

the Nuclear Resister

"A Chronicle of Hope"

No. 152

February 24, 2008

CANADA DEPORTS MORE WAR RESISTERS

Canada continues to order the deportation of U.S. military refusers who have had their asylum petitions rejected. Several former soldiers and their families were ordered to leave by the end of January, before Parliament reconvened. Last summer, that body passed a non-binding resolution in favor of granting sanctuary to Iraq war refusers.

Parliament's view stands in marked contrast to the ruling government's immigration policy. The immigration minister has called resisters' refugee claims "bogus", and his spokesperson explains, "The position of the government is that they don't face genuine persecution."

Cliff Cornell joined the Army in 2002. When the U.S. invaded Iraq, Cornell soon realized, "I didn't like it, it was all sketchy, it was all lies. I didn't feel like killing innocent people." Home for the holidays in 2004 with orders to deploy to Iraq in January, family members instead drove Cornell to Ontario. He eventually settled on Gabriola Island, British Columbia, where he has worked and paid taxes the last two years. Cornell was

denied refugee status last April, and in December his application to stay in Canada on humanitarian and compassionate grounds was denied and he was ordered out. A motion to quash the deportation order was denied in federal court in Vancouver in mid-January, and Cornell decided not to appeal. "He doesn't want to run, he doesn't want to hide," a spokesman told the *Vancouver Sun*. Cornell crossed south into Washington state on February 4. He was arrested at the border and jailed, then released with orders to report to Fort Stewart in Georgia. Cornell is currently restricted to base, awaiting court martial.

Chris Teske was ordered to leave Canada by January 23, and crossed the border the night before without incident. He is getting legal counsel before turning himself in. After volunteering for two tours of duty in Afghanistan, Teske was honorably discharged. He was later recalled to the army to train machine gunners in Iraq. He refused and left for Canada, wanting no part of an illegal war and "the racism against the Muslim culture in the army there."

Three other resisters who were issued deportation orders in recent weeks - Kimberly Rivera, Patrick Hart, and Dean Walcott - have appealed and won temporary

stays, which will likely delay deportation a few months and could possibly lead to successful appeals.

Kimberly Rivera is the first woman among war resisters in Canada who have spoken out in public about their decision to put down their gun. She deserted while home on leave from her first tour of duty in Iraq, and after much soul searching with her husband, they drove to Canada and settled there in February, 2007 with their now three children.

The family was to be deported on January 27, but Canada's federal court ordered a last minute stay. The court said the deportation order may be flawed because it failed to consider the best needs of Rivera's children, two who are of school age and enrolled in local schools.

In a videotaped plea to stay in Canada, Mario Rivera, Kimberly's husband, said, "Prime Minister Harper, you said the Iraq war was totally in error, was totally a mistake, and the majority of Canadians agree with that. If there's

anything we've learned over these last few years it's that in our lives now we rely on the key words "What would Jesus do?" and we reflect that on everything we do. And my belief, and in what I've read and what I know about Jesus, is that he wouldn't want what's going on in Iraq."

Patrick Hart, his wife and their son also had deportation orders stayed. The army sergeant served nine years before turning against the Iraq war while stationed in Kuwait in 2004. He went AWOL during leave the following year.

Dean Walcott's deportation has also been put off. He left the Marine Corps in 2007 following a deployment to Iraq and has lived in Canada since then.

War resisters who never left for Canada have also gone public in recent weeks.

Two years ago, after excelling in basic training and paratrooper jump school at Fort Benning, **Daniel Marble** went home on two weeks leave before his first assignment. There, he finally had time to think, and he realized he had made a mistake. His likely deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan meant also being in the position of having to kill to protect himself or another soldier. "I knew I didn't

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SOA 6 SENTENCED

Six human rights advocates appeared for trial on January 26 before the federal court in Columbus, Georgia. Each was charged with trespass last November at the annual protest and vigil to close the School of the Americas/Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (SOA/WHINSEC) at Fort Benning. In a series of individual trials before U.S. Magistrate Mallon Faircloth, the six were each convicted, then given the opportunity to address the court before sentencing.

Five of the six received a sentence of two months in federal prison. Louis Wolf, 68, was fined \$1,000 and placed under house arrest for six months due to multiple medical problems. Wolf addressed the court for well over an hour. A professional researcher, writer, and co-editor of two books about the CIA's "dirty tricks," Wolf delivered for the record a lengthy history of human rights abuses committed in Latin America by students and instructors from the School of the Americas. He named names and counted their victims in at least fifteen nations of Central and South America over the last five decades. A conscientious objector to the Vietnam War, Wolf did alternative service in Laos after graduating from college.

In addition to the two months in prison, Episcopal Father Luis Barrios, an associate professor of psychology and ethnic studies at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City, was fined \$250. He assured Faircloth the prison time would not take away his dignity, nor change his behavior.

Theresa Cusimano, 40, is a public interest advocate at Denver's Regis College who works with students to involve them with their community. She was the only defendant to represent herself and was fined \$500 plus the prison time.

Kristin Holm, 21, attends the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago (LSTC), and is the third LSTC student to be sent to prison for an SOA protest in the last five years. "You bet I crossed the line," she told the court. "I crossed the line because the SOA is on the wrong side." Faircloth fined her \$250 plus the two months in prison.

Sr. Diane Pinchot, 63, is a fine arts instructor at Ursuline College, and a member of the Ursuline Sisters. Her commission in 1992 to design and build an altar on the spot in El Salvador where four churchwomen massacred by SOA grads were found in a shallow grave led her years later to cross the line. A four-piece sculptured bowl she held in her hands illustrated the story she told the court about their tragic deaths. Pinchot received a two month sentence and no fine.

Vietnam veteran Al Simmons, 64 and a retired preschool teacher, received the same sentence as Pinchot. "We did it to make a point and to bring publicity to eventually cut off funding and close the School of the Americas," he told the court. "As I had said often to my four-year-olds in preschool, 'Don't hurt - use words.' I have been saying that, in various ways, to my government for many years."

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"The Hands That Make Bombs Can Also Break Bombs"

British Arms Plant Decommissioned

Israel's three week long assault on the Gaza Strip, with its disproportionate use of force and widespread civilian casualties, sparked protest around the globe. While arrests were reported in many cities, none matched the dramatic scene on the morning of Saturday, January 17 in Brighton, England, where a factory manufactures parts for F-15s, F-16s, guided Hellfire missiles and Paveway bombs, some used by the Israeli military against residents of Gaza.

Six activists turned up at the ITT/EDO-MGM arms factory in the wee hours with a ladder and some hammers, and spent the night thoroughly "decommissioning" the plant.

Surveying their work in daylight, a police inspector admitted that, "Windows had been smashed and offices turned over in what I would describe as wanton vandal-

ism, but with machinery and equipment so targeted that it could have been done with a view of bringing business to a standstill. The damage is significant and the value substantial."

Current estimates of the damage stand at a £250,000.

The factory has been the target of regular noisy and provocative protest by a local campaigning group, Smash EDO, since shortly after the U.S.-led and U.K.-backed invasion of Iraq in 2003. In 2005, EDO-MBM took High Court action in an attempt to curtail protest at the factory. They lost the action, which proved to be an expensive defeat as it gave the Smash EDO campaign increased exposure, and brought it national attention. In 2008, EDO Corp was taken over by ITT in a multibillion pound deal.

On the day before the citizen decommissioning, the Brighton and Hove City Council refused to consider

a motion by a number of councilors that would have condemned the presence of EDO-MBM in Brighton and its supply of components to Israel currently being used in Gaza. The reason given was that the motion was "not relevant to the well being of the city of Brighton and Hove."

A few Brightonians, for whom the well-being of the residents of Gaza is very relevant, took action that night. When alarms were tripped at the plant, at least 30 police responded to see computers and office equipment being thrown out of first floor windows. Inside, they arrested six people, and outside, another three sympathizers were arrested. Those outside had been called to take photos, but did not know such extensive decommissioning was underway.

Two women were among those arrested. Rosa Bel-

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Editors' note: This letter was sent after the conclusion of the trial reported on page four of this issue, "Ft. McCoy Update".

Stephen L. Crocker
U.S. Magistrate Judge, United States District Court
Madison, WI, 53701

Dear Judge Crocker,

...I have been in court as a pro se defendant many times over the last thirty and more years and rarely have I met with a judge who would treat defendants such as ourselves with as much consideration as you have shown us in these proceedings. Beginning with saving us a lot of travel by allowing our far-flung group to make our preliminary "appearance" a telephonic one and continuing through the trial, even when some testimony was personally challenging, it was clear that you were being as fair to us as the parameters that you perceive allowed you to be.

This letter is to commend your courtesy but also to continue to challenge those parameters as several of us did with you in court and to continue the conversation that began there last month. I am taking this time to write to you mostly because I sensed that above the exemplary good manners and proper courtroom decorum you have a genuine curiosity about why we did what we did. I venture to say also that I sensed in you a need to explain and to justify yourself to us-an extraordinary turn of events where the judge was more vehement in the defense of his innocence than the defendants on the dock he had just found guilty! I hope that I am right in my belief that this is the rare occasion where conversation outside the courtroom between judge and judged might be worthwhile.

The Assistant United States Attorney in her recommendation for sentencing was adamant in insisting that when we entered Ft. McCoy against the orders of the police we KNEW that we were breaking the law. First, I want to stress with you that is categorically not true. We are not being cute or playing fast and loose with words. When John Bachman, an experienced trial lawyer and defendant in this case told you that in his view he did not break the law, he meant it. We are reasonable, educated people who have studied the issues and we know in no uncertain terms that in entering Ft. McCoy as we did no law was broken. We were acting as citizens under the protection of the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution and under obligations under the Geneva Conventions and Nuremburg principles to obstruct war crimes. If the representative of the government in court that day had evidence to the contrary it was not offered. The fact that we knew that by so acting we would most likely be arrested and planned for that eventuality is not evidence of guilt, as was suggested, but only that we have had experience of having our rights so violated...

Your claim that our motives were irrelevant to the case is specious and hollow. If your court does not recognize any difference between trespassing to prevent a war crime

and trespassing to poach deer, as the analogy you offered, then it would follow that neither would your court make a distinction between breaking a door down to steal the silverware and breaking a door down to save a child from a burning building. That position is, of course, patently absurd and indefensible, appellate decisions notwithstanding. Another possible analogy, one that is not as inapt as it might first appear, unfortunately, might be whether a court in Munich, say, in 1940, would be able to see a distinction between trespassing on the grounds of Dachau to poach deer and trespassing there in order to prevail upon the soldiers there to desist, to attempt to stop a crime against humanity. "Justice is blind," you reminded us. But when a court is blind to such simple and obvious distinctions one wonders if that court serves any purpose whatever.

You told us that while you were allowing us as "ideologically motivated defendants" each our five minutes to explain our motives, such indulgence on your part was gratuitous and not our right. Previous decisions, you told us, rendered such testimony "irrelevant." Relevance did arise through the trial as the most vital issue but it rose not concerning the relevance of our motives (this was never really in question) but rather the relevance of a court whose view is so limited as not to understand the difference between a crime and a rescue. A deciding moment in the trial was when Renee Espeland asked you plainly if anything she might say might make a difference to you. With your assurance that no, anything she might say would be irrelevant to the court and so would be discounted, she waved you off and addressed her comments to the Ft. McCoy police in the back of the courtroom. She wisely used the five minutes granted her to talk to people who would listen, people to whom her words might make a difference. Who, at that moment was "irrelevant," Judge Crocker? It was not Renee, nor her testimony. When I tell you that at that moment my heart went out to you as the person in that room with the least purpose, the least relevance, it is not to dismiss or to damn you. Rather I want to express my sympathy for you, to impress upon you your worth as more than an unthinking cog in a machine, the alibi to which you take refuge from responsibility. Yes, you can be relevant!

Jeffrey Leys offered you a chance that you could have and should have accepted. Finding us not guilty was certainly within your reach. The machine drags on, murders multiply. You will have more opportunities in the near future to decide whether you and your court will continue to offer legal cover for crimes of historic proportion, as it did on January 12, or if it will, with your knowledge of the law, your wisdom and experience and the light in your heart, consider whether crimes have been committed and by whom.

Peace,

Brian Terrell

P.S. Ceylon Mooney, Joshua Brollier, Alice Gerard, Renee Espeland and Joy First, who were also among the January 12 convicts, have asked to be considered cosigners of this letter.



William Thomas, Presente!

On January 23, faithful anti-nuclear vigiler William "Doubting" Thomas, died of congestive heart failure after a long illness. He founded the vigil for Wisdom, Honesty, Truth, Justice, and Global Nuclear Disarmament outside the White House, in Lafayette Square, on June 3, 1981. Soon joined by vigiling partner Concepcion Picciotto, he displayed signs and passed out information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, interrupted only by dozens of arrests, time in jail, and a stay-away order in the last year of his life. His signs (once 16' tall but reduced by the regulations his witness provoked to 4'x4') displayed messages such as "Ban All Nuclear Weapons or Have a Nice Doomsday" and "Live By the Bomb, Die By the Bomb."

In 1984, Ellen Benjamin found the vigil and met Thomas, and they were soon married. They renamed Lafayette Square "Peace Park", a name that has stuck, and have worked together since that time, in particular promoting Proposition One, the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Act (www.prop1.org).

Three people whose names were frequently mentioned in these pages over the last 28 years have recently passed away. We celebrate their lives while offering heartfelt condolences to their family and friends.

Fr. Darrell Rupiper, Presente!

Fr. Darrell Rupiper, OMI, died of bone cancer on February 10 at the age of 71. Darrell was an advocate for the poor, and fighter for justice and for the earth. Ordained a priest in 1963 within the missionary order of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, he served the poor in Brazil before being arrested, locked up for "inciting to revolution" and kicked out of the country by the military government four years later. In 1979 he was jailed in Chicago for protesting the sale of weapons to the Brazilian generals. He travelled to Tehran to help defuse the Iran hostage crisis, and from 1983-85, served three prison sentences from one to six months for repeated arrests at the Strategic Air Command/Offutt Air Force Base.

Peter DeMott, Presente!

On February 19, Vietnam veteran, Catholic Worker and long-time peace and anti-nuclear activist Peter DeMott, 62, died after falling from a tree where he had been working.

We first heard of Peter in 1980 during our first year of publishing the Nuclear Resister, when during a demonstration he spotted keys in the ignition of a shipyard van at General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut, started the van and repeatedly rammed it into the rudder of a Trident submarine.

Peter was arrested numerous times over the last 3 decades, beginning in 1979 at a Chicago arms bazaar, through to his December 29, 2008 arrest at the Pentagon during a Feast of the Holy Innocents retreat in Washington, D.C. (see page 4 of this issue). He spent several years in prison during this time, and was due to appear in court in early March for his recent D.C. bust. Peter and his wife Ellen Grady made their home with daughters Marie, Kate, Nora and Saoirse, in Ithaca, New York.

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want to kill people," he told a reporter for The News and Observer in Raleigh, North Carolina. "That's not what I am. That's not what I'm about. That's not something I want on my conscience." Marble simply stowed his uniform and got a civilian job, telling his family he had injured his ankle in training and been discharged.

In December, local police visited his father in North Carolina, after his name appeared on a Pentagon database of soldiers who are AWOL (absent without leave). His father reported that Marble was living with his mother in New Jersey. Marble was arrested at his mother's home in Seaside Heights, New Jersey, on January 23, and jailed there for three days before receiving orders from the Pentagon investigator to report to Fort Knox, "to be processed out of the military." Instead, after several days at Fort Knox in the company of 40 other AWOL soldiers being processed out, he and a few others were ordered to report to their units for likely deployment to Iraq. Marble was given a bus ticket to Fort Bragg, where he reported on February 3. He is currently assigned to the base, awaiting the Army's next move.

Kristoffer Walker joined the Army reserves in 2001, "so I could go off and fight and help to win the war and put it to rest." But back home in late February, on leave from his second tour of duty in Iraq, he sent the following email to his unit commander:

Gentlemen:

This email is to inform you that I am not returning to Iraq. I have made the decision to stay in Green Bay, Wisconsin. I have intentionally missed my flight out of Green Bay and I will not be making any effort to return to Iraq. It is my firm belief that you all understand why I have done this. If you need to contact me, I can be reached via my wife's cell phone... I will not be fleeing my hometown, so I can be found at my home.

Additionally, I am still under orders to be on active duty, and although I will not be at my appointed duty station, I will contact a local Army Reserve unit (432nd Civil Affairs) to see if they need me to

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Thanks

Thanks to Pat, Gerri, Jerry, Sally, Lil, Ted, Steve, Paige, Faith, Gretchen and Chan for helping to mail the last issue.

the Nuclear Resister

POB 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733
520-323-8697 nukeresister@igc.org ISSN #0883-9875

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

CANADA DEPORTS
WAR RESISTERS, CONT.

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work there until one of two things happen:

1. The orders placing me on active duty are rescinded and I am transferred to a reserve unit in or around Green Bay, or
2. I am arrested.

...Finally, just so you are aware, I have contacted the local media outlets (newspaper and television) as well as a handful of national news outlets, in order to make others aware of this situation. I am not going to hide; I know fully what I am doing. The die is cast.

Walker told the Associated Press that he does not fit the Army’s definition of a conscientious objector because he sees a legitimate purpose for warfare, as in retaliating when attacked. But Iraq is “an illegitimate, unnecessary campaign”, and the government broke their contract with him when he agreed to defend the United States.

Asked in a web exclusive interview with WLUK-TV why he was only now stepping away from the “immoral and illegal” war, Walker explained that during his first tour of duty in Iraq, “I began to kind of evade the responsibility of acknowledging that things aren’t right over there, and the operation isn’t right. Which is kind of a cardinal sin as far as I am concerned, because it is important to be honest, and first and foremost, you need to be honest with yourself. So, for the last four years, I wasn’t being completely honest with myself, and it caused a number of different problems for me, you know, in my personal relationships, in work, and school and so on. And now I’ve just kinda become man enough to be truthful with myself. You know, it’s not OK to go along with something that you think is wrong. It’s not OK to go along with something that’s immoral... It’s also advice my battalion chaplain over there said. I went to him for guidance. I said, I’m being asked to do something immoral. And the chaplain, a captain in the army, said, ‘Well, if someone tells you to do something immoral, you don’t do it.’ And again, that’s just common sense. It’s just - it’s worth standing up for.”

UPDATES

In early February, U.S. Army refuser **Andre Shepherd** was interviewed for nine hours by German authorities considering his application for asylum. A decision is expected this spring. As the first American soldier to seek asylum, a decision in Shepherd’s favor would have a profound impact on U.S.-German relations, where 80,000 U.S. soldiers are based. Denial of his application would likely lead to Shepherd’s deportation in the custody of the Army.



Courage to Resist is sponsoring a national week of letter writing to show support for war resisters, March 16-23, 2009. Allies of the G.I. resistance movement are asked to gather together to write letters of support to war resisters in prison, awaiting court martial, or seek-

Peltier Assaulted After
Sudden Transfer

Leonard Peltier’s family has been pressing the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to transfer the Native American political prisoner to a lockup closer to his North Dakota home. Despite a model prison record and reduced security rating, he continued to be held at the maximum security U.S. Penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. Then, with little notice in mid-January, and just days before George W. Bush left office, he was transferred farther away from home to the U.S. Penitentiary-Canaan in Waymart, Pennsylvania, described as a facility for young gang members. After orientation, Peltier was moved to general population, where he was immediately attacked and severely beaten. He was thrown into solitary confinement and denied proper medical care and food until supporters and family learned of his situation and responded.

They pressed the warden and Bureau of Prisons to assure Peltier’s safety, and by February he was transferred back to the general population at USP-Lewisburg. Supporters report that he was welcomed back not only by the Native Americans at Lewisburg, but by all of the prisoners. Peltier wishes to thank all of his supporters for standing with him during this difficult time.

Peltier became eligible again for parole in December, but timing of a new application for parole is at his discretion. The FBI responded immediately with a renewed smear campaign and pressure on the U.S. Parole Board. Shortly thereafter, Peltier was transferred and assaulted.

February 6 marked thirty-three years since Leonard Peltier was first sent to prison for the 1975 killing of two FBI agents during a military and police siege of the homestead of traditional Sioux on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. On the very day of the assault, a corrupt tribal chairman was secretly signing away Pine Ridge tribal rights to minerals under the reservation, including uranium. (Peltier’s letter to his supporters on the anniversary of his imprisonment is found on page 4, *The Inside Line*.)

ing refuge in Canada, as well as letters to the Canadian government asking that war resisters be allowed to stay and letters to our own government demanding amnesty for war resisters.

Courage to Resist will provide you with all of the materials and information you need to host a letter-writing party in your community (at your house, community center, religious space, etc.), including: information and contact info for war resisters, template letters for U.S. and Canadian governments, and literature about G.I. resistance.

War resister letter-writing parties provide a concrete way to show emotional support for war resisters and establish human connections between civilian support networks and troops refusing to fight. If you are interested



Letters of support should be sent to Leonard Peltier 89637-132, USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

The Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee (LP-DOC) notes that the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians passed a resolution late last year requesting Peltier’s transfer into their custody to serve the remainder of his sentence. Family members are supportive of such a transfer. Alternatively, family members want Peltier transferred closer to home, either to FCI Sandstone (MN) or FCI Oxford (WI).

Supporters are asked to urge the BOP to transfer Leonard to one of the three above locations. Send letters, call, and/or e-mail Harley G. Lappin, Director, Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Department of Justice, 320 First Street., NW Room 654, Washington, DC 20534, (202)307-3250, or fax (202)514-6878, hlappin@bop.gov.

In addition, the LP-DOC has launched a new, international public education/awareness and political action campaign on Leonard’s behalf called AIM for Freedom. That work takes four directions:

1. a grant of parole;
2. an award of Executive Clemency;
3. a congressional investigation into the FBI’s misconduct in Indian Country, against the American Indian Movement and in the case of Leonard Peltier; and
4. the release of the tens of thousands of related case documents.

Any or all of these strategies may lead to Leonard’s release, and strategies regarding the four directions are found at www.whoisleonardpeltier.info. For more information, contact LP-DOC, POB 7488, Fargo, ND 58106, 701-235-2206, contact@whoisleonardpeltier.info

in organizing a letter-writing party, contact Courage to Resist at courage@riseup.net or call 510-488-3559. They will be happy to walk you through the process of organizing a letter-writing party and brainstorm ways to tailor your event to the needs of your community.

Courage to Resist is also accepting contributions for Cliff Cornell’s defense fund, via www.couragetoresist.org/ cliffcornell or c/o Courage to Resist, 484 Lake Park Ave. #41, Oakland CA 94610.

At any time, letters of support can be sent to jailed resisters Robin Long, Miramar Naval Consolidated Brig, P.O. Box 452136, San Diego, CA 92145-2136, and Anthony Michael Anderson, P.O. Box 305, Fort Sill, OK 73503-5305.

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

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)

PREVIOUSLY LISTED, RECENTLY RELEASED: **Sylvia Boyes**

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

Elijah Smith VP7551
Robert Alford VP7552
HMP Lewes, 1 Brighton Road, East Sussex BN7 1EA, England.
(Jailed pending trial for disarmament of EDO/ITT arms factory in Brighton, England, 1/17)

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)

RESISTING THE SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENTS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

More than 100 people gathered in Washington, D.C. just after Christmas for the annual Feast of the Holy Innocents Faith and Resistance Retreat.

December 28 is the Christian holy day observing the massacre reported in the Bible’s Gospel of Matthew (2:1-18). At the time of Jesus’ birth, the hated King Herod of Judea ordered “the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under” after he learned that the magi had visited the newborn King of the Jews, who was prophesied to take his throne.

During the retreat, stories were shared of contemporary encounters with victims of the American empire. Clare Grady reflected on her time in Iraq; Paul Rehm spoke on the suffering he saw in Hebron. Several young people shared their rare perspectives: Micah and Ammon Allen-Doucot gleaned insights from their time in Darfur and Guatemala respectively, Justin Colville spoke of what a Guatemala trip meant to him, and in another session, Bernadette and Maura Ryder-O’Neil shared the ups and downs of life in a Catholic Worker community.

Monday morning, December 29, eleven people were arrested attempting to block entrances to the Pentagon. Beth Brockman, Danny Burns, Peter DeMott, Bill Frankel-Streit, Mary Grace, Brian Hynes, Mary Jo McArthur, Sr. Margaret McKenna, David Ryle, Kim Williams and Steve Woolford were all charged and soon released to appear in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia on March 6.

The children at the retreat helped create the scenario for the afternoon witness, a visit to the embassies of Iraq and Afghanistan. No one was home at the Iraq embassy, where the children sang, read a statement, and held a die-in. At the Afghan embassy, all were welcomed by the staff, and brightened by the songs the children sang.

Then it was off to the Embassy of Israel, to protest against that country’s assault on Gaza. After a time of picketing on the sidewalk in front of the building, the group was ordered to cross the street. Ellen Grady, Clare Grady and Heidi Schloegel soon returned to the embassy side, as police tried to turn them back. Each knelt to pray rather than retreat, and were arrested for unlawful entry and crossing a police line. They remained in jail until the following afternoon.

While awaiting their release the next day, retreat participants lined the sidewalk outside the headquarters of the president elect’s transition team with signs declaring “Yes we can! Sì se puede!” “Create peace without

weapons” “End the war in Iraq” “Bring peace to Afghanistan” “Stop war everywhere” “Care for veterans rather than create them” “Dismantle nuclear weapons” “Lead the world in nuclear disarmament” “Halt nuclear weapons research” “Stop making and selling weapons” “Study peace” “Raise children in a nonviolent world” “Practice nonviolence!”

For more information, contact Jonah House at 410-233-6238 or Dorothy Day Catholic Worker at 202-882-9649, or visit jonahhouse.org.

FT. MCCOY

Three Wisconsin anti-war activists were arrested on trespass charges at the main gate of Ft. McCoy on Monday, December 29, during a protest of the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The action was a condemnation of the “killing of innocents.”

More than 3,000 Wisconsin National Guard members are set to be sent to Iraq in 2009. The State’s 32nd Brigade Combat Team will be part of the call-up.

Bonnie Urfer, who was among those arrested, said, “Like any war, the U.S. is killing mostly civilians. This is criminal, and our National Guard shouldn’t be forced to commit these crimes.”

Also arrested were Cassandra Dixon and Gail Vaughn. The three were summoned to appear in federal court on March 10.

In November, legislation was introduced in the state House of Representatives challenging the legality of using state National Guard troops in unlawful foreign deployments. Fifteen other state legislatures are likewise challenging the warfare use of Guard troops.

Ft. McCoy update

Twelve people were on trial January 12 in the Madison, Wisconsin federal courtroom of Magistrate Stephen Crocker. Initially, they were charged last August with federal trespass for trying to enter Ft. McCoy and speak with soldiers on their way to war. In court, the federal count was tossed out in favor of a local statute. Crocker noted that it was no longer a criminal charge, but he would treat it as one to give the defendants more rights in the proceedings. After the prosecution concluded its case, Crocker permitted each defendant to speak for five minutes, while admitting to one that her testimony would make no difference in his decision. All were convicted

and fined \$75. When several of them told him their conscience would not permit them to pay, he said he would check whether their payments could go directly to a dedicated victim’s compensation fund, rather than the general treasury.

A thirteenth defendant missed the proceedings. Kathy Kelly was in Egypt on her way to Gaza as a witness to war. Kelly had already served several days in jail following the arrests last August, on an outstanding protest-related Wisconsin warrant.

For more information, contact Nukewatch at 715-472-4185 or nukewatch1@lakeland.ws.

NORTHWOOD

Two people were arrested on Monday morning, December 29, after cutting through a perimeter fence at Northwood Permanent Joint Headquarters in suburban London. Northwood is the command center for all British forces deployed abroad in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Fr. Martin Newell and Susan Clarkson, respectively from the London and Oxford Catholic Worker communities, both live and work with refugees from wars in Afghanistan, the Middle East and Africa. While the two were arrested praying inside the base, other members of Catholic Worker communities held vigil at the front entrance, reading the names of British and Afghani war dead.

Former British Marine Les Gibbons was also arrested while engaging police, guards, and base employees making their way to work. During the arrests, sirens and public address messages from within the base could be heard announcing “Operation Round Up” and a return of all staff to buildings as the base’s security response was put in place.

The anti-war direct action followed a weekend of reflection and liturgy by several Catholic Workers, and a mass held outside Northwood on Sunday’s “Feast of the Holy Innocents.”

Gibbons’ charges were dismissed; Newell and Clarkson will be in Watford magistrates court on March 19.

For more information, contact the London Catholic Worker, c/o 14 Deal Street, London E1 5AH, England.

Fight Champ Faces Felony for Capitol Anti-War Graffiti

It was simple, anonymous anti-war graffiti that showed up in late November. A peace sign. The circle-A anarchy symbol. “No War” and “No Poverty” in bold spraypaint strokes across several stone columns of the state Capitol building in Olympia, Washington. In the city at the heart of nonviolent resistance to the shipment of war supplies in the Pacific northwest, police had no suspects.

Not until the December 29 issue of *ESPN The Magazine* hit the stands, and police paired up the crime with a photo of world champion grappler and mixed-martial arts fighter Jeff “The Snowman” Monson. The caption read, “On a recent night in Olympia, Monson suddenly pulled out a spray can and tagged the state Capitol.” The Olympia native is clearly shown completing the circle-A graffiti.

Fuzzy security video showed three people present, with one taking photos. ESPN’s photographer and writer had followed Monson for a couple of days for their profile of the politically outspoken extreme athlete.

On January 14, a state warrant was issued charging Monson with first-degree malicious mischief, a felony. Monson, who was out of state, learned of the charge when his daughter phoned to tell him that police in seven patrol cars were at the family’s home.

Minutes after he had learned of the warrant, Monson was reached by *The Olympian*, which reported that he

...took responsibility for the graffiti at the Capitol. He said that it had a point: to protest the war in Iraq and economic inequality at home and abroad.

“Every great movement in the United States, from civil rights, women’s rights, the labor movement, has been the result of people standing up and breaking the law, refusing to stand at the back of the bus, refusing to stand aside when the government asks you to get off their property,” Monson said. “And now, these people are seen as pioneers. But at the time, they were criminals — they were literally criminals. I’m not here to advocate for myself; at some point you have to stand up.”

Monson, who said he participated in protests at

continued on page 6

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from Lewisburg

February 6, 2009

Greetings my relatives,

First of all, before anything else I want to thank all for the work that you’ve been doing because what you do for me, you do it for my people and all those that come after us.

The enemy that we face has many faces; the FBI is only one of them. The greatest enemy that we face is the lack of knowledge that people have about us as Indian people and themselves and the true history of this nation. Some people say we have too many rights, but they don’t understand the difference between obtained and retained rights. In educating our opposition we must also educate ourselves as to the laws and policies that are considered to be the laws of the land at this time. We must be able to remind them of the law or policies that they themselves have been guilty of violating and if need be we need to challenge the validity of those laws and policies where they are detrimental to the natural environment and overall well being of the people.

We have the right to defend ourselves, defend our people and defend our nation, our way of life and the way we worship. These are not rights that were given to us by anyone other than the creator himself.

We will not give those rights up to anyone – We retain those rights from the beginning of time and we will cherish and protect them until the end of time. We are a fair, loving, kind and respectful people. We have a right to be on this portion of mother earth. We were told by our elders that it is our duty to defend ourselves, our families from wild beasts, by whatever measures necessary, even if that wild beast be in the form of a man or men. We have done this in the past and it is our responsibility to do it in the future. Sometimes the tools of defense are harsh and sometimes it is merely the educating of an enemy.

THE
INSIDE
LINE



In the circles of spirituality being a warrior means defending things that are right, by taking a proactive approach to opposition.

As I have said sometimes in the past, we aren’t bothered very often when we do everything that is right, but when we start righting what is wrong, then we become targets of those who would wrong others.

Chief Leonard Crow Dog, who has served as a spiritual advisor for the American Indian Movement and myself, has consented to serve as spiritual advisor for this effort to bring about my freedom.

The FBI has recently put out another letter trying to stop your efforts and undermine the accomplishments that have taken place in the last few months. We must be ever vigilant and responsive, to whatever action they take. And we must never forget that what we do is not for ourselves but for our people and those that come after us.

Again, I want to thank you from the very bottom of my heart for remembering me in your prayers and on this observance of my thirty-third year of imprisonment.

Doksha,

In the spirit of Crazy Horse and all those who gave their lives trying to right what was wrong.

Leonard Peltier

[Leonard Peltier is serving two life sentences for a crime he did not commit. See update, page 3.]

Honoring King’s Nonviolent Action Legacy

Boeing/Chicago

Fifty members of Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) and their supporters carried cardboard coffins covered with Palestinian flags through downtown Chicago on Monday, January 19. Participants in the January 19 Martin Luther King Day witness sought to honor Dr. King’s call to end racism, militarism and poverty.

Mourners dressed in black shrouds and white face paint to symbolize death slowly led the two-block-long silent procession through the frigid streets for about 3/4 of a mile from the Federal Building to the headquarters of Boeing Corporation. They concluded the procession at the front door, where four of the mourners were arrested.



photo courtesy of Leonard Eiger

Kitsap County deputies move in to arrest Martin Luther King Day blockaders outside the nuclear submarine base at Bangor, west of Seattle.

Boeing makes the GBU-39 small diameter bombs and the Apache helicopters used by the Israeli military during its recent war on Gaza. More than 1,300 Palestinians, mostly women and children, lost their lives, and thousands more were injured when bombs fell on neighborhoods, schools, hospitals and United Nations food warehouses.

“Taking this step to expose one of the biggest perpetrators of militarism is a fitting memorial to Dr. King,” said CPT training participant Janie Stein. “The people of Palestine and Israel will have a greater chance for peace and security when corporations like Boeing stop sending weapons to the region.”

The group attempted to enter the building to request a meeting with Boeing executives. Stein gained entry before police and security guards moved to block the doorways. Mourners then placed the coffins at Boeing’s doors and began to sing and pray, laying candles and photographs of those killed in Gaza around the coffins.

Boeing personnel repeatedly denied Stein’s request to schedule a meeting, so she rejoined the group outside and proceeded to lay her body down next to the coffins along with Tracy Hughes and Joe Wyse. Martin Bates knelt in prayer over the bodies and coffins.

When Chicago police ordered everyone to leave Boeing property, vigilers continued singing and praying as they slowly moved onto the public sidewalk. The four remained with the coffins. Shortly before 5:00 p.m., they were arrested for trespassing and spent the next six hours in jail.

Hughes had her charge dismissed on February 3. They other three pled guilty to trespass on February 13.

The judge did not permit the activists to make a statement. However, Stein said right before pleading, “If it please the court, it’s not okay for corporations to build bombs that kill innocent people. If I’m accused of trying to stop that, then I am guilty as charged.” The judge said she had read the details of the report and understood what the group did and why it went to Boeing. The defendants were given three months of unsupervised probation. After sentencing, the activists spoke with the two Boeing representatives present, who indicated respect for the protesters.

For more information, contact Christian Peacemaker Teams, POB 6508, Chicago, IL 60680-6508, 773-277-0253, peacemakers@cpt.org

Lockheed-Martin/Valley Forge

On January 19 (and for the 32nd consecutive year), the

Brandywine Peace Community organized a time to memorialize Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to walk in his steps of nonviolent resistance to injustice and war, at the corporation which today is the very face of war-making, Lockheed Martin.

In front of the main driveway entrance to the Valley Forge complex of the world’s largest weapons manufacturer, about 50 people gathered in a driving snow, holding banners and signs while listening to a loudspeaker broadcast of excerpts from Dr. King’s sermons and speeches. All then joined in a litany built around Dr. King’s Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech.

As the litany came to an end, the words of Dr. King’s “A Time to Break Silence” speech echoed around Lock-

heed Martin from the loudspeakers. Delivered at New York’s Riverside Church on April 4, 1967 - one year to the day before his murder - he drew the connection between social injustice here at home and wars fought around the world, calling for resistance to the “evil triplets of U.S. society: racism, materialism, and militarism.”

Lockheed Martin security set up their security line to the weapons complex while Upper Merion police stood by in anticipation of civil disobedience.

Those prepared to face arrest then stepped into the driveway entrance with a series of banners reading: “Honor Dr. King’s Legacy” “Stop Lockheed Martin” and “Yes We Can!”. Across the driveway were the pictures of Palestinian children killed in the recent attacks on Gaza, and large signboards reading: “LOCKHEEDVILLE: Many Suffer, so Few May Profit” and “War Profit\$ = Slaughter in Gaza”.

At the conclusion of Dr. King’s words, those who stood in resistance to Lockheed Martin turned and walked toward the factory complex. They were stopped and one-by-one arrested, then transported to the Upper Merion police station where they were summarily released on disorderly conduct citations.

Those arrested and cited were Vinton Deming, Mary Jo McArthur, Bernadette Cronin-Geller, Beth Friedlan, M.J. Gentile, Sylvia Metzler, Sr. Margaret McKenna, Robert M. Smith, Fr. Patrick Sieber, Tom Mullian, and Theresa Camerota.

For more information, contact Brandwine Peace Community, POB 81, Swarthmore, PA 19081, 610-544-1818, brandywine@juno.com

Trident/Bangor

Holding a large banner quoting Dr. King, Jessica Artega, Larry Kerschner, Gilberto Perez, and Jessica Smith were arrested for blocking the entrance to the Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor on January 19. Bangor is home port for the U.S. Trident nuclear missile submarine fleet.

The banner quoted Dr. King’s “A Time to Break Silence” speech of 1967: “When scientific power outruns spiritual power, we end up with guided missiles and misguided men.”

On the highway bridge above them, over the entrance to the base, other Ground Zero supporters held another banner: “CREATE A PEACEFUL WORLD FOR ALL CHILDREN. Abolish Nuclear Weapons. Scrap Trident.”

The four blockaders were arrested by Kitsap County deputies, booked for trespass and released. No court date has been set.

Acting on Conscience

Trial statement of SOA Watch defendant

Sr. Diane Therese Pinchot

Columbus, Georgia, January 26, 2009

Images are truth tellers for me. The 1980 image of the broken, raped and murdered bodies of Dorothy Kazel and the Churchwomen being pulled out of the shallow grave in El Salvador continues to tell the truth even in 2008. There is no getting around this image. It would be so easy in this North American culture to insulate myself from the destruction and devastation of what happened to the women and the Salvadoran people, and from what is happening now to the suffering peoples in my own country and within this Earth community. But Dorothy Kazel’s death tore open my small, insulated, protected world and showed me the suffering of my brothers and sisters and that of creation. Even more, it impels me to speak out about her death and so many others; to do anything less would make me, as a U.S. citizen, complicit in the suffering of the Salvadoran people and now, of innocent people being killed in our country’s war on terror. These images from the past are images of truth living in me now. Today, images of war and torture continue to abound, and in them I see history repeating itself. How much more suffering will occur before the cycle of violence is ended?

I continue to ask myself why Dorothy died, what purpose her death held, if today the same school (the SOA/WHINSEC) that trained her killers, is still open and training soldiers to be puppets in governments that keep their own people poor? Dorothy’s death and the thousands of other deaths and disappearances taught us nothing, if today the same U.S. government is still training soldiers the skills of torture and war.

Today the Ursulines of Cleveland still seek the whole truth regarding the brutal deaths of the Churchwomen and the killings of 76,000 Salvadorans who died during the civil war. The truth must be told in order for justice and mercy, healing and reconciliation to follow, bringing transformation to all of those involved in these deaths.

Dorothy believed in nonviolence. She struggled with nonviolence as she saw those she loved slain and left at her door as a warning. Still, in the midst of this terror, Dorothy and the Churchwomen proclaimed the gospel message of hope, love, respect, and dignity for all. As Dorothy was preparing to return to El Salvador from Cleveland in the summer of 1980, she was hopeful, full of life, and especially full of love for the people of El Salvador. She loved them unconditionally. This love motivated her to the end and is her legacy and challenge to me: to speak the truth with steadfast love even in the time of war and oppression.

SOA 6 CONT.

continued from page 1

The five given a prison sentence are free pending assignment to a federal prison, where each has agreed to report to serve their sentence.

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.

Bangor Update: Feds Strike Out In Court

It started off badly for the prosecution and then got worse at the first federal trial in nearly twenty years for nuclear resisters arrested at the Trident submarine base in Bangor, Washington. Fr. Bill Bichsel, SJ, Rev. Anne Hall, and Tom Karlin appeared before Judge Kelley Arnold of the U.S. District Court in Tacoma on Tuesday, January 13, on criminal trespass charges from entering the main gate of the base last May 31, in celebration of the Roman Catholic Feast of the Visitation and Bichsel’s 80th birthday.

Early in the trial, Judge Arnold granted a motion to dismiss charges against Anne Hall and Tom Karlin because the trespass statute requires a defendant’s knowledge of debarment, which the government had not demonstrated. After the government also failed to prove essential elements in its case against Fr. Bichsel, the judge invited a motion for a directed verdict, and then declared the Jesuit priest not guilty.

Of note, despite an earlier ruling to deny a defense under international law, Judge Arnold accepted into the trial record the expert testimony affidavit of John Burroughs, executive director of the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy.

For more information, education, training, and action for a world free of nuclear weapons, contact the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Road NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370, info@gzcenter.org, www.gzcenter.org

March of the Dead Greet New Congress

David Swanson (www.afterdowningstreet.org) writes:

As the 111th Congress was being sworn in on January 6, a seemingly endless line of figures dressed all in black with stark white masks slowly marched single-file around Capitol Hill. Each wore a placard bearing the name of someone who had died in the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Palestine, their age, and the date of their death. This March of the Dead was intended to remind yet another Congress that we elected it to end aggressive wars, and to announce that the peace movement will be a presence on Capitol Hill until the wars are ended.

About an hour after the march ended, a group of the dead in masks and black clothes gathered in the indoor atrium of the Hart Senate Office Building. A few of us began reading aloud lists of those who have died in the wars, including U.S. soldiers. Five floors up, on the east side of the atrium, three large banners were dropped reading "Afghanistan" and "Iraq" and "Palestine." Then on the west side an enormous banner unfurled reading "The Audacity of War Crimes." That banner was quickly taken down by police. As we continued reading the names, another huge banner appeared on the south side of the atrium reading "We Will Not Be Silent."

A half dozen of us continued reading the names of the dead aloud with a dozen figures in masks around us, and dozens of onlookers and members of the media around them. While we read the names, some of those who had skillfully unfurled and tied the banners were escorted out of the building by the Capitol Police -- and thanked by spontaneous applause. Eventually, the police gave our group three warnings, encircled us, and began handcuffing us as we continued to read the names of the dead.

Seventeen people were charged with unlawful assembly, and released. They will be in D.C. Superior Court for a status hearing on April 3.

Arms Plant Decommissioned, cont.

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lamy, who was outside the factory, was released that day, while Ona Wasabian was taken to the hospital for a hand injury sustained while climbing the factory fence. The others - Robert Alford, Simon Levin, Robert Nichols, Christopher Osmond, Elijah Smith, Harvey Tadman, and Thomas Woodhead - were held in jail for the weekend and taken to court on Monday, charged with burglary and criminal damage. Three were granted bail that day, as was Wasabian when she was released from the hospital two days later. Another man was released on bail three days later, but Alford and Smith remain in jail, each additionally charged with breach of bail conditions from previous protest at EDO.

Just before taking action, five of the decommissioners recorded themselves on video about their intended action.

Elijah Smith looked into the camera to say, "My name is Elijah Smith. I'm 43-years-old, and I'm too old for this shit. I'm looking at the world scene and I'm getting more and more horrified. It's disgusting. I don't know why I didn't notice it more before, but I think it's actually 'cause it's accelerating. I've been looking at the law and I don't feel that I'm actually going to do anything illegal tonight, but I'm going to go into an arms factory and smash it up to the best of my ability so that it cannot actually work or produce weapons or the munitions and these very dirty bombs that have been provided to the Israeli army so that they can kill children... The time for talking has gone a l'il bit too far here. I'm not a writer, I'm just a person from the community and I'm deeply disgusted."

Robert Nichols recorded a brief note he intended to give to the police upon his arrest: "The Israeli defense forces are guilty of war crimes in Gaza. EDO and many other arms manufacturers around the UK are aiding and abetting commission of these humanitarian crimes and war crimes. The action we have taken is intended to hamper or delay the commission of war crimes and to prevent this greater crime. The glorification of war and the mass production of arms and weapons is a sickness in the heart of those involved."

Lakenheath

Seven people who cut their way into the Royal Air Force (RAF) base at Lakenheath, northeast of London, were given conditional discharges, despite being convicted of criminal damage and trespass in a special protected area.

The Lakenheath Eight had disrupted operations for three hours until police cut through the chains that bound them to the munitions compound in a protest of U.S. cluster bombs stockpiled there.

Their trial began on December 1 in Ipswich Crown Court with the laying of wreaths at the door in remembrance of all victims of cluster munitions and also Margaret Moss, one of the defendants who has since passed away. The special trespass charges were only the second set of prosecutions brought under provisions of the Serious Organized Crime Prevention Act (SOCPA), a special statute affecting military installations that threatens to criminalize organized dissent.

The seven all denied trespassing on October 2, 2006, saying their actions were lawful because they had prevented U.S. fighter jets from taking off to bomb Iraq with outlaw weapons, namely U.S. cluster bombs. The United Kingdom recently signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions, but the United States has not.

After years of "We can neither confirm or deny", the U.S. Air Force admitted for the first time during the four-day trial that cluster munitions are present at Lakenheath and that they were present on the day of the action.

While there was no criminal penalty for their convictions, Mell Harrison, Peter Lux, Lesley Graham, Richie Rushmere, Irene Willis, Lesley Anderson, and Emma Bateman were also ordered to pay £250 in court costs.

After sentencing, campaigners submitted letters calling on the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and Ministry of Defence police to investigate the U. S. Air Force for war crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mell Harrison told the *Eastern Daily Press*, "We will continue to campaign in every way we can to stop the killing of innocent men, women and children. The U.S. needs to remove these cluster bombs from our country. They are committing war crimes that the U.K. government cannot do anything about."

Another concluded on camera, "If the law and the police can't do anything about it, it's about time somebody else did."

In mid-February, the burglary charges were replaced with charges of conspiracy to commit criminal damage. The next court date for the activists is May 8. For more information, visit the blog at decommissioners.wordpress.com

Fight Champ, cont.

continue from page 4

the Port of Olympia in November 2007 and in other protests against the Iraq War, added that he wants to make his political beliefs known...

Monson said he just got back from Nicaragua, where he saw some of the worst poverty he has ever seen. He said his international travel has opened his eyes to issues of poverty worldwide.

"We're completely complicit," he said. "It's all about consumerism. We want cheap TVs, we want cheap clothes, we want cheap Nikes. We're exploiting these people."

Monson turned himself in two weeks later, entered a not guilty plea, surrendered his passport, and was released after posting \$20,000 bond. At a subsequent hearing, Monson's passport was returned so he could keep two overseas fight dates in the coming weeks. A trial date has not been set.



Derry

Israel's three-week assault on Gaza drove thousands around the world to protest.

The Derry Anti-War Coalition (DAWC) marched on the Northern Ireland office of Raytheon corporation once again on January 12. Nine women slipped into the office building before the bulk of the demonstration arrived. Once inside, they chained themselves together to the doors leading to Raytheon's offices.

Police agreed to allow the women to walk free from the building after three hours, after also agreeing to receive women's war crimes complaint for possible referral to prosecution.

Unfortunately, while the women were negotiating, police outside roughed up the crowd and arrested four when a few men also tried to enter the building. A fifth man was arrested for allegedly spraypainting "Raytheon Kills" on the side of the building.

A spokesperson for the DAWC claimed: "Supplying the weapons that are used in a war crime is a crime in itself. We hold Raytheon responsible for supplying the weapons used by Israel in the murder of civilians in Lebanon and Gaza, as well as by the U.S. and U.K. governments in the illegal wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We believe that a prima facie case that Raytheon is complicit in the commission of war crimes was established in the Raytheon Nine [acquittal at] trial in Belfast last year..."

Auckland

Four hundred people rallied January 19 outside New Zealand's Rakon factory in Auckland, splattering its two-story white and glass facade with a dozen red paint balloons. The crowd then saw Catholic Worker Tyler Culpepper, who had climbed up on the roof of the two-story building. Reaching over the top edge with a wide brush and red paint, he altered the large corporate signage to read "RAKON KILLS"

"Wars today are no longer fought using simple weapons like swords and spears," Culpepper wrote in a statement. "Instead, complex weapons, capable of much greater damage, are used. These weapons require complex components from all over the world, even from here in Aotearoa.

"If we are to participate in the fulfillment of this ancient prophesy – the beating of swords into ploughshares - we must know where to find these modern swords and spears, including the components essential to their operation.

"It is my intention to reveal the fact that Rakon is helping to manufacture weapons of war, for those that have forgotten and those who never knew. Then the process of beating these swords into ploughshares can begin.

"The red paint symbolizes the blood that Rakon helps to shed by selling components to the weapons companies. It stands in contrast to the sterile white walls of the Rakon factory which give the false impression of purity, so far removed from the death and destruction Rakon facilitates."

Police followed Culpepper up on the roof and arrested him.

Direct actions opposing Israel's attack on Gaza also resulted in arrests in Israel, the United States and England.

Vieques Defender Seeks Post-Prison Support

José Pérez González, who served five years in prison for actions taken in support of the successful civil resistance campaign to end the U.S. Navy’s bombardment of Vieques, Puerto Rico, suffered a stroke last May that has left him paralyzed on his left side and blind in the right eye.

While his doctors have declared him incapable of employment, he cannot receive Social Security because he was in prison for the past five years and unemployed; Social Security requires you to be working for five years before the date you apply to receive it.

Ileana Morales, Pérez González’s wife, has been paying for all of his medical bills, medications, supporting their 9-year-old daughter and covering all the household expenses on her meager salary. Also, Pérez González has a son who lives in Connecticut for whom he was unable to pay child support during his imprisonment, and still now cannot.

Morales has written a letter to the organizations and individuals that supported her husband during this incarceration asking for economic support. This situation has been extremely stressful for the couple, and this stress has upset Pérez González’s recuperative process and his emotional state.

Donations should be sent directly to José Pérez González, Urb. Mirado Gardens, Calle Palmas Real 35, Mayagüez, PR 00682.

Update Files

RAFIL DHAFIR:

An early resident of the Bureau of Prison’s special Communications Management Unit (CMU) at the federal penitentiary in Terre Haute, Indiana, Dr. Dhafir has lost telephone and email privileges for one month. In February, he was told that an MRI of his left shoulder would be done, something first requested over 16 months ago and doctor-ordered three times. But instead of bringing the portable machine into the unit, Dhafir was told he would have to leave the unit, and before leaving the unit, security concerns dictated that he first be strip-searched. He politely declined to voluntarily submit to “this degrading, humiliating and unnecessary ‘indecent exposure’” since only his shoulder was to be examined, and other CMU prisoners have not been compelled to strip-search before getting an MRI. That night, he was charged with refusing an order, although none was ever given, and subsequently sentenced to the loss of privilege...

NORTHAMPTON FLAG-BURNER: Doug Wight pleaded guilty last September to a single lesser charge of malicious destruction of property in a case dating to December, 2007. The retired teacher originally faced multiple charges for a series of flag-burnings in western Massachusetts, intended as war protests. The final conflagration charred the tree where the stars and stripes were hung outside the home of a military family. After his arrest, Wight’s hand-delivered box with a note of apology and a new flag for the family earned him the added charge of witness intimidation. Wight was sentenced to two years probation and ordered to pay \$300 restitution...

IDAHO NUCLEAR PROJECT: Peter Rickards’ sentencing has been postponed until February 20, after the court agreed to consider his motion for dismissal of his battery conviction and a new trial on the charge of trespass. The founder of Idaho Families for the Safest Energy was arrested last summer while peacefully attending a “public information” meeting with nuclear power promoters. Rickards argued in a pro se filing that the only eyewitness testimony in his December trial did not support a battery conviction, and that the trespass charge was unconstitutional to begin with. The judge rejected the motion and then adjourned the case, promising to drop the charge in one year if Rickards does not repeat the alleged offense in that time. Rickards plans to appeal the ruling on his motion...

FYLINGDALES, ENGLAND: Sylvia Boyes was released from New Hall Prison on January 12, after serving less than one month of a three month sentence. Good behavior gets one out of a British prison after serving half of the sentence, and currently anyone serving more than a three-month sentence is granted an 18-day “early release license.” Boyes was convicted of criminal damage for cutting into the Fylingdales Ballistic Missile Early Warning Station last Hiroshima Day, August 6, with intent to hinder operations...

FUTURE ACTIONS

Y-12

The April Action for Peace and Disarmament at the Y-12 nuclear bomb plant steps off March 30 with the 11th annual peace pilgrimage led by Nipponzan Myohoji (this year from the Peace Pagoda in Cocke County, Tennessee), and puppet-making for the Concert for Disarmament and final two-mile March for Peace and rally at the Y-12 gate in Oak Ridge, on Saturday afternoon, April 4. Those prepared to risk arrest will engage in action that will be “family friendly, nonviolent, but direct.” For more information, contact Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, P.O.B. 5743 Oak Ridge, TN 37831, (865)776-5050 or orep@earthlink.net

nato summit

NATO will meet on April 3 and 4 for its 60th anniversary summit in Strasbourg, France, and Baden Baden, Germany. Groups from all over Europe are preparing protest actions from April 1-5, 2009, which will include protest camps and mass blockades of the NATO summit in Strasbourg on April 4, 2009. War Resisters’ International is part of the International Coordination Committee preparing for these activities. For more information, visit wri-irg.org/node/6133 or contact War Resisters’ International, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX, England, tel. +44-20-7278 4040.

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

MINNEAPOLIS RECRUITING OFFICE: In late January, a Minnesota jury acquitted seven people arrested for trespass last March at a National Guard recruiting office. Of 16 people arrested, seven pled not guilty and presented a “claim of right” defense as defined by state law. “I believed when I went to that building that I had every right to be there... I was obligated to express my opposition to an illegal and immoral war,” defendant Bill Drebenstedt told a reporter...

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION: The city of St. Paul paid \$5,000 to Mick Kelly in an out-of-court settlement over his unlawful arrest last June, as he passed out leaflets promoting the upcoming protests at the convention. Prosecution of those arrested during the convention proceeds nearly as well for the city. Only about 104 charges have been brought out of about 670 arrests, and at least 442 cases have been declined by the prosecutor or dismissed in court. The first case brought to trial against seven blockaders in January was dropped when the judge said no reasonable jury could convict on the evidence presented. Only about 50 cases have been resolved with a fine or guilty plea, and a police informant in the felony/terrorism RNC-Eight case was recently indicted on unrelated assault charges. In federal court, Bradley Crowder, one of two Texas men accused of making molotov cocktails to disrupt the convention, pled guilty in January. The other, David McKay, alleged entrapment by the government informant and was released from prison after his trial jury hung in early February. A new trial is set for March 16...

OMAHA SPACE WARFARE CONFERENCE: During an open court session January 5, Jerry Ebner turned himself in for nonpayment of a \$500 fine for “refusing to leave” a protest die-in last October. He was jailed for nine days in lieu of payment. Just before going to court, Ebner, a founding member of the Omaha Catholic Worker (OCW) community, wrote to supporters: “The judge is very aware of my decision of conscience to NOT pay any fine. I do not want anyone to send money to the OCW on my behalf to be used for paying this fine. All money to the OCW goes toward the running of the house and servicing the poor. No money received for the works of mercy will instead be used to pay my fine... I am very glad and proud to be a Catholic Worker and to be living among the poorest of the poor while being in jail. I will not be sad. DO not be sad for me in my absence. Dorothy Day often read the psalms in prison. I will as well. It is one of many places to consider the Beatitudes again, and again. For me this will be a time of prayer, reading and rest and sharing life together with others, as well as some of our brothers who I have met at our house and on the street as well...”

nevada test site

The 2009 Sacred Peace Walk from Las Vegas to the Nevada Test Site, April 6-13, includes a Passover Seder, a Lenten Desert Experience, a Sunrise Ceremony led by a Western Shoshone elder (our hosts on this land), a Full Moon celebration at the Goddess Temple in Cactus Springs and observation of Hindu, Buddhist and other holy days. The 63-mile journey begins in Las Vegas to meet and get oriented. Most nights are spent camping with help from a Las Vegas support team, but non-camping options are available too. Part-time walkers are welcome. Along the way, walkers will join a vigil at Creech Air Force Base in Indian Springs, headquarters for missile-laden Predator and Reaper pilotless drones, and on to the Nevada Test Site, the most bombed place on earth. The walk concludes on Easter Sunday. Some may choose to risk arrest on Monday. Suggested donation \$150 (sliding scale). Sponsors needed for low income walkers. Please apply by March 8! Contact Nevada Desert Experience, 702-646-4814, or info@NevadaDesertExperience.org

washington, dc

The Holy Week Faith and Resistance Retreat of the Atlantic Life Community will begin at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, at St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church, 16th and Newton Streets NW, Washington D.C., and conclude around noon Saturday, April 11, 2009. The theme of the retreat: “Put away the sword. Put away our nuclear weapons, our drones, our D.U., and all our weapons of war.” Participants will share meals and housekeeping responsibilities, while engaging in study, reflection, and planning for nonviolent direct actions incorporated into the retreat. To join the event, please call Jonah House at 410-233-6238 or Dorothy Day Catholic Worker at 202-882-9649.

blackwater/midwest catholic worker resistance retreat

Join midwest Catholic Workers for their annual resistance retreat and conference April 24-27, cosponsored with Clearwater Citizens’ Group to Stop Blackwater. Members of citizen activist groups from all over the U.S. will come together to share information and act together to address the issue of private military and security companies. People are welcome to come to all or any part of the retreat and conference. You do not need to be Catholic Worker to participate in the retreat and witness on Monday. The 4-day retreat including Saturday conference will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton, Illinois. Children welcome, floor space only is available at the UU Church, with bathrooms but no showers. Contact ASAP for other local accommodations or special hospitality. For more information and to (*please!*) pre-register, contact the Des Moines Catholic Worker, (515) 282-4781 or visit www.DesMoinesCatholicWorker.org

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Make checks payable to: **the Nuclear Resister** and send to P.O. Box 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733
We are unable to accept checks drawn on Canadian or other foreign banks. Payment must be made in US\$ by cash, money order, or check drawn on a U.S. bank. Contributions of \$50 or more are always welcome and may be tax-deductible if made payable to: The Progressive Foundation.

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Yes, the United States is still building nuclear weapons in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

And they are making plans to build a new 3 billion dollar bomb plant in Oak Ridge.

Yes, you can do something about it.

The raw political power of people mobilized for peace is critical at this moment.

Yes, this is the time for action.

Barack Obama has said he wants to get rid of nuclear weapons, but he won't be able to do it unless we demand it.

Yes, we need you!

It will take every single one of us. No exceptions and no excuses. This is the time to build the future we seek for our children.

The Future is Here

In 2010, the world will gather at the United Nations to review the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, ratified by the United States in 1968. In the NPT, countries that had no nuclear weapons promised not to build them, and nuclear weapons states promised to disarm "at an early date."

If the United States does not demonstrate a serious commitment to achieving disarmament by 2010, the NPT is expected to collapse, opening the door for the widespread proliferation of nuclear weapons. The critical moment is now to build citizen pressure for the United States to keep its word and to move decisively toward disarmament.

This Call to Nonviolent Action for Peace and Disarmament is courtesy of the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance. See Future Action details, page 7 inside.

"Anti-nuclear civil resistance is the right of every citizen of this planet. For the nuclear threat, attacking as it does every core concept of human rights, calls for urgent and universal action for its prevention."

- Judge Christopher Weeramantry
Former vice-president of the International Court of Justice (ICJ),

the Nuclear Resister

"A Chronicle of Hope"

Canada Deports More War Resisters

SOA Six Sentenced

British Arms Plant Decommissioned

Peltier Assaulted After Sudden Transfer

M.L. King Day Peace Actions



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