

the Nuclear Resister

"A Chronicle of Hope"

No. 154

July 17, 2009

ARRESTS AT ARMY'S NEW ARCADE

The Army Experience Center (AEC) at the Franklin Mills shopping mall is the first-of-its-kind recruiting tool, aimed at minor children. The Pentagon hopes to build more like this Northeast Philadelphia prototype, a \$13 million, 14,500 square foot facility that boasts dozens of video game computers and X-Box video game consoles with various interactive, military-style shooting games, real guns and rifles to handle, as well as full-size Apache helicopter and Humvee simulators that allow teens to kill virtual Arabs and Afghans.

Outraged denizens of the City of Brotherly Love formed a coalition of national and regional veteran, youth and peace groups which rallied on May 2 to shut down this unethical recruitment of teenagers.

The coalition made the point that it is not acceptable for alcohol, cigarette, pornography, gun manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies to market to thirteen-year-olds, so why should killing be marketed to kids?

Over 300 people gathered at a church, then marched one mile to the Franklin Mills Mall where dozens of police blocked them from entering the AEC. After nearly an hour of chants of "War is no game, shut down the Army Experience Center" and speeches, Bob Smith of the Brandywine Peace Community delivered a criminal complaint to a captain at the AEC and to a representative of the mall's owner.

The "Private Criminal Complaint" states in part: "The Army Experience Center is involved in 'Endangering the Welfare of a Child' and 'Criminal Solicitation of a Minor' and 'Corruption of Minors' – soliciting underage persons to act in a violent manner, and thereby supporting criminal and corrupt behavior..."

Despite two police warnings, hundreds of protesters continued to chant, while retired Army Col. Ann Wright



photo by Cheryl Biren-Wright/creative commons

Inside the Franklin Mills Mall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 2, 2009

spoke directly to the kids who had gathered to witness the protest. She told them not to "buy the recruiters' stories" of patriotic glory, that there was "nothing glorious" about war, and it definitely was "not a game."

Army recruiters had become noticeably agitated by the time police moved in and arrested seven people wearing death masks who stood silently in their refusal to leave.

Forced out of the mall, people continued to vigil and listen to songs by the Granny Peace Brigade outside.

Those arrested were held for six hours and released on a misdemeanor charge. They pled not guilty and will face trial November 1.

For more information, visit shutdowntheaec.net or contact Peace Action Montgomery County at 202-210-3467.

Demanding Justice at the Justice Department

June 25 is Torture Accountability Action Day, and in Washington, D.C. a coalition of groups gathered in support of torture survivors. Two hundred people marched on the Department of Justice, calling for the prosecution of some of Bush's bureaucrats and cronies for war crimes. In May, the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance (NCNR) mailed a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder, asking that he meet them to discuss appointing a special prosecutor to investigate the crimes of the Bush administration. Having received no answer, they made their request in person.

Joy First of NCNR tells their story:

When we arrived at the Department of Justice we were stopped at the door by the guards and they told us someone would be out to talk to us. The same low-level public relations official that we talked to when we went to the DoJ last November came to speak to us. All he would say is that he would take our letter. We told him that we were there in November. In November he told us he would take the letter and someone would get back to us, but we never heard from anyone. When it became clear that we were not going to be heard, about 15 individuals were moved by conscience to engage in an act of nonviolent civil resistance and lay down on the sidewalk, covered with a poster depicting a victim of war or torture. The pictures were very graphic and moving. They clearly showed the crimes of the past administration. We lay there for an hour and were not arrested. After an hour we got up to continue our work for peace and justice.

On Saturday, June 27, the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition hosted their 12th annual 24-hour vigil in Lafayette Park, the capstone of TASSC's Torture Survivors Week.

First continues her report:

In the program for the TASSC vigil I read, "Thou shalt not be a victim. Though shalt not be a perpetrator. Above all, thou shalt not be a bystander..."

A group of a couple hundred people left Lafayette Park in a procession towards the White House.

A small group who would risk arrest went onto the sidewalk in front of the White House and turned towards the crowd holding a sign reading "Stop Torture Now." We were standing in the "picture postcard area". According to U.S. Park Police regulations, protesters cannot stand with a sign in this area in front of the White House. The area is reserved for tourists to take pictures of the White House. It is ludicrous that regulations would suggest that tourists taking pictures is more important than speaking out about so many important social justice issues in a place where we are most visible to the President of the United States. It is also ludicrous because the First Amendment states that Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or the right of the people peacefully to assemble to petition our Government for a redress of grievances. We will not, and we should not, complacently stand on the side in a so-called "free speech zone". The whole country must be a place of free speech, especially in front of the White House.

At about 1:00 p.m. the police cordoned off the area with crime scene tape and began to issue the warning that we would be arrested if we did not leave the area. Malachy Kilbride, Eve Tetaz, David Barrows, Harold Nelson, and I knew that we would not leave. We knew that we had to stand there in support of the torture survivors presenting this message to President Obama even if it meant we would be arrested. We all believed in our heart that we had every right to be there. After three warnings, the police handcuffed the five of us and took us away in a police van.

Nelson and Barrow paid \$100 bond and were released. Tetaz had cases pending, Kilbride refused to pay the \$100, and First was from out-of-state so the three were taken to central lock-up to be held for arraignment on Monday.

The trio was not arraigned until 6 p.m. Judge McCarthy refused to accept a last-minute plea agreement the prosecutor and Tetaz' attorney had arranged, so not guilty pleas were entered for all three.

For more information, contact Joy First at jsfirst@tds.net

Afghanistan-Bound Battle Gear Blocked At Port

Equipment for the 5th Stryker Combat Brigade based at Fort Lewis, Washington, began moving from the U.S. Army base to the Port of Tacoma on Friday, May 1. It is the first time a Stryker combat unit has been deployed to Afghanistan. Olympia-based Port Militarization Resistance (PMR) staged human blockades of the equipment as it entered and exited the I-5 corridor. In total, fourteen individuals were arrested while stopping the shipment through strategic and creative nonviolent direct actions on Saturday and Sunday evenings, May 2 and 3.

The activists were following through on a public pledge last March by Olympia PMR in response to the Obama administration escalating the Afghanistan war:

"As long as U.S. military attacks continue against the people of Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, we will continue to block military equipment from moving through our public port. Olympia Port Militarization Resistance calls for people everywhere to find ways that their own communities participate in these wars, and join together to creatively resist that participation."

In anticipation of the blockades, police sealed off the Port of Tacoma dock where the ship was loading. The resisters instead moved 15 miles down the highway to the gate of Ft. Lewis, where some blocked the road and stopped a Stryker convoy as it departed. Later, another convoy was forced to a halt as it left I-5 at exit 133. Eleven people were arrested as police forcibly cleared the roadways. They were charged with disorderly conduct and reckless endangerment, and all were released by the following afternoon.

The next evening, police were already on the scene at exit 137 when three people piled out of a van and quickly blocked the lane, their arms locked together inside concrete tubes. They were dragged to the side of the road where they remained until police could separate them a couple of hours later and arrest them. Another activist received a traffic citation while delivering a media representative to the scene.

The following Friday, about 50 people protesting the war in Afghanistan marched to a staging area on the east side of the Port of Tacoma where war-bound equipment was being held for loading. Homeland Security agents videotaped the marchers, who were outnumbered by police vehicles. Near the end, Tacoma police rushed into the march and without warning seized a makeshift public

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Drone Protests Continue in Nevada

As opposition to U.S. drone attacks mounts in Pakistan and Afghanistan, Code Pink recently joined with Nevada Desert Experience (NDE) to act in solidarity with the innocent victims. About two dozen people from both groups vigiled all day July 13 at the gate of Creech Air Force Base in Indian Springs, Nevada, where controllers with joysticks direct these pilotless aircraft and fire their weapons from half a world away. Some of the demonstrators walked into the road or blocked the gate, but Jim Haber of NDE writes that police, "went out of their way not to arrest anyone, moving people out of the blocked roadway swiftly, repeatedly, and sometimes very roughly. In the end, with people sitting in the entrance way to the south (commercial) gate to Creech, Fr. Louis Vitale and Lisa Marcus from Codepink got citations. They have a September 30 court appearance."

The fourteen people arrested during a Ground the Drones protest at the base last April had their charges dismissed by Clark County prosecutors just prior to their arraignment in Las Vegas in June.

See Future Actions, page 7, for NDE contact information and details about this summer's August Desert Witness at the Nevada Test Site and in Las Vegas, including the next vigil at Creech on August 7.

Port Blockade, continued

continued from page 1

address system (shopping cart, iPod, battery and speaker). Afterwards, legal observers were followed by police and their license plate numbers recorded when they stopped at a nearby restaurant. That evening, police detained Wally Cuddeford for 45 minutes in his car after he dropped off riders at a downtown Tacoma vigil against the Afghan war.

Olympia PMR activists link the harassment to closer ties between local police agencies and the military. Money flows from the Pentagon into local budgets to cover the cost of policing those who protest the use of public ports for waging wars of aggression. More policing, more money. According to a recently leaked March, 2009 manual on military police intelligence operations, the Army has also formalized ties with local police intelligence operatives in "fusion cells," where information is readily shared to circumvent legal "constraints that are

emplaced [sic] on MI [Military Intelligence] activities in the U.S." The manual even offers a "Vignette," describing the coordinated military and local police response to Olympia PMR actions as a good example of these fusion cell operations. (see tinyurl.com/army-vs-PMR)

Updating previous PMR actions, civil suits have and will be filed by activists in the campaign who were victim of unnecessary force or had their First Amendment and due process rights violated. The Oly 26, who were arrested at a women's solidarity action in Olympia on November 13, 2007, are still in pretrial process, with several motions to dismiss pending.

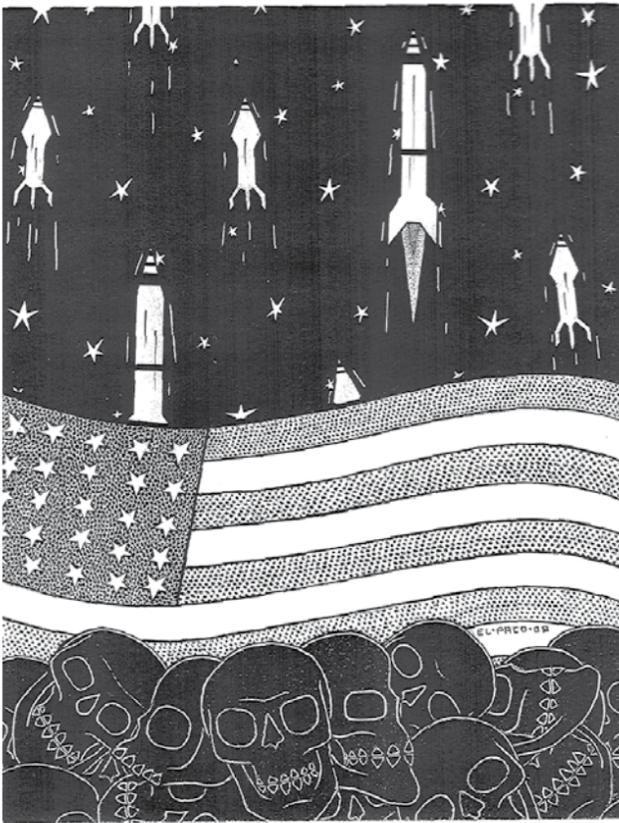
Two other women, Patty Imani and Brianna Herrera, face trial in Pierce County Court August 10 for taking part in blockades near the Fort Lewis gate in August, 2008.

For more information, visit olypmr.org or contact Patty Imani, pattyimani@hotmail.com or 360-866-6983.

SENATE SEES BLOOD MONEY

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing of May 21 on Afghanistan and Pakistan was interrupted when Eve Tetez, Ellen Barfield and Stephen Mihalich stood to implore the Senators to stop pouring blood money into warfare. To emphasize the point, U.S. currency stained with the blood of Barfield and Tetez was scattered in front of the generals and senators in attendance. The three were removed from the room on the order of hearing chairman John Kerry. Moments later, Pete Perry rose from his chair to repeat the question Kerry infamously asked when he testified before the Senate as a young Vietnam veteran: "How do you ask someone to be the last American soldier to die for a mistake?" Perry was also escorted from the room, and all four were applauded by others in attendance as they departed.

The four are charged with unlawful conduct and disruption of Congress, and have an appearance in court July 13. Police reportedly photographed for evidence each and every stained greenback where it fell on the hearing room carpet.



Graphic by El Paco © 2009
Segregation safety pen on reverse of salvaged government document cover page; Lawrence Correctional Center Seg. Unit, Sumner, Illinois.

MILITARY REFUSERS, CONT.

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Washington, since his term of service ended in December, 2006.

AWOL soldier **André Shepherd** writes from Germany that his application for asylum, based on arguments about the legality of the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq, may be under review for several more months. Military refusers in Germany should contact the Military Counseling Network, mc-network.de, for advice and support.

Kimberly Rivera, the first female American soldier to refuse to serve after being deployed to Iraq, made her final appeal to the federal court in Canada on July 9, arguing that she be allowed to remain with her husband and three children. "I can only do what the judge says I can do," Rivera told the press after court. "But I shouldn't have to destroy my family for deciding not to destroy somebody else's family." If deported, her attorney argued that Rivera would likely be court martialed and face a prison term because of her public opposition to the Iraq war. A decision from the Canadian court could be months away.

Army Specialist **Kristoffer Walker**, who in February publicized his own refusal to return for a second tour of duty in the "immoral and illegal" war in Iraq (kristofferwalker.com), was talked out of his refusal by his company commander. The Associated Press reported from Green Bay, Wisconsin on March 17 that Walker had rejoined his unit overseas. The report went on to say that Walker was still against the war and did not trust military leaders, but he had learned that the Army has the power to "ruin his life."

For more information and updates on prosecution of public military refusers, contact Courage to Resist (CtR), 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, Canada; 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 re-

garding discharge and other issues, should contact the GI Rights Hotline at 877-447-4487, www.girightshotline.org (information in English and Spanish) or girights@girightshotline.org; or Citizen Soldier, 267 Fifth Ave. #901, New York, NY 10016, 212-679-2250, www.citizen-soldier.org.

(Thanks to Courage to Resist for much of the foundation of this report.)



Courage to Resist (CtR) has produced thousands of GI outreach info cards and stickers that offer basic information about GI legal rights and seeking support, highlighting contact information for CtR, Iraq Veterans Against the War, the GI Rights Hotline and other organizations. Help get these into the hands of military personnel. Courage to Resist is offering a "GI Outreach Pack" of 100 info cards (tri-folding 3.5"x6") and 10 stickers (yellow vinyl, 3" sq.) for a \$10 donation. Inquire about pricing for larger quantities. Also at CourageToResist.org you can download a new leaflet for passing out to GIs, "Questioning the war? You are not alone."

CtR also wants to decentralize fundraising support for the war resisters and their legal defense, and is encouraging local house parties towards this end. House parties can be as simple as a donation jar at the door and shout out later in the evening, or can be more elaborate — including a possible phone call from one of the resisters. Contact CtR (details above), for suggestions, resources and details for getting the money raised to the resisters in need.

Letters of support can be sent to Dustin Stevens, 82nd Replacement Detachment Bldg., C-8750 Lae Street Stop-A, Fort Bragg, NC 28310;

Cliff Cornell, Bldg. 1041, PSC Box #20140, Camp Lejeune, NC 28542; and

Anthony Michael Anderson, P.O. Box 305, Fort Sill, OK 73503-5305.

Join us!

Knoxville, July 4th weekend, 2010

Plans are progressing for Resistance for a Nuclear-Free Future, a national gathering to take place July 3-5, 2010 in Knoxville, Tennessee. At a critical time in the movement for a nuclear-free future, and to mark 30 years of *the Nuclear Resister* and Nukewatch, we aim to increase awareness and action around nuclear issues, and advance the role of nonviolent direct action and civil resistance in this movement.

We'll be coming together just before mid-term elections, when energy policy and the role of nuclear reactors will be issues nationwide. We'll be meeting soon after the 2010 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty review conference, when elite pledges to disarm, whatever they may be, will need vigorous popular support, including committed nonviolent direct action, if nuclear disarmament is to be realized.

The weekend will include time for networking, a celebration, workshops, music, nonviolence training, action planning and nonviolent resistance at the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex. We have already heard from some of you who are planning to come! Later this summer there will be electronic and paper flyers available for distribution, plus registration and update information at www.nukewatch.com.

Mark your calendars - we hope to see you there!

We need your help

We have submitted a grant, and are working on another, to help cover the expenses of this national gathering. Even if we receive foundation support, we know we will also need contributions from individuals. If you would like to make a donation specifically to help this national gathering happen, checks or money orders can be made payable to the Nuclear Resister (with notation for "30th Anniversary") and donations of \$50 or more can be tax-deductible if made payable to the Progressive Foundation. Mail to *the Nuclear Resister* at the address below.

Also, if you know of any family, religious or other foundations, war tax resistance alternative funds, etc. that might not shy away from funding something that involves nonviolence anti-nuclear civil resistance, please let us know.

Felice & Jack Cohen-Joppa, editors

Thanks

Thanks to Gerri, Sylvia, Charlotte, John, Roger, Lil, Cindy, Jerry, Kathleen, Bill and Rosemary for helping to mail the last issue!

the Nuclear Resister

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YOU CAN HELP!

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS and BULK ORDERS

One-year subscriptions are US\$25 in the United States, US\$30 to Canada, and US\$35 overseas. Payment can only be accepted in US currency or checks drawn on US institutions. All subscriptions are sent via First Class or Airmail.

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

THE NUCLEAR RESISTER ON MICROFILM

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

ABOUT THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

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

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

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

Jack and Felice Cohen-Joppa, Editors

Mother's Day for Peace

Moms at Bangor Say: Use Words, Not Weapons

Five of the Seattle Raging Grannies, accompanied by a young honorary Grannie, entered the crosswalk at Trigger Avenue and Old Frontier Road, where they stopped to block the entrance to Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, Washington on Saturday, May 9. With the support of walkers and canes, they carried signs calling for an end to nuclear weapons. The naval base is home to more than half of the United States' Trident submarines, a nuclear ballistic missile launching fleet. If Kitsap County were a country, recalled one of the Grannies, it would possess the world's third largest nuclear arsenal.

Kitsap County Sheriff's officers were patient and courteous as they arrested Shirley Morrison, 86, Joy Goldstein, 73, Susan Kay, 63, Laurie Rostholder, 64, Anne Hall, 63, and Jessica Artega, 23.

The grannies explained, "Arrests at Ground Zero actions have been happening very quickly, so we decided to use ambulatory aids to slow things down. While some of the Grannies needed those ambulatory aids, we all chose to use them to give us more time crossing and blocking the road. This turned out to be a really interesting action: half street theater to abolish nukes and half a nonverbal request for healthcare."

Another group subsequently entered the roadway closer to the base entrance holding a banner reading, "Abolish Nuclear Weapons". Honorary Grannies Rosy Betz-Zall, 58, and Jackie Hudson, 74, were arrested along with Larry Kerschner, 62, and Denny Moore, 64. All ten were charged with "attempted disorderly conduct" and released.

The event was part of Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action's (GZ) Mother's Day vigil and action honoring the intent of Julia Ward Howe's 1870 Mother's Day Proclamation, a passionate call for disarmament and peace. About 50 supporters lined Trigger Avenue holding a variety of disarmament signs. Another group held a banner

from the nearby Clear Creek Road overpass, where most traffic approaches the base on Trigger Avenue. It read: "Mom says, Use words, not weapons. Abolish Trident."

For more information, contact the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Road NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370, info@gzcenter.org, www.gzcenter.org.

Ground Zero's next scheduled civil resistance action will be August 8 - see Future Actions, page 7.

CodePink Spells it Out in D.C.

On May 9, the Saturday before Mother's Day, CODEPINK hosted a 24-hour vigil for peace in Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House home of the First Mom. Among other activities, more than one hundred moms and kids stitched together some 6000 knitted squares sent to D.C. from knitters in 11 countries all around the world. Hundreds of shades of green and pink squares created a 4' x 150' banner spelling out Julia Ward Howe's original Mothers Day declaration: WE WILL NOT RAISE OUR CHILDREN TO KILL ANOTHER MOTHER'S CHILD.

On Sunday afternoon, the banner was rolled up and taken over to the National Mall, where public display of tanks and helicopters and big guns was underway. The women were mostly prevented from entering the fenced off display area, so the magnificent banner was displayed just outside for all to see. *The Washington Post* reported that a Florida woman was arrested for shoving a detective as park police tried to persuade CODEPINK to leave.

On the Road to No War

"On the Road to No War: A Walk for Disarmament from Camp Peary to Naval Station Norfolk" took place from June 22 thru June 26. The Norfolk Catholic Worker and Hampton Roads area peace groups organized a walk of over 50 miles to bring a message of disarmament to 13 Hampton Roads area military installations.

Upon arriving at Naval Station Norfolk on the final day, two men tried to bring that message inside with a large banner calling for conversion of spending from military to human needs. They were arrested for trespassing.

For more information, visit jonahouse.org

Christian Peace Witness 2009

More than five hundred people took part in the Christian Peace Witness for Iraq in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday evening, April 29. The annual event is organized by an ad hoc coalition of 20 Christian peace groups from around the country.

Following prayers for peace and repentance at the National City Christian Church, they processed to the White House in a cool, soft rain. In Lafayette Park, they broke bread. Later, people approached the White House gate with a basket of bread to share. The offer was rejected but twenty people remained after being told to disperse. The twenty were arrested.

Peltier Parole Hearing July 28

After serving 33 years in prison and surviving a brutal assault immediately after a punitive prison transfer last winter, American Indian political prisoner Leonard Peltier will appear before the U.S. Parole Commission on July 28, seeking release from the two life sentences he is now serving. It is his first full hearing since 1993, when his case was continued for a 15-year reconsideration. For updates on the outcome of the hearing, visit whoisleonardpeltier.info

Peltier's support campaign is asking supporters to please ask the warden at Lewisburg Prison to permit an oncologist to check Leonard Peltier for blood recently showing in his urine. Peltier has had prostate problems and is supposed to be checked quarterly for cancer but he has only been seen by the specialist once per year. Public outcry last year helped Peltier secure proper supplies for treatment of diabetes. Contact Warden Bledsoe at 570-523-1251 or fax a respectful letter of concern and protest to 570-522-7745.

Leonard Peltier is doing time for the June 26, 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 has long asserted his innocence, while the government lied to gain his extradition from Canada for trial, withheld exculpatory evidence from his defense, and during his appeal changed their theory of the crime and admitted they do not know who fired the fatal shots.

I am but a common man, I am not a speaker but I have spoken. I am not all that tall but I have stood up. I am not a philosopher or poet or a singer or any of those things that particularly inspire people but the one thing that I am is the evidence that this country lied when they said there was justice for all.

Leonard Peltier, June 26, 2009



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

Later, at central booking, eleven took the opportunity to post and forfeit \$100 bond, and were released. Nine refused and were jailed overnight and arraigned Thursday alongside some of the 63 torture opponents arrested that day in front of the White House. Six opted for community service and spent the next day sweeping the streets of the Capitol. For more information, visit christianpeace-witness.org

Inside & Out

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

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)

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)



ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS

Elijah James Smith VP7551
HMP Lewes, 1 Brighton Rd, Lewes, BN7 1EA England.
(Jailed pending trial for decommissioning of EDO/ITT arms factory in Brighton, England, 1/17/09)

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)

PUBLIC MILITARY REFUSERS

Dustin Stevens

82nd Replacement Detachment Bldg., C-8750 Lae Street Stop-A, Fort Bragg NC 28310.

(Confined to base pending court martial for AWOL/desertion)

Cliff Cornell (1 year - out 4/10)

Bldg. 1041, PSC Box #20140, Camp Lejuene NC 28542.

(Pled guilty to desertion, 4/09)

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)

PREVIOUSLY LISTED, RECENTLY RELEASED

Annika Spalde (out 7/22), Pelle Strindlund, Robert Alford, Robin Long, Martin Smedjeback, Luis Barrios, Theresa M. Cusimano, Kristin Holm, Diane T. Pinchot, Albert L. Simmons, Lindis Percy, Daniele Casalini (nuclear-related charges dismissed, but he remains on remand for another alleged crime.)

AWOL ROUNDUPS, RESISTERS IN THE RANKS AND REFUGEES IN CANADA

As the U.S. occupation of Afghanistan escalates into its eighth year, it has now become Obama's war. Desperate for fresh feet to fill more "boots on the ground", the army is going after AWOL soldiers. Many of the truant soldiers are offered a deal to ship out for combat in return for their AWOL and other charges being dropped.

Dustin Stevens is one of the AWOL soldiers recently brought in and assigned to the Replacement Detachment of the 82nd Airborne Division at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. Encouraged by attorney James Branum, Stevens took the rare step of going public when he contacted Courage to Resist. In an interview with the Courage to Resist Audio Project in May, Stevens described the grim barracks where 50 or more men in the unit live while confined to base, four to a small room. Most are probably not war resisters, and many in the unit need medical and/or psychiatric care, not front lines or prison, to address their problems with the military.

Stevens left the army seven years ago because he did not want to fight in a war. He'd signed up in 2002 to escape a broken home but quickly experienced panic and anxiety attacks as he realized he did not have the heart or mind for killing. He sat down on the field rather than participate in his graduation from airborne training at Ft. Bragg. The command told him to just go home, and his discharge papers would follow.

Session Closing: (The leader summarizes the key points of the session and checks if the subordinate understands the plan of action. The subordinate acknowledges and remains compliant if appropriate.)

Individual counseled: I agree disagree with the information above.

Individual counseled remarks:
 There is no way I will deploy to Afghanistan. The occupation is immoral and unjust. It does not make the American people any safer. It has the opposite effect.

Signature of Individual Counseled: *[Signature]* Date: 1 MAY 09

Victor Agosto succinctly stated his position on this military counseling form.

They never did, and Stevens paid no mind. He found jobs, even had a background check with FedEx, got a car, had an apartment, paid taxes. During a routine traffic stop last January, Stevens was told there was a warrant out for his arrest, and without warning he was taken into military custody.

He expects to be court martialled for desertion, but no date has been set. Stevens and military law experts say many who are assigned to this "holdover unit" are in similar legal limbo for months, awaiting prosecution or discharge.

Daniel Marble is another soldier tracked down by the 82nd Airborne Division. At home on leave after paratrooper training three summers ago, Marble realized that, "We never had time to think during training. But once I got home and actually thought about things, I knew I couldn't kill anyone. And that's what all the training was really about, killing. It just isn't me."

Marble never reported for duty at Fort Bragg. He got a job and didn't look back. Then last winter, the 82nd caught up with him. Marble refused the offer of deployment in lieu of court martial.

At his court martial on May 26, Marble pled guilty to one charge of desertion. Quaker House founder and GI counselor Chuck Fager, who befriended the soldier when he finally got to Fayetteville to face the music, testified on Marble's behalf, along with a sergeant from his unit and his mother. Prosecutors asked for a bad conduct discharge and eight months in jail. The judge ordered the bad conduct discharge but sentenced Marble to 63 days in jail, with credit for the time he had been back at the Fort. Marble walked out with a record and a clean conscience.

GI resistance during the Vietnam War was nurtured in coffee houses that opened their doors to soldiers and marines, sailors and flyers in the neighborhoods of major military bases. Today, wi-fi, DVDs and video games come with the coffee at a new generation of these incubators for insubordinate warriors. The Different Drummer outside of Fort Drum in New York, Coffee Strong near Ft. Lewis in Washington, and Off Base in Norfolk, Virginia are among them.

Iraq veteran **Victor Agosto** is stationed at Fort Hood, and is a regular at Under the Hood Café in Killeen, Texas. His army contract was up at the end of June, but due to the Stop Loss policy, he was told his next assignment would be to Afghanistan. At the end of April, with a foundation of support at the Café, Agosto went public with his intention to refuse orders to Afghanistan.

After he told his commanders, he was issued a puni-

tive counseling statement. In answer to one question on the official form, he wrote, "The occupation is immoral and unjust. It does not make the American people any safer. It has the opposite effect." Later, after he refused a direct order to prepare for deployment, Agosto wrote on a second counseling form that "I will not obey any orders I deem to be immoral or illegal."

Rather than go AWOL, Agosto chose to remain at Ft. Hood as a visible symbol of GI resistance. He's just refusing all orders that directly support the war.

"My superiors pretty much want me to go AWOL," he told the Socialist Worker. "Going AWOL allows them to demonize the absent soldier. If you go AWOL, you lose the ability to defend your resistance. Nobody really knows for sure why you left, so they can just tell everyone you're a coward."

This public approach bore fruit when some of Victor Agosto's supporters approached Sgt. **Travis Bishop**.

Travis Bishop had been keeping busy, readying for his own unit's deployment to Afghanistan in May. It helped him avoid the nagging presence that first entered his mind when he got a hero's welcome home from his 14-month tour in Iraq.

He hadn't seen much real combat, hadn't lost friends.

"Mine was, in my opinion, an average deployment. Go

overseas, play X-Box and read for a year, come back with money that's gone before you remember how you spent it," he wrote in his blog on May 21.

"My hand was shook, my back was patted, and every night my belly was burning, full of free alcohol. I was a veteran of a foreign war, hailed as a hero, and yet I felt... unnerved; anxious. I felt as if I had a big secret inside me that threatened to burst out of me at any moment, exposing what I really was to the rest of the world... but I couldn't figure out what the secret was. Not for a long, long time."

His disquiet formed into questions:

"Why are we going? What purpose does it serve? Nothing sat right. I began to read the Bible again. More and more I saw things like 'turn the other cheek' and 'love thy enemy.' These were things that went directly against the war we were in, and they were spoken by Jesus himself. Could I really deploy again, and compromise my beliefs, just because I was told to? Would I be able to live with that? What if I had to take a life, and knew that if I hadn't deployed, I would never have been put in that situation?"

Nevertheless, "in good soldier mode," he was getting ready to go to war. But then Bishop learned about Victor Agosto and the organized support for GIs who would resist. "All those old feelings and worries came back with a vengeance, and I began to question the war again."

His blog post continues, "So the afternoon I was set to deploy, while everyone else was loading their gear in the van headed toward the airfield, I loaded my gear in my car, and left. It was the hardest decision I have ever made... I am a Patriot. I love my country, but I believe that this particular war is unjust, unconstitutional and a total abuse of our nation's power and influence."

Bishop returned to Ft. Hood on May 27 with his attorney, James Branum.

Travis Bishop's court-martial is scheduled for August 14, 9:00 a.m. at Ft. Hood. Supporters are encouraged to attend. Victor Agosto is tentatively set for a August 12 court martial.

When he was 17, **Steve Yoczk** enlisted with the Coast Guard Reserve. Three years later, in 2005, he joined the army in search of more education and better pay.

Yoczk wrote for Courage to Resist, "I soon realized my serious mistake when I arrived at the Warrior Transition Course (WTC) at Fort Knox, a prior-service training course. I spoke to one person who had tried to get into the Navy SEALs, and was now trying to become a

Ranger. I asked him why, and his response was "I just want to kill Hadjis, man!", with excitement in his voice." Similar encounters with other veterans made him consider applying for conscientious objector status, but he learned that the process is rigged and he did not want to draw attention to himself.

Yoczk tried other methods to provoke his discharge: gaining weight, flunking physicals, walking off duty, missing formations. Nothing worked, and he grew depressed. When he learned that a friend had gone to Canada, he got in touch with him and members of the War Resisters Support Campaign in Toronto.

"I felt this was my last possible chance to avoid a seriously life changing event, and went to Canada in November of 2006. I lived there until April of 2009, and turned myself in."

While in Canada, Yoczk read a recent article by attorney James Branum (gightslawyer.com) outlining the categories of AWOL and relative prospects for discharge. He contacted Branum, who accompanied Yoczk back from Canada. The ex-soldier was held several hours in the Erie County (NY) Jail until MPs escorted him to Fort Drum, then back to Fort Knox where he was discharged a week later. Yoczk fell under the criteria for a quick discharge, since he went AWOL before officially graduating from AIT Class.

G.I. RESISTER UPDATES

Cliff Cornell has been moved to the military prison at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina to serve his one year sentence for desertion. Supporters are invited to visit, as they do NOT have to be on a special list: just show up with ID and sign in. Visiting hours at Lejeune are on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, noon to 3 PM. To avoid scheduling conflicts and for more information, potential visitors should contact Chuck Fager at Quaker House, a haven for military refusers a few hours down the road in Fayetteville. E-mail chuckfager@aol.com, or phone 910-323-3912.

Tony Anderson is reported to be well and very appreciative of letters he receives at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Robin Long was released from the navy brig in San Diego on July 9, after completing a 15 month sentence for desertion. Long was deported from Canada in 2008 after Canadian authorities denied refuge to the war resister.

Lt. **Ehren Watada**, the first commissioned army officer to refuse orders to Iraq because the war and occupation there are illegal, will not face a second court martial for his act of conscience.

Watada's first court martial ended in a mistrial in February, 2007.

When the Army prepared for a second court martial, Watada's attorneys appealed and a federal court agreed that any new trial would be unconstitutional double jeopardy.

The Bush administration announced it would appeal the decision, but delayed filing for over a year.

Late last April, supporters learned that the new Solicitor General would decide whether to continue the appeal. They kicked-off an internet Ad Hoc Campaign to Free Ehren Watada, which led hundreds to call or write the Justice Department. Days later, the government backed down and withdrew, letting the federal court decision stand.

Still, Watada's future remains uncertain, because the appeal did not effect two other charges of conduct unbecoming an officer. These were added on after the more serious offenses, and were based on public statements Watada made about the "deception" of the Bush administration, which had "planned to invade Iraq."

Now, the Army must either initiate a court martial or drop the charges and let the Lieutenant get on with his life. Pending the outcome of his prosecution, Watada has been retained in the army at a desk job in Fort Lewis,

continued on page 2

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

EDO Resistance Continues

Several hundred people attending a Mayday party at the Palace Pier in Brighton, England, paraded from there through the city center and on to the gate of EDO MBM/ITT. The demonstration May 4 was a larger-than-usual edition of the noisy weekly demos that have demanded the arms merchant shut down and get out of town since the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

On this day, a small number of demonstrators clashed with police along the way and three were arrested and jailed overnight on various charges.

Police condemned demonstrators who pelted them with rocks, the latest salvo in long-running conflict between Sussex police and demonstrators. One month later, a peace protester was found not guilty of assault on grounds that he acted in self defense when he admitted punching a police officer at the Smash EDO Carnival Against the Arms Trade on June 4, 2008. The court found police had used unlawful and excessive force by beating Chris Bluemel with batons at the protest.

On June 29, demonstrators chained themselves to crowd barriers outside the gates of EDO MBM/ITT, preventing access to the factory. EDO director Paul Hills was forced to cut a hole in the fence around the factory to allow cars in.

The demonstration was timed to coincide with the end of the No Borders Camp in Calais, held to protest the increasingly repressive immigration policy of France and the U.K., and the building of a U.K. detention center on

Korea? Faslane!

A woman was arrested at the Faslane submarine base north of Glasgow May 28, as she tried to speak with workers at the home of Britain's nuclear arsenal. Janet Fenton and Eoin McCarthy, offended by "supreme hypocrisy" of the British Prime Minister and U.S. President condemning North Korea's recent nuclear tests, had been picketing with signs quoting Brown and Obama: "Recklessly challenging the international community," and "A danger to the world" and their retort: "Korea? Faslane!"

Fenton stood in the road so that workers could see her sign, but then police moved her to the sidewalk and took away the sign. When she began approaching workers waiting in their cars to speak with them, she was arrested.

After being cited and released, Fenton spoke about North Korea's nuclear weapons. "A deterrent terrifies: that is its purpose. We are utterly saddened by the development of more of these weapons, albeit on a much smaller scale than anything in the arsenals of the U.S. or the U.K., but not surprised. It is a response which peace activists have predicted for years."

For more information, visit tridentploughshares.org

Aldermaston Blockaded

by Angie Zelter

It was a glorious morning June 15 as five separate groups made their way towards Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment. At 6:30 a.m., the Muriel Lester affinity group arrived at North Gate to find it had not been opened yet for the park and ride coaches so they further locked it with their own chains and some super-glue, and arranged themselves as comfortably as possible in their lock-ons and hung their peace banners. There were five of them locked on, including one in a wheel chair plus a lone supporter.

At 7 a.m., women from the Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp pushed their heavy lock-ons into place at Home Office Gate, and three women locked on, slowing traffic down whilst the East Anglian group drove two cars into Tadley Gate, completely blocking it. The two cars had been carefully provided with lock-on tubes fixed to the back-seat floors so that when the cars were positioned the supporters in the front could get out fast and the two in the back seat just opened their doors and then sat in the road and put their arms in the tube. Thus two people locked-on to each car. The rest of the supporting group spray-painted CND [peace] signs on the cars and hung banners saying "Nuclear Weapons are State Terrorism".

Meanwhile, two intrepid cyclists managed to padlock shut both sets of gates at the Main Gate and then rush off without getting arrested in order to support the other groups.

At 7:30 a.m., two combined Trident Ploughshares affinity groups calling themselves the "Birthday Group" (it was Alison's 60th birthday) maneuvered a caravan [small mobile vacation home] into the Boilerhouse Gate, stopping the line of traffic that had been directed around

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French soil. Nine people were arrested. Five of them were simply bystanders who had come to support the action.

Prisoner Update

Robert Alford, one of two men jailed since the January 17 decommissioning action inside the EDO factory, was granted bail on May 8. He is out on strict conditions with electronic monitoring in London.

Elijah Smith remains in prison. In April, he was convicted on charges resulting from an action last year at a Raytheon office nearby. He was sentenced to ten weeks in prison, for which he served the next five weeks of his incarceration before returning to remand status. A jail is a jail is a jail, but nevertheless Smith appealed the sentence and it was reduced to the equivalent of one week. On June 29, Smith and two other decommissioners were brought to court on new charges of criminal damage to the roof of the Raytheon offices at a business park in Frenchay, which they occupied for several weeks last winter in an anti-war protest. Smith was denied bail at a July 2 hearing.

Trial for the six EDO decommissioners and two supporters is now set for October 26.

For updates, visit decommissioners.wordpress.com and www.smashedo.org.uk



Letters of support should be sent to Elijah James Smith VP7551, HMP Bristol, 19 Cambridge Rd., Horfield, Bristol BS7 8PS, England.



Die-in for Afghan Victims

On the second anniversary of a U.S./NATO aerial bombing in Afghanistan that killed 47 people in a wedding party, London activists reenacted the crime. But they re-set the scene for a London audience, and the road in front of British military headquarters at Northwood became their stage.

In their finest dress, with white lace and veils, and some top hats and tails, a few dozen friends of Voices in the Wilderness U.K., Justice Not Vengeance, and the London and Oxford Catholic Workers rallied at the Northwood tube station on May 27. Their wedding party took to the street, chanting and leafletting, with many carrying signs bearing the names and images of the real bombing victims. Near the headquarters gate, the celebration ceased and abruptly transformed into a die-in. Fifteen bodies lay scattered across the road, stained with fake blood in a memorial die-in for NATO's victims in Afghanistan. After about half an hour of warnings, police carried the "dead" to the sidewalk. Six resurrected themselves and returned to the road, and were then arrested by police for failure to comply.

Italians Acquitted of Nuclear Power-related Sabotage

Daniele Casalini writes, "In the trial for 9/05 sabotage of electricity pylon against new plans of the state to carry power in Italy and other crimes, me and all my co-defendants have been acquitted! Now we (me and Francisco Goia) are waiting for the trial on (1st October 2009) where we are accused of a ... robbery to finance a subversive association. While we are waiting to come out and return to struggle against all cages, for freedom of every living beings, for anarchy, we hope to still receive the paper! [editors' note: *They will.*]

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from *Vikbolandet, Sweden*

Strategy Behind Swedish Disarmament

The network Ofog (meaning mischief in Swedish) started in 2002 as an anti-militarist network for a nuclear-free world. Inspired by the Trident Ploughshares campaign in Great Britain, we used mainly blockades in our actions but also other forms of direct action, like penetrating weapon factories and swimming out to nuclear submarines. Seeing how the Swedish weapons exports were growing continually, we activists in Ofog felt a need to address also our own national contribution to militarisation of the world.

Ofog started a week-long peace camp in 2006 in Karlskoga, the weapons capital of Sweden. Camp participants held town meetings and workshops about the weapons export, did "weapons inspections" inside of the weapon factory, sit-ins, painted a tank and made a banner to hang from one of the buildings of the factory. Arrests and legal charges were brought against all the participants in these actions. The peace camps were held every year, but the weapons export also grew every year.

Although information about Swedish weapons export is readily available, it is not talked about very much at all and public debate is almost nonexistent. We felt that it was time to show that there is some wealth that most Swedes take for granted.

I have learned from the U.S. civil rights movement that many African-Americans were rather passive politically until there were some students who risked arrest by sitting in at segregated lunch counters. When these young people were put in prison, it ignited a new spirit of struggle for the issue among the people. Could this effect manifest itself around Swedish weapons export in 2009?

Up to this point no one in Ofog had done any "direct disarmament" - i.e. destruction of a weapon. There had been very few people who had actually resisted weapons factories in Sweden or the politicians who support them. Sure, the peace movement had made the usual complaints about the irresponsible export to dictatorships and wars, but the weapons industry was not even close to being challenged. The problem was not only

THE INSIDE LINE



the fact that the export increased but also that the authorities and politicians even gave permission to weapon trades that went against our own guidelines decided by the Swedish parliament. We felt that when the politicians didn't even follow democratic decisions like these, then we as citizens have a responsibility to intervene and physically stop these weapons.

The hope was that these actions of disarmament also would generate a much needed discussion in Sweden about the illegality of particular weapon deals and weapons export in general. Now after the third disarmament action in this campaign, the Gripen fighter disarmament action, we can conclude that weapons worth more than 100 000 € have been stopped. The actions have generated some interest, but not nearly the debate that we would have hoped for. But maybe it is too soon to evaluate the outcome and better to see these actions as work in progress.

One very tangible outcome is that - regardless of their influence on the actual weapons industry - these actions seem to inspire and give hope to many people, judging from the letters we have received here in prison. That in itself is very rewarding because we need to be more people taking concrete steps against war profiteering. So if these actions function as mobilising events perhaps we in the long run can count on a stronger resistance against the weapon producers in Sweden and elsewhere.

[Martin Smedjeback is a peace activist and nonviolence trainer. In the current Disarm campaign he has been charged for peace actions at four different weapon industries in Sweden. He was released on July 2 after ten weeks in prison for disarming Swedish-made weapons for export.]

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Coast to Coast, Australia Rejects Talisman Sabre

Activists converged in central Queensland, Australia beginning in late June to protest Australia's intimate involvement in the U.S. escalation of war in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Their immediate focus was on Operation Talisman Sabre (OTS), a biennial war practice involving up to 25,000 U.S. and Australian troops from July 6-12.

Christian nonviolence practitioners set up the Martin Luther King House of Christian Nonviolence as a non-violent action operations/training center and residence in Yeppoon.

In Cairns, a citizen weapons inspector was arrested June 29 as he tried to get aboard the USS Tortuga to look for ammunition and bombs. Terry Spackman of Peace by Peace, a local group, was apprehended when he placed a ladder against the dockside fence and tried to climb over.

The Tortuga and USS Essex had docked the day before for a little R&R for 4,000 sailors before the Operation Talisman Sabre 2009 (OTS) military exercises. When the ships arrived, Peace by Peace announced their plan to inspect. Spackman said then that he was in London during the 1940-41 Blitz of Nazi aerial bombs, and that if the ship was involved with bombing civilian populations in Afghanistan or elsewhere, it should be kicked out of Cairns. Instead, for his efforts Spackman was cited and released.

Across the Australian continent, Fremantle Anti-Nuclear Group rallied at their local wharf north of Perth on July 4. About fifty people demonstrated where the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS George Washington and guided missile cruiser USS Cowpens were docked prior to their participation in OTS. Policing was heavy, and former Australian senator Jo Vallentine and the others were told not to interfere with the "comfort" of the visiting sailors by speaking to them about peace and nuclear issues. Police arrested her for breach of the peace when she refused an order to move on.

She was taken to jail and released later in the day on condition she not visit the wharf area nor speak with U.S. sailors for seven days.

Vallentine could not ignore the irony of an Australian being gagged on the American Independence Day from speaking to Americans visiting her home town.

"It is funny that me speaking to U.S. navy personnel is seen as a threat when there is a warship sitting off our coast that can blow whole cities to pieces. I was just speaking to people," she told the *West Australian*.

The day OTS began, July 6, fourteen Christian anti-war activists blocked the Australian Army's gate at Rockhampton Airport, lying in the road in the shape of a cross, prostrate in repentance. Police held back, and the blockade ended 90 minutes later.

On the morning of July 9, several activists stopped a shipment of more than a dozen U.S. Marine jeeps north of Yeppoon, where the major access road leads off to the remote Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area, the onshore command center for OTS.

In front of a banner imploring "In the Name of God, Stop the Wars", and holding signs that read "Resist the War on Afghanistan" and "War is Terror is War", long-time Catholic Workers Jim Dowling and Ciaron O'Reilly were arrested when they refused to leave. The group had held up war traffic for an hour and a half. The men were charged with blocking access to a military facility and taken to court. Both men refused to sign bail papers until Monday, July 13, when they agreed to come out and help with the ongoing nonviolent resistance.

Their Statement of Faith, written for the action, concludes:

All the powers require from us is our silence and sedation in the face of these great crimes that are being visited on the peoples of Pakistan and Afghanistan today. We know that war is terror is war. We refuse to be sedated from the cries of the poor, suffering at the hands of the governments prosecuting this war. In resisting Talisman Saber and the Af/Pak War, we will break our silence and join in a shared context of jeopardy - with the peoples persecuted under the Af/Pak war, the soldiers trained and deployed to prosecute this war. We will enter this jeopardy in a spirit of nonviolent resistance to Talisman Sabre and the Af/Pak War.

We know as Australians, our government generates the lie that our security is only to be found in service to empire. This has been our historic role from the 1800's to the present day - dispatching Australian troops to Aotearoa, Sudan, South Africa, Gallipoli, Malaysia, Vietnam, Iraq and now Afghanistan to service American and British empires. As Christians, we know that our security lies in following the disarmed Christ in practising the acts of

mercy, nonviolence and the realisation of peace and justice.

On Saturday, July 11, great-grandmother June Norman was arrested while singing and dancing the "Hokie Pokie" with about 80 others at a police roadblock near Shoalwater Bay. While calling on the Australian military to "put their whole bodies out," Norman "put her whole body in," and the police took her out.

She was cited for "contravening a police direction" and released to appear in Rockhampton Magistrates Court on July 31.

"Rather than participating in the horrors of war, we need to build a powerful committed peace movement that can enjoy themselves while getting their message across," Norman commented after her release.

The next day, Frank Vavasour was arrested during a protest outside the Rockhampton military barracks when he attempted to climb over the closed gate. Police stopped and held him at the top of the fence until a ladder was brought to help him down. He was taken to the jail and later released without charge.

Also on Sunday, four Christian activists - Jarrod McKenna, Jessica Morrison, Fr. Simon Moyle, and Margaret Pestorius - signalled their back-country entry into the live fire area, by releasing a large red helium balloon. The war game is obliged to stop while unauthorized personnel are present in the area.

They called themselves the Bonhoeffer Four after Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's favorite theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was hung by the Nazis after a failed attempt to assassinate Hitler.

We have taken the name of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, because he embodied a serious, costly commitment to peacemaking and ending injustice, "a costly grace". Yet Rudd's \$100 billion long-term military spending plan reveals the Prime Minister has forgotten his hero and is in need of some sisters and brothers to jog his memory.

That is why we will put our own bodies on the line in order to stop the U.S./ Australian Talisman Saber Military Exercises and jam a spoke in the wheel of war. These exercises are implicated in killing and injuring our sisters and brothers in Afghanistan and Pakistan, including untold numbers of civilians. This "war without end", as George Bush put it, has no exit strategy and no end in sight. We will not overcome the violent terrorism of the poor with the violent terrorism of the rich...

We plan to be inside the area for as long as possible, and are well prepared for a long stay.

The four were found on the range on Tuesday and apprehended. They were turned over to Queensland police for possible prosecution and later released.

On Thursday morning, July 16, seven more anti-war activists entered the range and were moving towards the live fire areas. In a statement received at press time, Yulangi Bardon, Jake Bolton, Jim Dowling, Bryan Law, Emily Nielson, Culley Palmer, and Mark Palmer said:

As civilians we enter this area in solidarity with all the civilian victims of the US and Australian military. We enter the exercise area with the intention of shutting down the exercises.

For more information, visit peaceconvergence.com and talismansabre.wordpress.com

'Loyal Arrow' a Royal Error

NATO's largest aerial war practice of 2009, "Loyal Arrow", was the target of a series of bombing range occupations and other actions by the Swedish anti-war network Ofog (Swedish for mischief).

As the eight-day exercise began on June 8, Ofog announced that peace activists from Germany, Finland and Great Britain would join them to disrupt the exercises near Luleå, on the Arctic Circle. Sweden is not a member of NATO, and the government invited NATO without even first informing the Defense Committee of the Swedish parliament.

On the night of Wednesday, June 10, four women entered the Vidsel live fire area, hoping their presence would vex the war gamers. The Swedish military and the people responsible for security at the base were made aware of the civilians inside the area.

"NATO cannot be allowed to practice bombing undisturbed. The list of the NATO's war crimes is a long one and now I have the opportunity to do something," said Ellen Holmström, one of the first group on the range.

"NATO functions as a constant threat of war around the world, not a force for peace," said another, Elsa Berglund.

"It is the West's tool to maintain an unfair 'world order'".

The military detected the vehicle that dropped them off near the area. A search was launched and the women were found five hours later. They and the man who dropped them off were detained on suspicion of violating "places important to society." All were soon released.

Twenty-four hours later, two men entered the military airport for the Vidsel range to conduct a crime scene investigation.

They were also found and arrested about five hours later on the same suspicion of violating "places important to society," and released the same day. None who were detained have yet been charged.

Later, six more people in two different groups entered the Vidsel range. The military again searched for them but gave up after a while.

NATO first denied anyone was on the range, despite photos transmitted from inside and posted on the Ofog website. After the third group had entered, a NATO spokesperson shrugged and shirked any responsibility, telling Swedish television, "We have not been given any restrictions on continuing the exercise from FMV, who are responsible for the firing range."

"We know that NATO bombs civilians, but this is the first time they have threatened to bomb civilians in Sweden," said an Ofog spokesperson.

These six people stayed on the bombing range for about 40 hours. On the night of June 12 they heard three bombs being dropped by airplanes and exploding somewhere in the center of the range.

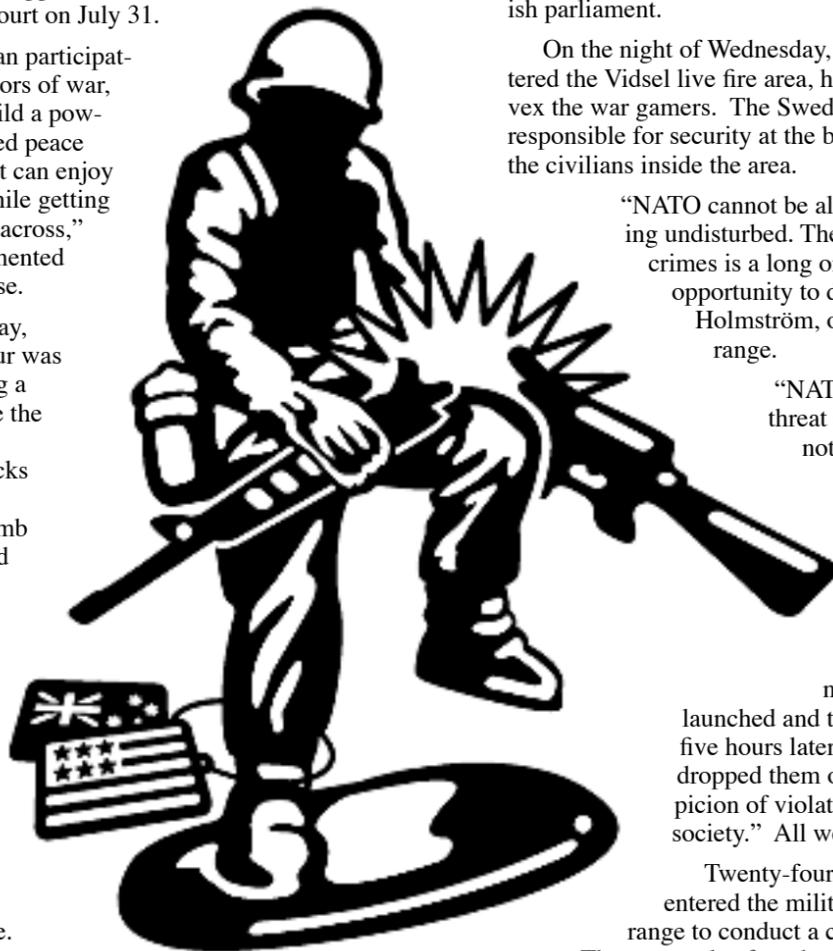
The activists later left the area because Ofog did not trust NATO for their security. The six were not arrested and will not be charged.

During the rest of the week Ofog was present outside of the military base in Luleå, organizing protests and blockades as well as street theater in the center of town. The military base was heavily guarded, but no one was arrested in Luleå.

Swedish Disarmers Getting Out Of Jail

While this action was underway in Lapland, the first of three jailed Ofog activists was released from prison on June 11. Pelle Strindlund served 80 days of a four month sentence for the March 22 *Avrusta! (Disarm!)* action at Saab Aerospace Systems in Linköping. Along with Annike Spalde and Martin Smedjeback, he entered the plant intending to damage fighter jets bound for export. The three were convicted of attempted sabotage and other charges. Smedjeback, sentenced to five months, was released from prison on July 2, and Spalde, serving a six-month sentence, is due out July 22.

For more information, some in English, visit ofog.org/ introduction.



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Aldermaston, continued

continued from page 5

to that gate. There were four locked to the corners of the caravan, sitting on the ground with their arms in concrete lock-ons that were fixed inside each corner of the caravan. One other blockader locked himself to the side of the caravan. Then the banner went up saying 'No Trident Replacement' and the birthday cake came around.

Streams of traffic were trying to get into the various gates and having to move slowly around the base trying to find a way to get in. The base had been successfully blocked at five gates and although the locks were broken within minutes at the main gates and traffic trickled in past the concrete blocks at Home Office Gate, nevertheless three gates were blocked for between two and three hours.

Ten women and one man were arrested and taken along to Loddon Valley Police Station. The five at North Gate had been released last of all, cut out and then plonked on the grass instead of being arrested. They were left free to join the supporters from the other blockading groups.

They were all charged with willful obstruction of the highway either with or without a motor vehicle and were given rather stiff bail conditions to stay well away from Aldermaston and Burghfield [Nuclear Weapons Establishments].

When our Government refuses to comply with the fundamental principles of law and undermines the whole Non-Proliferation process then it is up to us, ordinary people, to prevent 'business as usual' at Aldermaston. The blockades of Aldermaston are responsible nonviolent attempts to prevent nuclear state terrorism.

[Editors' note: In Newbury Magistrates Court on July 2, the four women arrested at Tadley Gate all pled guilty. A first-timer was fined and dunned for compensation totaling £150, and the other three were given £175 fines and compensation. Four women and the man removed from the caravan at Boilerhouse Gate all pled not guilty and were given trial dates of December 8 and 10. Two women removed from the lock-ons at Home Office Gate pled not guilty and then tried to get their bail conditions changed but were refused. A change of plea so they might avoid the conditions to attend the Aldermaston Women's Cocktail Party was refused, and they were given court dates.]

For more information, contact Angie Zelter at reform@gn.apc.org

Update Files, Cont.

continued from page 8

BLACKWATER/ILLINOIS: Twenty-two people who served an eviction notice charging moral bankruptcy on the mercenary training facility in Galena County last April appeared in court June 24 to answer charges of trespass. Roberta and Don Thurstin-Timmerman, Lee Jankowski, and Becky Lambert pled not guilty and will return for a bench trial September 4. Michael Walli pled not guilty and asked for a jury trial. A date has not been set while the court appoints an attorney for the self-described transient missionary. The remaining 17 defendants all pled guilty and were fined a total of \$250 each, and told they could not perform community service in lieu of payment. Those who had stated their refusal to pay any fine were warned of the unfavorable consequences that may await them...

FUTURE ACTIONS

Hiroshima/Nagasaki

ft. mccooy

A Walk for Peace begins August 7 at Camp Williams National Guard base in Camp Douglas, Wisconsin, and will conclude with a rally and nonviolent civil resistance at the main gate of Ft. McCoy. Sponsored by Nukewatch, Madison Pledge of Resistance, the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice and Voices for Creative Nonviolence, the walk brings five demands to the National Guard base: End U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, ban depleted uranium munitions, keep National Guard troops home, abolish nuclear weapons, and compensate victims of war. To reserve limited camping space along the walk, contact Nukewatch at Nukewatch1@lakeland.ws, 715-472-4185.

nevada test site

The August Desert Witness at the Nevada Test Site this year declares "Stop attacking civilians, from Hiroshima to Pakistan," and events will include a few hours early in the mornings. On August 6, the Hiroshima Day memorial vigil will take place at the Test Site Gate, 6:30-8 a.m., and August 7, a memorial vigil at the main gate of Creech Air Force Base in Indian Springs. Carpool at 5:30 a.m. both days from Nevada Desert Experience (NDE), 1420 West Bartlett Avenue, Las Vegas, NV. Both venues will provide opportunity for nonviolent civil resistance. Sunday's Nagasaki Day remembrance will be a film screening in Las Vegas of The Original Child Bomb. For more information, contact NDE at 702-646-4814 or info@nevadadesertexperience.org

büchel

The annual Peace Camp at the nuclear arms base in Büchel (Rhineland-Palatine/Germany) opened July 13th and concludes with a major protest march and "go-in" nonviolent direct action calling for the removal of U.S. nuclear weapons from Büchel on August 9. Creativity is encouraged! For more information, contact the Nonviolent Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (GAAA) at hamburg@bombspotting.org or visit www.bye-bye-nuclear-bombs.gaaa.org

coulport

The Trident Ploughshares International Disarmament Camp will take place from August 15 through August 23 in Coulport, Scotland, focused on direct disarmament work at the Faslane and Coulport bases. During the camp there will be plenty of affinity group-based actions and water sports, workshops and more. Come along and join one of the ad hoc affinity groups which will form to accommodate all tastes, ages and abilities! Camp will be set up to fit the number of people attending so please let them know if you're planning to come and for how long. For more information, email coulportcamp@tridentploughshares.org or check www.tridentploughshares.org

creech afb/pace e bene 20th

Join Pace e Bene's cofounders and Dr. Vincent Harding to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the nonviolence education and action organization. The event begins in Las Vegas on Friday evening, September 25 and concludes Sunday, September 27 with prayer in the desert and nonviolent witness at Creech Air Force Base, home of the U.S. drones fleet. Registration of \$150 includes all events, and meals Saturday. Scholarships are available. Limited housing and sleeping bag space may be available. Register on-line via paceebene.org or contact paceebene@paceebene.org, 702-648-2281.

white house

The eighth anniversary of the U.S. war in Afghanistan in October will be marked by a series of protests in Washington, D.C., including mass nonviolent direct action at the White House on Monday, October 5, organized by the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance. A petition calling on President Obama to "End the War and Occupation of Afghanistan, Restore our Reputation in the Global Community" is open for signing at www.iraqpledge.org, and the signers' names and petition will be delivered to the White House as part of the action. For more information, please contact Joy First at jsfirst@tds.net or Malachy Kilbride at malachykilbride@yahoo.com.

peaceable assembly campaign

Voices for Creative Nonviolence is initiating a nationwide campaign which seeks an end to the U.S. wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan and an end to U.S. support for the continued Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories. The Peaceable Assembly Campaign will include building local foundations in September, targeting Congress in the fall, and Days of Nonviolent Resistance at the White House January 19 - February 2, 2010. For a full campaign outline and other resources for nonviolent direct action, visit vcnv.org or call 773-878-3815.

offutt air force base

Nebraskans For Peace and the Catholic Worker communities of Omaha and Des Moines will host the annual 3 1/2 day "shake and bake" vigil and opportunity for civil resistance at the gates of Offutt Air Force Base, in Bellevue, Nebraska, home of the Strategic Nuclear (StratCom) and the U.S. Military Space Commands. "Come stand, pray and do penance with us. Join us for the evening programs we have planned. Share with us our hope for peace as we commemorate the anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki." Plenty of floor space is available for sleeping at St. John's Church at Creighton University in Omaha from the evening of August 5 through August 9. For special accommodation or more information, contact Frank Cordaro in Des Moines (frank.cordaro@gmail.com, 515-282-4781) or Jerry Ebner in Omaha (jerryebner@hotmail.com, 402-502-5887).

lockheed martin

The Brandywine Peace Community will host a vigil for peace from 8 a.m. - noon, Thursday, August 6, Hiroshima Day at Lockheed Martin, Mall & Goddard Boulevards, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania (behind the King of Prussia Mall). At noon, a Hiroshima Day ceremony and nonviolent action will include civil disobedience. Those interested in participating in the civil disobedience, call the Brandywine Peace Community at 610-544-1818 by July 25 for preparation and planning information.

washington, d.c.

The annual Faith and Resistance Retreat will gather August 5 for supper at St. Stephen and the Incarnation, 16 Newton St., NW, Washington, D.C. and continue through the morning of August 9, entering together into a praxis of reflection, action, reflection. During this retreat, special attention will be given to two films - Original Child Bomb and On Paper Wings, while planning, enacting, and evaluating acts of peace witness and resistance together. To RSVP, contact Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, 202-882-9648, artlaffin@hotmail.com; or Jonah House, 410-233-6238, disarmnow@jonahhouse.org

bangor

Nuclear Abolition: Yes We Can! will be the theme for the observance of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, August 8 to 10, at Bangor, Washington. In addition to dedicating the new Center building, participants will learn a variety of ways to act for nuclear abolition. Featured will be a panel of experts, films, music, discussions, and welcoming the Trinity to Trident Interfaith Peace Walk (Los Alamos, NM, to Ground Zero, Bangor), culminating with a traditional vigil and nonviolent direct action at Trident Submarine Base Bangor. For more information: www.gzcenter.org, email info@gzcenter.org, or call 206-545-3562 or 360-377-2586.

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WAIHOPI SPY BASE: Lawyers for the three men who deflated the dome protecting a giant satellite dish integral to U.S. global war fighting capability in April, 2008, have successfully petitioned to have their trial held before a jury in Wellington. A date has not yet been set but is likely to be about six months away...

LINDIS PERCY: The American bases accountability advocate and public footpath protagonist was released from prison in England on May 1 due to a scheme addressing prison overcrowding, after serving only 10 days on a 45-day sentence...

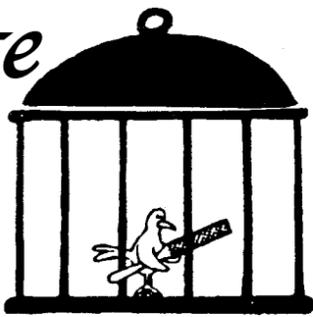
BERKELEY: Weeks after a series of February, 2008 protests and several arrests at the Marine recruiting station in Berkeley, Stephanie Tang was charged with obstructing/resisting a police officer during a February 22 demonstration. Police that day charged a World Can't Wait sponsored rally. Two others were arrested, but not Tang, a World Can't Wait organizer who instead was clubbed by an officer and sent flying head first into a brick wall. Supporters are asked to pack the courtroom at her next pre-trial hearing on Friday, October 9, at 9 a.m. at the Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse, 661 Washington St., Oakland, California [Note: Come 30 min. early to go thru courthouse security - check in lobby for assigned courtroom]...

VERMONT YANKEE: Disorderly conduct charges have been dismissed against four people who stood quietly holding homemade signs with an anti-nuclear message directed at Vermont's governor, as he spoke at a public forum on economic recovery last March 30...

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION 2008/ ST. PAUL: After pleading guilty June 8, Jason Sparks will be sentenced July 16 for aiding and abetting criminal damage to property for breaking a bank window September 1...

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING: Four people who greeted the new Congress with the March of the Dead last January - Pete Perry, Laurie Arbiter, Robert Diesu and Michelle Grise - had their charges of disorderly conduct and unlawful assembly thrown out on June 22. Contributing to the judge's decision to dismiss with prejudice was the prosecution's failure to secure all evidence in the case. A police videotape of the action was destroyed and the arresting officer testified that his notes about the arrest "went away..." Two other defendants from the action had earlier been ordered to stay away from the Capitol area for nine months...

Update Files



WHITE HOUSE: Yet another dismissal came in the case of 63 people arrested in the orange jumpsuits of Guantanamo prison garb last April 30. They showed up in court June 22 only to get the run-around, and in the end, learn that their cases had already been dismissed...

PENTAGON: Another dismissed case from across the river in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia, left seven members of the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance (NCNR) wondering again about the depth of police surveillance of their D.C.-area organizing. They were arrested last March 17 after they arrived via the Metro to press for a meeting they sought with War Secretary Robert Gates. During their brief dialogue with police before they were arrested, they overheard one officer say to another, "When is the other group coming?" Since their initial plan had been to arrive at the Pentagon in two waves, they wondered how police knew. Shortly after the activists filed a motion for additional discovery, the prosecutor dismissed the charges. Last year, NCNR activists discovered that private email proposing the Senate Gallery action that led to their arrest in March, 2008, was in the hands of prosecutors. Also last year, in a separate incident, Maryland State police admitted to spying on dozens of peace and justice activists and entering their names into a terrorist database, including some active in the NCNR.

Five people arrested on Good Friday at the Pentagon were tried, convicted, and sentenced to fines and probation in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Virginia on June 16. During the trial for disobeying a lawful order, each of the five gave compelling testimony and statements about the purpose of the witness, and why they were morally and legally justified to take nonviolent action to stop U.S. warmaking, to abolish nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction, and to prevent crimes against humanity from occurring. Brian Hynes was fined \$200; Sr. Margaret McKenna, Susan Crane, and Art Laffin were

fined \$300; and Bill Frankel-Streit was given six months unsupervised probation and a six month ban from the Pentagon. Good Friday co-defendants Nancy Gowen and Molly Brechtel had charges dismissed because it was their first Pentagon arrest. Codefendant David Ryle's trial was continued until July 10...

REP. RICK LARSEN: Through the services of a dispute resolution center, Bellingham, Washington has agreed to settle an emotional distress and illegal arrest claim by Ellen Murphy for damages due to her having been permanently barred by police from entering the downtown federal building. The lifetime ban was requested by the Democrat's office after they called the police to arrest the septuagenarian peace activist in October, 2006. She and six others were charged with trespass while waiting for Larsen to meet with them about cutting off money for the Iraq war. When police arrived, they were reading the names of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq, as part of the nationwide Occupation Project. The extraordinary pre-conviction ban was subsequently vacated by her judge. Both parties desired mediation, but Larsen's office refused to take part. The agreement includes improvement of trespass forms and procedures, joint coordination of a community forum on activism and law enforcement, the city's support for Murphy to return to Larsen's office and conclude the reading of the names of the dead, and \$10,500 for Murphy...

RAYTHEON/BRISBANE: Jim Dowling and Bernie Moloney were convicted May 15 of trespass and fined \$500, although both men said they won't pay. Police witnesses were obliged to view a succession of photos of confirmed civilian victims of Raytheon's weapons, and appeared quite disturbed to be defending such a corporation. The Christian anti-war activists were arrested at the Australian offices of the international war profiteer last November, where they sought to exorcise demons...

FORT McCOY: Three Wisconsin women were convicted on June 4 of trespass at the National Guard base last December. Federal Magistrate Stephen Crocker in Madison listened patiently to the pleas for peace and was even reminded that the congressional authorization for sending the National Guard to Iraq, including 3,000 Wisconsin Guard members in 2009, has expired. He found Cassandra Dixon, Bonnie Urfer and Gail Vaughn guilty and fined them \$75 each...

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the Nuclear

Resister

"A Chronicle of Hope"

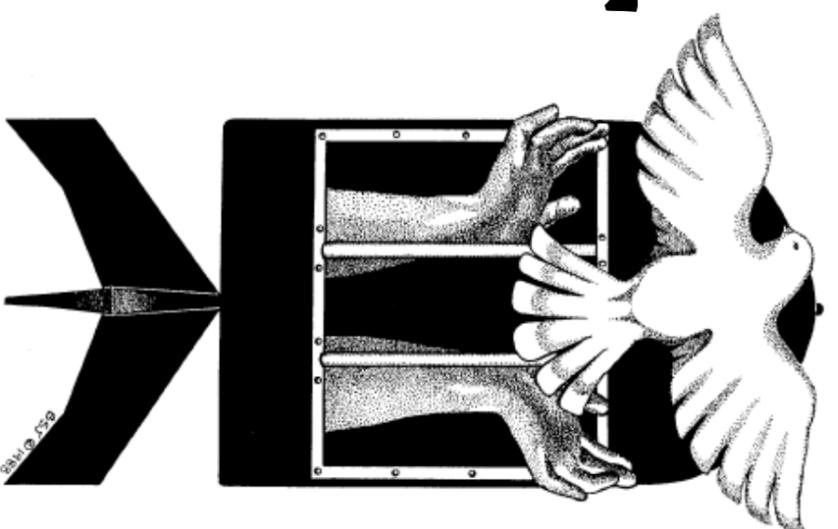
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