names and jail addresses of currently imprisoned anti-nuclear and anti-war activists. Readers are encouraged to provide active support by writing letters to those behind bars and in other ways requested by the prisoners.

Jack and Felice Cohen-Joppa, Editors

CLOSE THE S.O.A.? SÍ SE PUEDE!!

Organizers hope it was the last of the mass demonstrations needed to close the controversial School of the Americas, renamed Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (SOA/WHINSEC), at Ft. Benning, where Latin American military and police have long been trained. On November 21-23, thousands of people gathered in the city of Columbus, Georgia, and at the gates of Fort Benning.

Seven arrests were reported during the three days of education, entertainment, protest, prayer, and civil disobedience.

The 19th annual vigil commemorated the November 16, 1989 massacre in El Salvador of Julia Elba Ramos, her 14-year-old daughter Celina, and six Jesuit priests. They were brutally murdered by a Salvadoran army unit that was led by military officers trained at the SOA. Hundreds of thousands of Latin Americans have been tortured, raped, assassinated, "disappeared," massacred, and forced into exile by those trained at the SOA/WHINSEC. Jon Sobrino, SJ, the Jesuit priest who survived the massacre, attended this year's vigil.

"We feel qualified optimism," said SOA Watch founder Fr. Roy Bourgeois. "The American people have rejected the Bush administration's policies of aggression, war-mongering and torture. By closing this notorious school of assassins now, Obama and the new Congress can show the world that we genuinely honor human rights."

With 35 Representatives who voted to continue funding the SOA/WHINSEC losing their seats in Congress on November 4, human rights advocates have their sights set on pressuring the new Congress to permanently shut down the school in 2009. The last vote to defund the SOA/WHINSEC, in 2007, lost by a margin of only six votes. February 15-17 are the dates set for SOA Lobby Days in Washington, D.C.

Six of the arrests occurred Sunday morning, before the traditional mass funeral procession that is the dra-

matic highlight of the weekend. The activists entered the base using a different entrance than the destination of the procession.

Father Luis Barrios from New York City pushed the wheelchair of recently widowed Louis Wolf, from Washington, D.C., as they entered the post from I-185. Walking with them were Sr. Diane Pinch, from Cleveland, Theresa Cusimano, from Denver, Al Simmons, from Richmond, Virginia, and Kristen Holm, from Chicago. The six were stopped about half a mile inside the base and arrested for trespass. Regarding his arrest and his late wife, Wolf said, "It was a tribute to her." They were bailed out of jail by the SOA Watch legal team on Sunday afternoon. Their federal trials in Columbus, Georgia will begin on January 26, 2009.

The seventh person arrested was Bryan Rodgers, 20, from Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. He was at the front of a small, unpermitted march through downtown Columbus Saturday evening. Police ordered the group out of the street, arresting Rodgers for unlawful assembly when he allegedly failed to comply. He was also charged with possession of the small amount of marijuana in his pocket, and posted \$500 bond for his release just before court on Monday. His prosecution is pending.

The School of the Americas made headlines in 1996 when the Pentagon released training manuals used at the school that advocated torture, extortion and execution. The involvement of SOA/WHINSEC graduates in human rights abuses continues. This October, Colombian army commander General Mario Montoya resigned in the wake of a scandal over army killings of civilians that a U.N. official called "systematic and widespread." General Montoya not only received training at the SOA, but also taught soldiers as an instructor there. He has been replaced by General Oscar Gonzalez, also an SOA/WHINSEC graduate.

For more information, visit soaw.org or contact School of the Americas Watch, POB 4566, Washington, D.C. 20017, info@soaw.org, 202-234-3440.

The Heartland Speaks

The smoke above the Smoky Hills of central Kansas came from a biennial bombing and strafing competition known as Hawgsmoke. Competing A-10 pilots and ground crews from around the world brought their aircraft to the Salina Municipal Airport for three days of blasting away at targets in the nearby Smoky Hill Weapons Range. Ugly and deadly as warplanes go, the "Warthogs" provide close air support to ground combat with missiles, bombs and a machine gun that fires armor-piercing depleted uranium bullets.

Faced with this celebration of indiscriminate lethality in their midst, Salina People for Peace organized a counter-gathering, The Heartland Speaks: A Peace Coalition Action Glimpsing the Beloved Community. About 40 people took part in presentations and workshops on militarization and the environment, the impact of depleted uranium munitions, the lethal uses of the A-10, the face of war making, and nonviolent peacebuilding.

On Wednesday morning, October 15, participants walked three miles to the airport, where they rallied for

speakers and music. In a planned act of civil resistance, eight people (all age 50 or more, and half over age 70) then walked across a boundary line at the fence and were arrested for trespass when they refused to leave.

Wes Rehberg posted bond and was released later that day. Janie Stein, Martin Bates, Sr. Agnes Teter, Sr. Margaret Rourke, Ralph Kresin, Frank Cordaro, and Gerald Paoli were all jailed overnight before their release with a trespass citation.

In a subsequent letter to the *Salina Journal*, Sr. Teter said her commitment to follow the nonviolent Jesus led her to engage in civil disobedience, and summed up her objection to Hawgsmoke:

"This event strikes me as making war and weapons for killing and violence into a game, thereby, making them seem harmless. We are to come to this event and 'marvel' at these amazing war machines! They are seen as fascinating and entertaining, and thus we are deluded into compliance with a culture of violence."

Three Months for Star Wars Disarmament Try

Sylvia Boyes will ring in the new year behind bars in Britain after her refusal to participate in "community punishment" with 150 hours of unpaid labor. She was re-sentenced on December 18 to three months in prison. With credit for good behavior, Boyes could be released as early as January 30.

Boyes and Erica Wilson, both long-standing peace activists and members of the nonviolent direct action group Trident Ploughshares, attempted to hinder activities at the Fylingdales Ballistic Missile Early Warning Station in North Yorkshire last August 6, the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. They were cutting the fence and using red paint to symbolize the bloodshed threatened by U.S. military policy when Ministry of Defense police arrested them, preventing completion of their work.

They took the action to highlight the increasingly important role of the base in the U.S. National Missile Defense (Star Wars) project. Satellite communications through the base are vital both in any first-strike nuclear war scenario and for U.S. plans to put weapons in space under the guise of Missile Defense. Fylingdales puts Britain on the front-line in future U.S. wars.

The pair were held overnight at Scarborough police station and charged with criminal damage. Boyes said, "Since I believe that my government is acting unlawfully and immorally, I as a citizen have a duty to uphold the law and try to right a terrible wrong. Having lived all my life under the threat of nuclear mass murder and destruction, I do not intend to stay silent about the dangers into which the USA and its aggressive policies are leading us."

The magistrates hearing their case in October rejected the argument that their action was a serious attempt at disarmament because Wilson said it was justified by the experience of Hiroshima. By referring to Hiroshima, the court concluded that the action was simply a protest, and a criminal one, at that.

The women were found guilty of criminal damage, and sentenced in November to 150 hours of community service.



Letters of support should be sent to Sylvia Boyes, New Hall Prison, Dial Wood, Flockton, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF4 4XX, Great Britain.

All were summoned to court on November 4 where they were convicted of trespass and given 30-day suspended sentences, plus a \$100 fine and court costs.

For more information, contact Salina People for Peace, 141 S. Clark St., Salina, KS 67401, (785)643-5334, s4p@cox.net, salinapeace.org

Inside & Out



NUCLEAR RESISTERS

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)

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

NUCLEAR RESISTERS OVERSEAS

Sylvia Boyes (3 months - in 12/18/08)
New Hall Prison, Dial Wood, Flockton, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF4 4XX, Great Britain.
(Convicted of criminal damage for trying to disarm U.S. military radar in England, 8/6/08)

Igor V. Sutyagin (15 years)
163050, Arkhangelsk; Ul. Pirsovaya, d. 27; FGU IK-1, 5 otryad; Russia. (letters only, no parcels)
(Imprisoned since 10/27/1999, now convicted of espionage for researching public nuclear weapons information - sentenced 4/07/04)

Daniele Casalini
Casa Circondariale, Via Burla 59, 43100 Parma, Italy.
(Eco-anarchist on remand for another alleged crime, and awaiting trial for 9/05 sabotage of nuclear electricity pylons)

PUBLIC MILITARY REFUSERS

Robin Long (15 months - out 6/09)
Miramar Naval Consolidated Brig, P.O. Box 452136, San Diego, CA 92145-2136.
(Pled guilty to desertion, 8/08)

Anthony Michael Anderson (14 months - out 11/09)
P.O. Box 305, Fort Sill, OK 73503-5305.
(Pled guilty to desertion and disobeying an order, 11/08)

ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS

Rafil Dhafir 11921-052 (22 years - out 4/26/22)
FCI Terre Haute, POB 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808.
(Convictions resulting from providing humanitarian and financial aid to Iraqis in violation of U.S. sanctions, 2/05)

PREVIOUSLY LISTED, RECENTLY RELEASED: Robert Weiss, James Burmeister.

Rove Evades Citizens Seeking His Arrest

The idea of Iowa resisters to arrest Karl Rove has followed the alleged former war crime accomplice on the lecture circuit. In September in California, 300 Claremont College students demonstrated and delayed Rove's departure from a lecture hall for an hour and a half. The head of college security covered his escape with a burst of pepperspray, and the arrest of one student was discouraged when others locked arms with the woman as police tried to pull her from the crowd.



Left to right: Defendants Mona Shaw, Kirk Brown, Ed Bloomer, and Chet Guinn in front of the Polk County Court House, Des Moines, Iowa.

On October 21, Rove was on stage for a panel discussion at the Mortgage Bankers Association meeting in San Francisco when Janine Boneparth stepped up on stage, introduced herself, and tried to handcuff him as she reached to shake his hand. Rove pulled back and by then, security men had caught up with Boneparth and hustled her off stage. Four other CodePink supporters were removed from the hall for heckling, and all five women were released without charge.

Then in November, at the Commercial Finance Association annual convention in the city where Rove was debating former senator John Edwards, Janine Boneparth walked on the stage handcuffed to fellow CODEPINK member Nancy Mancias. Boneparth held up photos of dead soldiers killed in Iraq and blew a whistle. At the same moment, Mancias held up crime scene tape and pronounced to the audience, "Ladies and gentlemen, Karl Rove is a war criminal!"

Boneparth and Mancias were escorted out of the building by police and taken downtown to be booked, but were later released without charges.

Meanwhile, back in Iowa, the citizen enforcers were in court before a jury. Last July, the four had presented Des Moines police with a written arrest complaint citing Iowa Code provisions for making Citizen's Arrests as well as citing federal statute violations they claimed Rove had violated, including felony murder, election fraud, conspiracy to defraud the United States leading to the war in Iraq, as well as treason, sedition and subversive activities. The four maintained during their trial that they were acting within the guidelines of Iowa Code that obligate private citizens to make such

an arrest if they believe a felony has been committed and turn Rove over to police officials to bring him before a judge for formal indictment.

The jury was instructed to consider whether the defendants had a reasonable belief that the subject of a citizen's arrest had committed a felony. If so, they could be acquitted. The jury returned a guilty verdict for each defendant nonetheless.

"It's astonishing to me that there are six people who still don't find it reasonable to believe that Karl Rove has committed a felony," defendant Mona Shaw said later. "It shows how much we still need to educate the public."

Judge Colin Witt sentenced defendants Rev. Chet Guinn, Edward Bloomer, and Mona Shaw to the minimum \$65.00 fine plus court costs. Defendant Kirk Brown stated he could not in conscience pay the fine and was sentenced to one day in jail instead.

For more information, contact the Des Moines Catholic Worker, 713 Indiana Ave., Des Moines, IA 50314, 512-282-4781, DesMoinesCatholicWorker.org

Ft. Huachuca Bars Torture Protesters

Three protesters who attempted to walk towards the main gate of Ft. Huachuca on November 16 were arrested and then released within the hour, with only a formal letter barring them from entering the base for one year.

Ft. Huachuca is home of the headquarters of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center, where interrogators are trained. With U.S. torture policy still under the spotlight at home and abroad, a base spokeswoman told reporters, "We're trying to keep this as low key as possible."

More than 200 people rallied that Sunday in Veterans Memorial Park in Sierra Vista, Arizona, for the main event of the Southwest Witness to Stop Torture weekend program. The group then processed two miles through the city to the main gate of Ft. Huachuca. Musicians and people carrying large, colorful butterfly puppets led the procession. The puppets represented transformation from a nation that sanctions cruelty and torture to a world that embraces hope for humanity.

Soon after the procession arrived opposite the entrance to the Fort, three people crossed the street and made their way around vehicle barriers and police tape to enter the base. Dennis Duvall, Sr. Megan Rice, and Fr. Louie Vitale sought to deliver messages to base commander Major General John Custer and his soldiers, opposing the cruel treatment and abuse of detainees from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. They were quickly stopped and taken into custody.

Fr. Vitale was arrested during a similar protest at the Fort in 2006. Together with codefendant Fr. Steve Kelly, he served a five month prison sentence for trespass and failure to obey an officer. They completed their prison terms last March. While they were jailed, Fr. Jerry Zawada, Betsy Lamb and Mary Burton Riseley were arrested at the Fort in November, 2007, and Zawada and Lamb were jailed for two months until their trial. The three were convicted and each fined \$5,000 or 500 hours community service, and each has completed the community service.

This year's demonstration concluded with a stop at the nearby office of CACI, a private military contractor implicated in the abuse of Iraqi detainees, and currently contracted to write manuals and teach interrogation.

The Southwest Witness to Stop Torture is a regional action in solidarity with the campaign to close the School of the Americas/Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation at Fort Benning, Georgia, where the testimony of torture survivors has informed and inspired many to action. The torture manual which was used at the School of the Americas came from Ft. Huachuca.

For more information, visit TortureOnTrial.org and SouthwestWitness.org.

Two months before his arrest at Ft. Huachuca, Dennis Duvall spent the night in the Yavapai County Jail in Prescott, Arizona. Last March 19, the fifth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, he wrote "Stop the Killing" on the door of the army recruiting office at Prescott Gateway Mall. He was convicted of criminal damage in July and ordered to pay a \$200 fine by September 5 or do two days of community service. When he did neither, Duvall was summoned back to court on September 16. He again refused either sentence and asked a friend not to pay his fine, as well. The judge found Duvall in contempt and ordered he be jailed overnight. The next day the judge again asked Duvall to choose between the fine and community service. Duvall again replied "No, your honor, I'm being jailed for my dissent." The judge turned the fine over to a collection agency and released Duvall.

(IVAW), a group of military veterans calling for immediate troop withdrawal from Iraq, were arrested outside Hofstra University on October 15. They wanted to bring the issues of the Iraq war and veterans to the forefront of the final presidential debate. Nassau County, New York police used horses to assault IVAW leadership at the front of a peaceful assembly of hundreds. IVAW member Nick Morgan's face was trampled, fracturing his cheekbone. Police also arrested five civilians supporting IVAW's actions. In late November, the fifteen cases of disorderly conduct were all adjourned, contemplating dismissal in six months.

11-14-2008 Salem, OR 1 arrest

Michele Darr had been praying and fasting 'round-the-clock outside the Oregon Capitol building in Salem for more than two weeks, asking to meet with Governor Ted Kulongoski to protest the upcoming (2009) deployment of 3,500 Oregon National Guard troops. Police told her she could no longer remain overnight, but Darr insisted that "civil rights don't end at night", and that many who support her do not feel safe to come by and speak during the day. She was arrested at 12:40 a.m., booked at the Marion County Jail and issued a second trespassing citation, then released. She returned to vigil on the Capitol steps and continued her fast on water, tea, and vitamin supplements until December 10, when the Governor finally sat down to talk for an hour.

STOLEN E-MAIL HAUNTS GHOSTS OF WAR

The ten Ghosts of War, charged with disrupting Congress during a Senate gallery protest last March, had a five-day jury trial in October. An evenly split verdict let five walk, while five returned December 15 for sentencing. A remarkable revelation came after the prosecution had rested its case. Defendant Max Obuszewski renewed a defense motion for discovery, because testimony confirmed that Capitol police were expecting the action, but how they knew was unclear. The judge reviewed the Capitol police's 26-page intelligence report that was only revealed and shared with the court that morning. He released two more pages to the defense: a personal email proposing the action that Obuszewski had sent privately in December, 2007 to a small group of people. But it had been altered with a false URL to appear as if it came from a public source, protest.net.

After the jury left, Obuszewski moved for dismissal because the government had illegally obtained and falsi-

fied evidence that was withheld until after it rested its case. Obuszewski's interest in the source of his stolen email is heightened due to a Maryland state police spy scandal that broke last summer, when it was revealed that 53 activists for a variety of causes, most Maryland residents including Obuszewski, had been the subject of years of undercover surveillance and had their names placed on a database as terrorist suspects.

At a subsequent hearing, the judge accepted a police employee's testimony that the email was posted on protest.net, and denied the motion to dismiss. Further forensic investigation revealed the email never was posted to protest.net, but at sentencing for the five on December 15, the judge refused to reconsider.

The five Ghosts were sentenced to one day in jail, suspended, and a mandatory \$50 payment to the Victims of Violent Crimes Fund.

Resistance Wrap-up

3-18-2008 Berkeley, CA 1 arrest

Michael Schuck is a veteran of arboreal protest on the University of California-Berkely campus who climbed an oak there on February 28 and stayed put with a multi-point protest agenda, including the need to end U.C.'s involvement in nuclear technology. He descended March 18 and was promptly arrested and cited for trespass before being released. During the oak-uptation, Schuck was the target of counter-protesting Students Against Hippies in Trees. "It's not a normal thing to do, to go up a tree and live there in aid of so many causes," said one to a local reporter. "It's a joke. It started off as the trees then it moved to bones then nuclear weapons then anti-BP and now it's anti-regents. I mean, make up your mind."

7-31-2008 Highland Heights, KY 1 arrest

A Northern Kentucky University student was jailed overnight and then agreed to perform 15 hours of community service in return for dismissal of the disorderly conduct charge. Dennis Channey, a junior and president of Students for Change, set up a table at the new student orientation to promote the group and featuring its latest anti-war campaign - distributing free condoms in front of signs that read, "Bombing for peace is like fucking for virginity."

8-28-2008 Chicago, IL 1 arrest

Pacifist anarchist and poet Joffre Stewart was arrested at the Chicago Jazz Fest while leafletting with his anti-war poems and flyers. He went limp, was carried off for 12 hours, then released. When he missed a court date in October, he was arrested at home and again went limp. "I

don't believe in courts and don't try to go but no one told me there was a court date. After 24 hours, fasting, not walking, was released," he writes.

9-1-2008 Geddes, NY 1 arrest

Ed Kinane declined to post \$1500 bail and spent seven days in jail in January following his arrest at the New York State Fair. Kinane donned an orange jumpsuit and black hood, cuffed his hands and shackled his feet, and shuffled around the midway with a neatly lettered sign around his neck reading, "Close Guantanamo." Acting on a complaint from a military recruiter who said he was harassed by the sight, fair officials told Kinane to remove the detainee garb or leave. He did neither, and was eventually charged with trespass and disorderly conduct. In court December 8, Justice John Kinsella dismissed all charges, saying, "There's no indication that the state fair had a policy to prevent...expressing an opinion. It strikes me that he had a constitutional right to do that on the grounds of the state fair. It is a public place."

10-7-2008 Cambridge, MA 4 arrests

Rising Tide Boston and other activists rallied outside the Bank of America in Harvard Square to protest bank investment practices that threaten financial and environmental stability and profit from war. Not to single out one big bank, dozens of people then marched down Brattle Street to Citibank, where four students locked themselves to the door and were arrested.

10-15-2008 Hempstead, NY 15 arrests

Ten members of Iraq Veterans Against the War

FEDERAL FINE FOR MOM'S TRIDENT PROTEST

In November, Lynn Greenwald pled guilty to trespass last Mother's Day, May 10 at the Trident nuclear submarine base in Bangor, Washington. U.S. Magistrate James Donohue sentenced Greenwald to a \$100 fine, court costs, and 50 hours of community service. Three other members of the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action have had their federal trespass trial postponed until January 13 in Tacoma. This will be the first federal trial for Bangor resisters since 1989.

Greenwald told the Tacoma, Washington court:

While the realities of war occasionally touch our daily lives, the truth of the Trident Nuclear Weapons System remains hidden, for the most part, in Kitsap County. I moved to this area 25 years ago to become a neighbor to those working in and with the military, and to speak out about the weapons of mass destruction located so close to our homes. A train carrying nuclear warheads for Trident submarines came from Amarillo, Texas and traveled through Missoula, Montana - using the train tracks behind the Poverello Center, a shelter and soup kitchen where I was working. My oldest daughter was 3 months old when we moved to Kitsap County and my other 2 children were born here.

The Trident base is the largest active nuclear weapons depot on the West Coast, housing over 2000 nuclear weapons. Eight Trident subs are based here, each armed with missiles with the nuclear firepower to destroy all life on earth several times over...

Knowing what I know about Trident, I was compelled to act to do what I could to stop the threats and possible reality of using nuclear weapons. As a citizen, I must act to prevent the U.S. Government's criminal activities that threaten the lives of all children, and all of creation. For 38 years I've worked as a nurse and a social worker and have experienced the suffering of our sisters and brothers in this country. We live in a society where 1 in every 10 individuals are living below the poverty level, and this country continues to prioritize war and destruction over health care, education, housing and food for all.

We can live without war and nuclear weapons - this nation can do so much better. And we all must do what we can, to create a peaceful world for all children.

For more information, contact the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 360-377-2586, info@gzcenter.org.

Swedish Arms Disarmed, cont.

continued from page 1

deliveries." They were both convicted and sentenced to three months in prison. Both are now free pending appeal and retrial in a higher court.

"Three months in prison? I think about the people who are killed and maimed by Swedish weapons in Kashmir and Iraq and realize that I am very fortunate," said Pelle Strindlund.

Since the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, Swedish arms exports increased by 88 percent and have continued to rise. Also in 2003, the Swedish parliament approved a policy for global development mandating that all Swedish trade and foreign policies shall strengthen poverty reduction and human rights. Swedish weapons export is in opposition to these goals, and violates Sweden's policy of peace and neutrality by supplying arms to countries at war.

The *Avrusta!* campaign is a project of the peace network Ofog ("mischievous" in Swedish). Ofog.org explains:

"The name for the campaign - Disarm - is double fold. It should be seen as an invitation to everyone to begin to physically disarm Swedish weapons for export, with the help of simple tools, like a hammer. But even if we believe that it is required that people actively intervene and physically stop lethal weapons, we also realize that bigger political changes will have to come to place if we want to stop the entire Swedish weapons export. That is why Disarm is also an invitation to everyone to work for political decisions that will lead to a total disarmament of the Swedish weapons export and eventually an end to the Swedish weapons production. Swedish export affects people's lives mostly outside of our national borders. That is why it is crucial for this campaign to be endorsed by international voices." Organizations, networks and individuals are encouraged to become a part of the campaign by signing their appeal for disarmament at tinyurl.com/avrusta.

One Year Later, Port Blockaders Charged

Almost a year after the fact, and just before the statute of limitations ran out, on October 24 the city of Olympia brought charges against 26 people arrested in November, 2007, during actions aimed at delaying the shipment of war materiel through the Port of Olympia from a Stryker combat brigade based at nearby Fort Lewis.

Days before any of them were notified by prosecutors, the charges were announced and the defendants all individually named on the pages of the region's only daily newspaper, the *Olympian*.

A recent *Olympian* editorial had renewed the newspaper's criticism of the county for its failure to move on any of 42 outstanding cases. The headline harped, "Prosecutors, [and] police botched protest cases", leading to dismissal of a handful prosecuted over the summer and fall, and reminding readers that an earlier prosecution of 2006 port blockaders collapsed in a mistrial with the jury leaning towards acquittal and the eventual dismissal of the charges (see *NR #146/147*).

The newspaper's impatience for prosecution was seconded by the three Port commissioners, who voted October 13 to file civil lawsuits against anyone who would block roads, damage public property and interfere with port business.

On October 22, two days before the 26 were charged, three more cases were dismissed in Olympia Municipal Court. Charges against Gabrielle Sloane, Amory Ballantine and Joji Kohjima were dismissed due to the prosecutor's failure to provide an item of discovery, specifically a video tape of the November 10, 2007 action filmed by Olympia police, which defense testimony asserted contained exculpatory evidence. It is strongly suspected by Port Militarization Resistance activists and attorneys that the police erased that tape because it showed gross police misconduct that would not prove favorable to the city in a pending civil suit against them (though the civil suit is not directly related to these criminal charges, the incidents

surrounding the actions are common). A blank DVD was substituted in the discovery package in place of the actual recording.

The 26 are each charged with one count of attempted disorderly conduct and one count of obstructing a law enforcement officer. Twenty-five of those charged are women. Women comprised 39 of the 43 people arrested on November 13, 2007, a women-led day of action in solidarity with the women of Iraq who have suffered under U.S. war and occupation.

Arraignments on the belated charges were set for several days in November. The defendants hope to have their cases consolidated in a single trial, but prosecutors want multiple chances to win by splitting the defendants into several trial groups.

Legal defense funds are urgently needed to ensure access to legal support for the 26. All amounts are extremely helpful. Donations should be made payable to "Port of Olympia Legal Defense Fund" and mailed to Legal Defense Fund, POB 295, Olympia, WA 98507 or via the web at olypmr.org/donate.html

In the only case from November 2007 that has gone to trial, Shyam Khanna was convicted by a jury on October 31 of obstruction and resisting arrest. He was fined \$680 and sentenced to ten days on electronic home monitoring, or in a day jail program or work crew.

In a related update, last summer the return of the Stryker brigade led to arrests at the nearby Port of Tacoma. Among the first to be arrested was Olympia attorney Legrand Jones, for refusing to identify himself when police stopped him as he walked near the port fence. He was also charged with trespass but a Tacoma judge dismissed both counts on October 23 after Legrand's attorney pointed out that the Washington Supreme Court had struck down a "stop and identify" statute.

For more information, visit olypmr.org.

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

from Terre Haute

December 16, 2008

by Rafil Dhafir

Two days ago, December 14, was my second anniversary here in CMU-Terre Haute, Indiana.

Two years ago, with dozens of others, I was whisked here without explanation, to this place reserved for those on death row.

The place was closed for years. It was filthy, with dead animals all over the place. It took days to clean it up to make inhabitable (no thanks to the idle staff).

In the beginning we were well accommodated in many things, mainly our religious needs. (The exception was the limit of only one 15 minute phone call per week and a maximum of 4 hours non-contact visits per month). But little by little all the "good" things were taken away to the point that they are trying to restrict our food as well. Our religious practices are severely curtailed.

Because we just celebrated our annual Eid (the end of Hajj or pilgrimage) I wanted to share our experience.

We started the day (December 8) with the prayer at 8:30 a.m., then had a gathering for a couple of hours for entertainment. We then had a meal that was prepared by us (the administration no longer provides a special Eid meal as they used to, but they continue to do so for Christmas). Afterwards, the movie *Omar Mokhtar* was shown.

But even this modest celebration was not easy to arrange. It was hard to find someone to give the Eid Sermon. Administration recently punished one of us for being outspoken during a Friday Sermon. They don't

On November 14-15, coordinated protest at military sites in Germany, Spain, Belgium, Sweden and other countries took place under the umbrella of European Peace Action, a network for activists across Europe working through nonviolent direct action. In Sweden, supporters vigiled outside Aimpoint AB, a Malmo based company that supplies the world with laser sights for small arms, in support of a citizen weapons inspection. Martin

THE
INSIDE
LINE



provide clergy on a regular basis so we have to seek volunteers from among ourselves, but it is becoming dangerous to do so.

I love to bake. I volunteered to make a special dessert for everybody. I started collecting the material days beforehand as the resources are scarce here, only to discover the items missing from my room after the staff had a "shake down" of the rooms!!!!!!

I still managed to make dessert for all, including the non-Muslims.

We made sure that nothing was going to stop us from enjoying our day of Eid, and we did.

No doubt the prayers and the well wishes of all who support us had an impact on our joy that day.

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to all who have sent cards and letters of support for their kindness and thoughtfulness.

[Rafil Dhafir is an Iraqi-American doctor whose multi-million dollar charity to Iraq violated the post-1991 sanctions, leading to unfounded accusations he funded terrorists, a malicious medicare fraud prosecution, and a 22-year sentence now being served in the Bureau of Prisons' Communications Management Unit at Terre Haute penitentiary.]

Smedjeback got inside over the fence and was again arrested. Police prevented Anika Spalde from getting over the fence.

Trials for Smedjeback, Spalde and Andersson are expected early in the new year. For more information visit ofog.org/avrusta and europeanpeaceaction.org

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Big Blockade at Aldermaston

The British government's commitment to modernize its nuclear weapons arsenal is evident in billions of pounds being spent to upgrade production facilities at the Atomic Weapons Establishment in Aldermaston. In the face of this challenge, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) returned to its nonviolent direct action roots, organizing with the Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp, Block the Builders and others for the "Big Blockade" to kick off World Disarmament Week on Monday, October 27. It was the largest demonstration at the bomb factory in a decade.

Pat Arrowsmith, 78-years-old and one of the organizers of CND's inaugural 1958 Easter March from London to Aldermaston, said: "We want people to sit down and halt the work, hinder the traffic flow and stop the ghastly work on actually making these terrible weapons worse than they are."

Ray Davies, also 78 and longtime vice chair of CND Cymru (Wales), filed this report:

The success of the blockade of Aldermaston Weapons Establishment on October 27, 2008 exceeded our wildest expectations. Sunday was spent in nonviolent direct action training, where the emphasis was on no drugs, alcohol, no abuse of the police, no carrying of implements which could be construed as weapons, and show respect to everyone concerned. Amongst the 350 who turned up, there were many young people from 18-25, and many others who had never been on any actions before.

Our task was to blockade the Construction Gate, through which much of the heavy material for building the new laser facility is transported.

A perfect strategy was developed and each gate was to be manned (sic) by those who were prepared to be arrested and those who would be legal support. We spent the evening practicing training for the following morning, and discussing the reasons why we were there...

The warehouse in which we were stopping held 150 people, and by the end of the night sleeping bags filled every nook and cranny in every available room. Other facilities in Reading and Newbury housed yet more demonstrators. Many people came early in the morning to join the blockade.

At 4:15 in the morning, the whole place awoke to the loudest alarm clock I've ever heard. By half past four, everyone was having breakfast. Outside, the police were already searching the vehicles with their torches [flashlights], taking masses of photographs. On the 20 minute journey from Reading to the AWE, it was agreed that Marcus, Hutt, Diane and myself would lock on. Six others would also be arrestable, locking their arms around the four of us. The non-arrestables would rush out with the banners to create a diversion, whilst we with our tubes already locked on would rush out and blockade the Construction Gate.

As we approached Aldermaston, the police were everywhere, reporting our progress. Mike, our driver from London, was brilliant. He slowed down just enough to

Raytheon

Raytheon outposts in Australia and England have become protest magnets.

After being visited four times by activists who tried to exorcise the evil of war making from their Brisbane office, Raytheon's Australian management installed security cameras on the elevator and required a security officer to operate the elevator to the second floor. When peace activists returned on November 28, seven picketed in the building lobby and four boarded the twin elevators, pressed the buttons for the second floor offices... and waited. Half an hour later, police arrived and arrested two who refused to leave the elevators. Jim Dowling and Bernie Moloney were charged with trespass and released on bail to return to court on January 19.

In October, anti-war protesters occupied the rooftop of Raytheon's office building in Bristol, England for 38 hours, refusing to negotiate with police. Nine people were eventually arrested as they came down. A better-prepared band of roof-sitters climbed up on December 11, and at press time, are still there. They've hung banners, painted windows and roof tiles, and provided a public focus for community rejection of war profiteers in their community. For more information, visit bristol.indymedia.org

allow people to rush out to create a diversion, while we followed a few seconds later and planted ourselves flat out on the floor before the police could stop us.

It was quite obvious that we had better preparation than the police. For the first hour, the adrenaline kept us warm, but the temperature was dropping rapidly, and by 10 a.m., legs and feet were numb with cold. We were cheered by the fact that all the other gates had been successfully blocked. The peace campaigners who could not be arrested were absolutely wonderful, pushing bananas and cereal bars into us, keeping our energy and spirits high. We sang a croaky "We shall not be moved" and "Down by the riverside". Some asked, "Where is Côr Cochion"? They thought when I arrived with my red beret the night before, that I had brought the Red Choir with me.

At 10:30, two large vehicles came from the base, and out poured an army of police in riot type gear. They immediately brought out heavy screens to isolate us from the rest of the protestors. Two Reading policemen who had arrested me at Burfield a twelve month ago came up to me and told me that they had checked up on their notes from last year... This new bunch of energetic police, armed with equipment to cut away the armlocks, were extremely polite, with "yes please", and "no thank you sir". One came up to me and said, "Mr. Davies, I'm just going to put my fingers down the tube, sir, to see how you are hooked on." He rammed his two fingers into the tube and twisted it around, giving me an excruciating jab of pain, and smiled and said he was sorry.

All of a sudden there was pandemonium. The inspector called everyone away from the operation, and within ten minutes the blue plastic barriers were removed and they all disappeared from the scene. Shortly afterwards our gate support woman told us that 20 youngsters on Tadley Gate had superglued themselves together and had all been arrested - a painful operation - and the gate cleared. Most of the police moved away. This was immediately followed by people using tall tripods and stilts, who attached themselves to Tadley Gate, blocking the entrance and stopping the traffic which had only just started moving again.

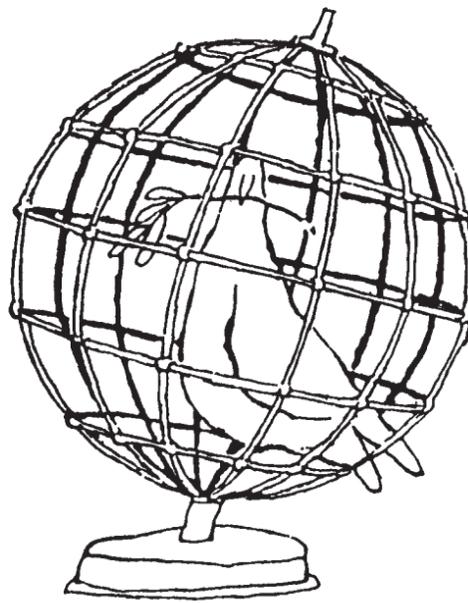
Meanwhile [back] at the Construction Gate, Diane felt ill, and had to disentangle herself from the lock-on; but the 3 of us remaining were sufficient to block the entrance. All of us had gone through the pain barrier of our need to use the toilet, and our numb hands and feet. We were told that the base was expected to be blocked until 12 o'clock, by which time most of the base would be cleared of protesters. The police themselves expected to finish well before then, but by 3 minutes to 12 the police had barely cleared the tripod from Tadley gate, and we started the countdown to 12: 10,9..3,2,1. The police whistle went and they all left the gate. It was a total victory for the protesters, a wonderful achievement by Trident Ploughshares, CND, and all those who participated. We had totally blocked the whole base for 3 hours, and no traffic had gone through; and partially blocked it for a further 2 hours. We beat the police tactically; they had obviously underestimated the number of protesters, and did not have the resources to deal with determined peace activists."

Individuals and groups of demonstrators had to be repeatedly cleared from entrances and approaching roadways, some of which were closed for more than five hours. Police arrested 33 people, predominantly for obstruction of the highway and public order offenses. They were hauled away to local police stations. Seventeen arrestees accepted formal cautions, three paid a fine of £30, and 13 were charged.

Irene Willis was the first to appear in West Berkshire Magistrates' Court in Newbury on November 7. She was fined £80 after summing up her answer to the charge of obstructing the highway this way:

"I plead guilty of having a dream: that of a peaceful world where there are no weapons, where people take responsibility for their actions, and where I no longer have to spend my time protesting and stand before the Court as a 'criminal'."

For more information, visit blockawe.blogspot.com and cnduk.org



Rolls Royce

Nine blockaders and their support person were arrested last April and charged with trespass after locking down at two gates of Rolls Royce's Raynesway factory at Derby, England, where the propulsion plant for Britain's Trident nuclear submarines are produced. After a five day trial in October, eight were acquitted due to confusion among the police and the crown prosecution service about the meaning of a red line that management had painted outside on the road. They should have been charged with obstruction. The other two, who locked on at another gate, were convicted and fined.

German Nuclear Waste Train

From a report in Schneus, the cheeky British protest newsweekly.

The latest shipment of German nuclear waste returning from a nuclear reprocessing facility in France was met by the fiercest resistance in six years. Sixteen thousand activists from many walks of life coalesced at protest points all along the train's 940 mile journey. In France, police arrested at least ten people accused of sabotaging the rail system.

In Germany, assorted protest groups descended on the railway line from the forests, in a coordinated ambush from the north and south. Many dug rocks under the tracks and layered wood on top of the railway, blocking the route from their vantage points. "I lost count of how many people were suspended from trees over roads and train tracks... for every person that got taken down, several more would appear in their place", said one protester.

Some, with the luxury of a tractor, were able to strategically blockade the rail track; apparently 50 tractors were eventually confiscated. The crux of the delay came from three brave activists at the French-German border, D-locking themselves under the railway line using concrete blocks, holding up the train for nine hours in Berg.

An extensive police operation ensued with an estimated 30,000 police officers deployed en-route - double the number of protesters - armed with their accessories for assault: riot gear, batons, pepper-spray, dogs and water cannons to disperse and remove protesters.

A fleet of police helicopters escorted the train on the final stretch to Dannenberg, mystifying as all protesters were firmly afoot on the ground. The demo ended with a thousand protesters occupying the street outside the fortified nuclear dump site. In total, there were 46 arrests, 293 people held in custody and 2,478 banning orders issued.

Germany sends used nuclear fuel to France, where it is reprocessed. The remaining nuclear waste is returned to Germany, in this case to Dannenberg in the north, where it is stored in an old salt-mine.

Resistance Reading, cont.

ccontinued from page 8
multiple offenders.

A chapter titled "We Fought the Law... and the Law Ran and Hid" reports that the local bench and higher courts mostly avoided dealing with the significant issues of international law raised by the well-versed resisters.

Faslane 365 activists actively shared tactical and legal skills, and were encouraged to perceive themselves as civil resisters enforcing international law in an open, non-violent manner, rather than civil disobedients admitting to criminality for a higher purpose. (ISBN 190630791X, 278 pp. paperback, \$19.95)

continued from page 8

NORTH ANNA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT: Three clean energy activists ended up with a reduced sentence after appealing their conviction from an August sit-in at the Louisa, Virginia reactors' visitor center. At an October 20 hearing, the original county charge was replaced with the legally appropriate state trespass charge, to which Glenn Carroll, Darci Rodenhi and Rebecca Mann pled guilty. Their new sentence of 30 days, suspended, one year probation, and a \$250 fine was less than half the sentence imposed by the lower court...

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS: Five Catholic activists were convicted September 23 of failure to obey the lawful order of a U.S. marshal last March 19, when they prayed and recited the rosary in the lobby of the federal courthouse in a protest of the war and occupation of Iraq. U.S. Magistrate Hillman found them not guilty on a second charge of obstruction. He fined Mike Benedetti, Ken Hannaford-Ricardi, Sandra McSweeney, Scott Schaeffer-Duffy and Roger Stanley \$250 plus costs, but Hannaford-Ricardi and Schaeffer-Duffy refused to pay due to their voluntary poverty as Catholic Workers. On November 6, the magistrate amended their sentence to community service - 40 hours for Schaeffer-Duffy and 25 for Hannaford-Ricardi...

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION: Over halfway through the trials of nearly sixty people who pled not guilty after the police roundups, prosecutors in Denver have secured only five convictions. Defense attorneys organized by the People's Law Project have won 27 dismissals and acquittals. The jury hung for one defendant, and two more took plea deals with no additional jail time. The poor prosecution record has led to criticism in the media and calls for the remaining cases to be dismissed in the interests of justice and fiscal responsibility. Nearly all of the cases coming to trial stem from a mass arrest on August 25, when police blocked downtown streets then surrounded and arrested not only demonstrators but many passersby, claiming a riot was imminent. The ACLU has released police reports that detail how undercover cops in the captive crowd decided to protect their cover and "struggle" with a police commander and officers who tried to pull them to safety behind police lines. Another officer mistook the situation for assault on the commander and peppersprayed the undercover cops, adding to an already tense situation. One police sergeant testified that a crowd of 200-300 people was "charging at us, yelling 'Take back the streets.' It appeared that hell was coming." Less apocalyptic was the deadpan summation of 80-year-old Cecil Bethea, a longtime Denver resident who happened upon the downtown scene and was arrested in the round-up. Bethea was released without charges and testified for the defense in another trial. A newspaper reported that he told the jury, "It was a very disappointing riot. I thought of the riots in Chicago in '68, the Detroit riots, and it was nothing like that. There wasn't a sign, no chanting, singing or anything. We were just sitting there..."

GLENN'S FERRY, IDAHO: Peter Rickards, a Twin Falls podiatrist and founder of Idaho Families For The Safest Energy, was convicted of trespass and battery on December 3, following a two day jury trial in Mountain Home. Rickards was arrested last summer as he sat quietly in the Glenns Ferry Opera House, which was nearly full for a "public information" meeting with promoters of a new nuclear power plant in Elmore County. He had leafletted the crowd as they arrived at the door, but put away his anti-nuclear literature when threatened with arrest. An employee of the reactor promoters played cat and mouse at the door when Rickards tried to go in, and later told police the podiatrist had shoved him with both hands to push into the hall. Video evidence from a television station showed that police accosted Rickards later, after he had taken a seat. He was not warned or given a chance to simply leave, and cooperated fully as he was handcuffed and led away. The only witness to the alleged battery to take the stand was the daughter of the alleged victim. She testified that Rickards was carrying a sheaf of papers under his arm, that "there was no shoving motion," and that she "saw no physical contact." The double conviction surprised Rickards, who imagined that public information meetings were just that - open to all who aren't disruptive. Rickards, who had never before been arrested and represented himself ("probably proving the old expression, 'A man who serves as his own lawyer has a fool for a client,'" he wrote) plans to appeal, but told a local reporter, "There is a chance I will just grin and accept that justice is not always served." Sentencing is set for January 12...

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA: At the October 16 trial of university student Daniel Foster, prosecutors were granted a continuance. Then, without comment in November, they dismissed the disorderly conduct charge against the young man who brought a "Salute to Our Troops" parade to a halt last April when he laid himself down in the path of a large armored vehicle...



*A Communal Pilgrimage to
America's Nuclear Sacrifice Zone*

**2009 Annual Sacred Peace Walk
Las Vegas to the Nevada Test Site
April 6 - 13**

This walk includes a Passover Seder, a Lenten Desert Experience, and observation of Hindu, Buddhist and other holy days. The 63-mile journey begins in Las Vegas to meet, get oriented, and solidify our intentions. Rituals and meditations are planned and conducted by the walkers. Most nights are spent camping with help from a Las Vegas support team. Along the way, a Good Friday Stations of the Cross re-enactment at Creech AFB in Indian Springs, a control center for missile-laden Predator and Reaper pilotless drones; contemplative time at the Sekhmet Goddess Temple in Cactus Springs, and on to the Nevada Test Site, the most bombed place on earth. The walk concludes on Easter Sunday. Some people do only part of the walk. Some also choose to risk arrest on Monday. Suggested donation \$150 (sliding scale). Please consider sponsoring a low-income walker. Application deadline is March 1. Contact Nevada Desert Experience, 702-646-4814, or info@NevadaDesertExperience.org

WINONA, MINNESOTA: Two arrests at the Army recruiting center in Winona Mall last February and March brought John Heid into city court in May, charged with trespass, disorderly conduct and obstruction. The state dropped the obstruction charge, and after presenting its case, Judge Jeff Thompson ruled Heid was not guilty of the disorderly conduct charge. Thompson then listened intently as Heid presented a "claim of right" defense, asserting that international law supported citizen action to stanch the flow of soldiers for an illicit war. Court was adjourned while Thompson considered the argument for several weeks, eventually finding Heid guilty. At sentencing in September, the prosecutor asked for 90 days because Heid "doesn't follow the rules," and his cross-country rap sheet for the "somewhat noble" cause of peace made probation a problem. Heid was given credit for three days time served in jail plus one year of unsupervised probation. After being sentenced, Heid invited Thompson to join him on a visit to a traveling replica of the Vietnam War Memorial on exhibit in Winona the following weekend. "Thompson turned him down," the Winona Daily News reported, "but elaborated that he had seen the real wall in Washington, D.C., and had read his college friend's name on it. Thompson choked up near the end of his story and tears filled his eyes as he said the visit was 'a very moving experience.'" The courtroom was stilled for a few moments of silence before Thompson called his next case. Two weeks later, the town council approved an amendment foreclosing use of the unique but ill-defined Minnesota "claim of right" in defense of local trespass charges. Also, three women who were each arrested once during the counter-recruiting campaign have paid a fine...

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE: Three women charged with trespass in Colorado Springs when they attempted to deliver a letter to the base commander last August 8 changed their pleas to no contest at their December 5 trial. Two days before, the judge had ruled against their use of any affirmative defense. Esther Kisamore and Sr. Barbara Huber were sentenced to 42 hours of community service. Sr. Mary Ann Cunningham got 12 hours of community service...

NORTHWOOD: London Catholic Worker Fr. Martin Newell was sentenced September 18 to seven days in jail for refusing to pay a £315 fine for criminal damage. Last December 28, he and two others poured red paint, symbolizing blood, on the sign at the British Military Headquarters...

L-3 WESCAM: Eight people were convicted of trespass December 10, months after their trial concluded, and over two years after their arrest in Burlington, Ontario, while earnestly seeking dialogue with officials at a major factory of L-3 Communications, Canada's self-proclaimed #1 warmaker. Ironically, on the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the judge made the point that property rights must be protected. Defendant Frank "Barney" Barningham responded, "The missiles guided by L-3 Wescam technology do not respect people's private property rights or any other boundaries." They were sentenced to one year probation...

lockheed-martin

On the eve of the 2009 Presidential Inauguration, Monday, January 19, Brandywine Peace Community will host their annual Martin Luther King Day of Nonviolent Resistance at leading war profiteer Lockheed-Martin's facility in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Legal rally begins at noon. Call the Brandywine office by January 6 if you are interested in civil disobedience. Brandywine Peace Community, 610-544-1818, brandywine@juno.com.

bangor

Join the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action (GZ) January 19 in a vigil at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds MLK Day event in the morning, and a vigil and direct action at the gates of the Bangor Trident nuclear submarine base in the afternoon. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at GZ, 16159 Clear Creek Rd. NW, Poulsbo, Washington for carpool to the Fairgrounds. Return to GZ for nonviolence training and action planning beginning at 11 a.m. Bring sack lunch, snacks, drinking water, umbrella, warm, waterproof clothes, flashlight, sign-making materials, money to donate, peaceful spirit. For directions or more information, visit www.gzcenter.org, or contact Jackie or Sue at 360-377-2586.

witness against torture

Witness Against Torture is hosting the 100 Days Campaign to Close Guantanamo and End Torture in Washington, D.C. As prelude, a Fast for Justice begins January 11, Guantánamo's seventh anniversary. Following a silent procession to the White House, participants will begin a liquid-only fast till Inauguration Day. Thereafter, during 100 days of lobbying and public education events, a weekday presence will be sustained at the White House, with weekend demonstrations and nonviolent direct action at other area sites. Many activities by peace, social justice and human rights groups are being planned for the first 100 days of the new administration. The 100 Days Campaign hopes to collaborate with those undertaking similar campaigns or events of their own. Come to Washington and participate, or else join or plan an action in your own community. Visit 100DaysCampaign.org for details.

christian peace witness

Christian Peace Witness for Iraq, an ecumenical, ad hoc partnership of more than 30 organizations and institutions, will again host an ecumenical religious service and nonviolent witness for a just and lasting peace in Iraq, April 29-30 in Washington, D.C. This national gathering of people of faith will mark the 100th day of the new administration, and will call on President Obama and the new Congress to definitively end the war, actively support a comprehensive peace process, end the policy and practice of torture, and meet human needs at home. Worship will be followed by a procession to the White House that evening, and a witness and nonviolent action at the Capitol Thursday morning, April 30. For more information, visit christianpeacewitness.org

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Resistance Reading

Religion and War Resistance in the Plowshares Movement, by Sharon Erickson Nepstad (2008 - Cambridge University Press). For this academic study of the Plowshares disarmament movement, Nepstad had the participation of more than 50 Plowshares activists - nearly one-third of the total number of arrested participants between 1980 and 2003 - from the United States, Great Britain, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand. In the context of a readable and well-informed theoretical analysis of this contemporary social movement, she tells the story of its spread across borders and the persistence of many activists through very different political climates during the history of the movement, with attention to the nature of participants' religious conviction and its influence on their continuing (or not) involvement. (ISBN 0521717671, 284 pp. paperback \$24.99 list)

Faslane 365 - a year of anti-nuclear blockades, edited by Angie Zelter (2008 - Luath Press Limited). The Faslane 365 campaign of blockades and related actions at the British Trident nuclear submarine homeport on Gare Loch in Scotland concluded one year ago last October. Angie Zelter, a decades-long participant and organizer of nonviolent direct action campaigns for disarmament who initiated the "mad plan", has edited a book-length chronicle: its vision, accomplishments, and significance to the abolitionist effort.

"During 2006-7 the whole nonproliferation regime was threatened by the renewal and modernization of nuclear weapons systems by the U.K., U.S. and France," Zelter writes. "The nuclear weapon ambitions of Iran and Korea were also in the limelight. It was a year of political upheaval and controversy, with Westminster voting for the replacement of Trident and Scotland voting against it... Faslane 365 came at this most crucial time and managed to keep the spotlight in Scotland on nuclear weapons at Faslane. The campaign encouraged a renewed nonviolent confrontation with the state to pressure it to implement its promises of disarmament."

Over the course of the year, 131 blockading groups from across Great Britain and several other countries were present blocking the gates on 189 days, resulting in 1150 arrests and less than 80 prosecutions, principally of

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Update Files



REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION: Ramsey County, Minnesota (including St. Paul), has filed charges against only 165 people from more than 650 arrests made before and during the convention. A smaller number of cases have been filed in Hennepin County (including Minneapolis) and federal court. As of December 9, the St. Paul City Attorney's office had dismissed 72 cases. Another 27 were concluded with guilty pleas or deferred prosecution. Fifty-nine cases are still on the docket, with trials beginning in mid-December. Some people pled guilty to avoid the cost of returning to St. Paul for hearings and trial. The Community RNC Arrestee Support Structure (CRASS) found that less than \$4,400 has been collected by the city pursuant to these plea agreements. At least 21 people are facing felony charges, including the eight members of the anarchist RNC Welcoming Committee (known as the RNC 8) who arranged logistic support for out-of-town demonstrators. The eight were preemptively arrested and held for several days, and face felony charges of conspiracy to riot in furtherance of terrorism. For more information on the various groups of arrestees and their support, visit rnc08arrestees.wordpress.com...

VANDBERG AIR FORCE BASE: Dennis Apel, Jeff Dietrich, Fr. Louie Vitale, OFM, and Fr. Steve Kelly, SJ, were found guilty December 4 in Santa Barbara Federal Court of trespass at Vandenberg Air Force Base on May 19, 2007. Federal Magistrate Rita Coyne-Federman granted the prosecution's motion in limine, prohibiting the defendants from making any comment or statement with regard to their religious or political reasons or views for their act of trespass. This ruling essentially gagged the defendants from making any meaningful statement in their defense since the foundation of their Armed Forces Day action was inspired by their religious and political beliefs. Attorney Kate Chatfield attempted to find a way for the defendants to make their statement, but Prosecutor Sharon McCaslin vigorously objected to nearly every question asked of the defendants, with the Court sustain-

ing each objection. However, enough was said to display the defendants' sincerity on the day they were arrested. Before the trial began, the magistrate ruled against a motion to dismiss the trespass charge against Mike Wisniewski, who was taking photos of the demonstrations when he was arrested. However, after viewing the government-provided video of the demonstration during the trial, she granted Wisniewski's motion to acquit. The court ruled that the government failed to prove that Wisniewski was given a warning to move back across the "green line" or face arrest. Sentencing for the other four defendants will be on March 12, 2009. Last May, three people who had crossed the line at Vandenberg on March 2 entered guilty pleas to trespass. Magistrate Coyne-Federman fined Mary Jane Parrine \$250, and ordered pre-sentencing reports for Larry Purcell and Ed Ehmke. Parrine concluded her brief sentencing statement:

Besides being impractical and foolish, Vandenberg's testing of weapons of mass annihilation brings the concept of defense to an extreme that is wrong in every moral and theological sense. In the Acts of the Apostles (4:13-21) there is a description of Peter and John appearing before the Sanhedrin. They had been arrested for telling people about the teaching of Jesus and then they were warned not to continue speaking. Their reply was "Whether it is right in the sight of God for us to obey you rather than God, you be the judges. It is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard."

Ehmke and Purcell returned to the federal court in Santa Barbara on July 17 and were each sentenced to one day, with credit for time served. Both men walked free after court. For more information, visit vandenbergwitness.org...

PENTAGON: Five people arrested last Hiroshima Day, August 6, were convicted December 5 and fined \$100. Told they would not pay, the judge replied, "That's not my concern."...

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the Nuclear

Resister

"A Chronicle of Hope"

Swedish Arms Exports
Disarmed

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Refuser Jailed

Three Months for Star
Wars Disarmament Try

Rove Evades Citizens
Seeking His Arrest

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