Plowshares Activists Nabbed at Trident’s Nuclear Bomb Bunkers

In the early morning hours of November 2, 2009, All Souls Day, five peacemakers crossed a security fence into Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, west of Seattle, Washington. The group, including two mothers, a nun, and two Jesuit priests, sought to call attention to the illegality and immo-
rality of the Trident nuclear weapons system of submarine-
launched ballistic missiles, based at Kitsap-Bangor.

At best estimate, the Bangor base houses over 2,300 nuclear warheads, nearly a quarter of the U.S. arsenal, and more than the combined arsenals of China, France, Israel, India, North Korea and Pakistan.

The five – Susan Crane, 65, of Baltimore, Mary-
land; Lynne Greenland, 60, of Bremerton, Washington; Anne Montgomery, RSCJ, 83, of New York City; Bill "Bix" Bichsel, S.J., 81, of Tacoma, Washington; and Steve Kelly, S.J., 60, of Oakland, California – acted in the tradition of the Plowshares movement of nonviolent direct action for disarmament, where hand tools are used to give form to the biblical prophecy of Isaiah, by beginning to beat swords into plowshares.

Their action was named by their message: Disarm Now! Plowshares.

Slowly, they made their way along a rarely used road to the Strategic Weapons Facility – Pacific (SWFPAC) where fellow Jesuit John Dear picks up the story (from his blog at disarmnow.wordpress.com, or contact them c/o the National Catholic Reporter, ncronline.org):

They stopped and prayed and then proceeded to an outer fence. Bix and Steve cut a hole in the chain links, while Anne, Lynne and Susan hung a banner and planted seeds. Through the hole the five of them wove their way to the distance of over 10 yards to the second fence, this one festooned with barbed wire sensors. They cut through this one, too, as dawn was beginning to break. Through the second fence they went, carrying another banner, hammers, and bot-
tles of liquid – the liquid used to inflate the marine is amiss, and presently, near the first hole, their hammers lurched to stop and out they emerged looting automatic weapons.

Anne and Lynne unfurled the banner: "Disarm Now!". Susan and Steve hammered on the fence — their hammers engraved with "love your enemies" — and sprinkled the blood, a kind of casting of as-
persions to name the base as an "Auschwitz place."

Presently more hammers arrived and more ma-
rines armed to the teeth. As one, they lifted their weapons and trained them on the five. "We were a stone's throw from the nuclear weapons bunks," Bix says.

The Marines moved in hard and snapped the handcuffs on tight. "Shut up," barked the soldiers, "we're armed to the teeth. As one, they lifted their weapons and trained them on the five. "We were a stone's throw from the nuclear weapons bunks," Bix says.

The Alfalight official who met the group in the lobby...
A British soldier faces court martial for desertion after going AWOL for two years; these cases have been pending for the past 18 months while going public about why he is refusing re-enlistment. He went AWOL for two years, then turned himself in last summer while going public about why he is refusing re-enlistment. Lance Corporal Joe Glenton, fired from the military for his refusal to serve in Afghanistan, is now fighting his discharge. He was held at Fort Lewis in Washington State for four months before being released on his own recognizance. He was released after filing suit for his right not to be deployed. He was court-martialed in March 2009 and sentenced to 15 months in prison. He sat down a motion to rehear Dr. Rafi al Dhafir’s appeal of his pretrial Echo unit at Fort Bragg where he was held since November 2008 and sentenced to 15 months in prison. He was sentenced to 15 months in prison where he is currently serving time as a result of convictions for violating federal law. He was found guilty of violating federal law as a result of convictions for violating federal law, which included falsely telling a federal agent and threatened her with jail time, indictment with dozens of charges of Medicare fraud, sanctions through the actions of Help the Needy. He was in the central New York Muslim community, he spoke out against the embargo and sanctions imposed on that nation between 1991 and 2003 U.S. invasions. As a respected leader in the central New York Muslim community, he spoke out in opposition to the sanctions and impending war against Iraq. Dhafir was initially charged with violating those sanctions through the actions of the Help. He was denied bail as a Muslim and the federal government accused of white-collar crimes. Later, the government amended his indictment with dozens of charges of Medicare fraud, wire fraud and tax evasion. They charged his wife with lying to a federal agent and threatened her with jail time, if she didn’t plead guilty. Rafi Dhafir is serving time in the Communications Management Unit (CMU) in Terre Haute, Indiana. The CMU is a special prison within the prison where the men serving time are predominantly Muslim and where their association with each other, their mail and visitors are all closely monitored. The legality of the CMU is the subject of pending litigation by human rights organizations.

For more information, visit dhafilrual.org.

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"I'm here today to make a stand beside you because I believe great wrongs have been perpetrated in Af- ghanistan,” he told over 5,000 demonstrators. “I cannot, in good conscience, be part of them. I’m bound by law and moral duty to try and stop them. I’m a soldier, and I belong to the profession of arms. I expected to go to war, but I expected to be able to defend my country and defend their interests would be legal and justifiable. It’s now apparent that the conflict is neither of these, and that’s why I must make this stand.”

Military police arrested Glenton on November 11 on five counts of disobeying a lawful order. He was held in a military prison until early December when he was released back to his unit barracks to await court martial.

Two U.S. public military refusers have recently been released from custody. Tony Anderson, now 20, was court martialed in November 2008 for “desertion with intent to avoid hazardous duty” and “disobeying a lawful order.” He was sentenced to 14 months confinement and given a dishonorable discharge from the military. He was released two months early for good behavior in late October.

Conscientious objector Dustin Stevens received an other-than-honorable discharge in early November. The peacful Lyon unit at Fort Bragg where he had been held since... continued on page 4

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"Life is busy and full! As we enter into the last days of 2009, we look towards 2010 with anticipation and ap- preciation.

Our daughter Emma and son Cassidy, who may remember as little ones at the Nevada Test Site, Rocky Flats and elsewhere, are now 25 and 27 years-old! Emma likes her job, teaching music at an inner city middle school in Phoenix, and Cassidy is enjoying a job intern- ship program at a local bank.

Our friend John Heid moved out in September after spending with us for 8 months. Happily he’s still in tuc- son - he and Leslie Kissmire have started a new Catholic Worker community here, Row of the Desert, “focused on works of mercy and nonviolent resistance: ‘to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.’ To be in solidarity with the human rights struggle of immigrants. To resist the militarization of the borderlands.”

We are excited to be welcoming Allison McGillivray in January to stay with us for a couple of months, to help with the final organization of the Nuclear Resister 30th anniversary. She and other contributors are to have her help at the beginning of what promises to be an extremely busy year! We’ll all head over to Albuquerque in Febru- arpy, along with friend Jerry Zawada and and the 4th annual gathering of the Pacific Life Community, complete with nonviolent civil resistance at Los Alamos (see page 7).

In mid-November, at the Southwest Catholic Worker gathering in Tucson, Chelsea Collonge and Mariah Kissmire (Leslie’s daughter), from Albuquerque’s Trinity House Catholic Worker had a wonderful presentation about Think Outside the Bomb, a network of young adults engaged in education and action for nuclear disarmament, and their development of Los Alamos over the next year. One result of the discussion that followed was to begin putting together a calendar of Direct Action for Nu- clear Disarmament 2010 - A Year of Resistance (see page 7). Is your group planning direct action/civil resistance for nuclear disarmament that can be added? Please let us know and we will be a link to other groupings.

We will keep these and other future actions updated regularly on the Nuclear Resister blog. The work of put- ting the blog together is now in progress with the help of a volunteer, and we need your help! You can check our website occasionally to see www.nuclearresister.org - there will be a link there to the new blog.

Planning continues with Nukewatch and the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance for next July’s Re- sistance for a Nuclear-Free Future gathering and action, to mark the 30th anniversaries in 2010 of Nukewatch, the Plowshares Eight action and the Nuclear Resister. Bon- nie Urfer of Nukewatch is busy getting information and preliminary arrangements made. He has set the site will be available early in the new year at Nukewatch.com.

For the gathering, we are putting together a slide show/powerpoint collage of images - of anti-nuclear civil disobedience/civil resistance, and gatherings in front of courthouses, and the activists who are no longer with us who had been arrested and/or imprisoned for these actions.

We need your help! Please send photos you have to share of anti-nuclear nonviolent direct actions, and photos of people who were part of our movement and have since passed away, if you would like to include with each photo where and when it was taken, and names of people pictured, if you have that information.

In addition to a slide show/powerpoint presentation, our hope is that these photos will be added to the blog, with a “wall of photos” that people can add to at the gathering.

You may email a scanned or digital file of the photo or send prints in the mail. If you send prints in the mail, please indicate if you would like your photo(s) returned to you, and we will do so after scanning it and making a color copy for the "wall of photos". Please make sure to include your postal address.

Send photos to: The Nuclear Resister P.O. Box 4383 Tucson, AZ 85733 Send .jpg or other digital file to: nukeresister@igc.org

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We wish you peace, joy and love in the new year - and remember to keep for all that you do to make the world a better place!

Jackie & Felix Cohen-Joppa, Editors
Latin America. Inscribed with the names of the dead and disappeared across and spirited, with numerous musicians and scores of large gates of Ft. Benning, demanding closure of the institution by thousands with a rally, vigil and civil resistance at the Georgia, then re-branded in 2001 as the Western Hemi assassins” was booted from Panama in 1984, to Fort Benning, the U.S. Army School of the Americas. The “School of As time and later documented that the killers were graduates of the daughter were brutally murdered. It was suspected at the five other Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her cellor of the University of Central America in El Salvador visit tortureontrial.org

The mood of the gathering was buoyed by news that Fr. Roy Bourgeois and the SOA Watch organization that he founded had been nominated for the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize for their sustained, faithful, nonviolent witness against the disappearances, torture and murder of hundred of thousands of civilians by foreign military personnel trained at the SOA/WHINSEC.

Line-crossers face arrest at Fort Huachuca, November 15. Foreground, from left to right: John Heid, Joshua Harris (supine), Mariah Klusmire, Fr. Jerry Zawada, Fr. Bob Carney.

Early Sunday, before the procession to the main gate, four people walked onto the base at another entrance. They were stopped by military police and arrested for trespass. It was the third time Franciscan Fr. Louis Vitale crossed that line, and the second time for Catholic Worker Michael Walli. They were joined by Nancy Gwin, a former high school teacher and longtime Latin America solidarity activist from Syracuse, and Austin, Texas activist and member of the SOA Watch grassroots council, Ken Hayes.

Three of them posted $1,000 bond and were released pending trial in federal court in Columbus next January 25. Michael Walli refused to post bond, intending to stay in jail until trial. At his arraignment Monday morning before U.S. Magistrate Mallon Faircloth, Walli made his intention clear, but the judge ordered that Walli be released on his own recognizance and return to court with his codefendants in January. The Columbus Ledger-Enquirer reports that Walli asserted his noncooperation, telling the court, “I walk out and it’s goodbye.”

If you choose not to come back, find a good hiding place from the (U.S.) Marshals, because they will be looking for you,” Faircloth said, noting that a bench warrant would then be issued for his arrest. Walli did not appear for trial in Galena, Illinois last September, where he was alleged to have been arrested on state trespass charges while protesting a mercenary training camp. For more information, visit soaw.org.

ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS

Eileen Barfield
DCDC #325-704 (25 days, out 9/9/11)
DC Jail/Correctional Treatment Facility, 1901 E Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003.
(Disrupted war-funding hearing in Congress, 6/09)

Ellah James Smith
VP7551
HMP Lewes, 1 Brighton Rd, Lewes, BN7 1EA, England.
(Awaiting trial 12/21/09 after entering nuclear missile silo site N-8 near New Raymer, CO, 6/8/09, with intent to disarm it)

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)
US Disciplinary, POB 1000, Lewisesburg, PA 17837.
(Native American political prisoner)

The trial of serial nuclear missile disarmer Fr. Carl Kabat, OMJ was postponed until December 21. Kabat was charged with misconduct trespass and criminal mischief after he cut through the fence of nuclear missile silo N-8, near New Raymer, Colorado last August 6, hung banners and tried to break open the hatch leading into the silo. He has refused to post bond, even after it was reduced to $2,500.

At a November 6 motions hearing, prosecutors unsealed evidence bags taken from the scene, displaying banners and bread and wine for the court to view and mark as evidence. Each banner was read into the record. Kabat’s public defenders and prosecutors questioned supporter Bill Sulzman for 90 minutes about “Catholic theology, transubstantiation, bible translations, Catholic teaching on nuclear weapons, international law, effects of nuclear weapons, the map of the Colorado missile silos, the range of nuclear weapons, the chain of command for firing weapons, etc.”

At a follow-up hearing on November 10, the judge ruled against a choice of evils defense, but asked for more briefs on defenses under international law and freedom of conscience. Prosecutors will not be permitted to tell the jury about Carl’s two previous actions at Colorado missile sites. Damages of $500 were established.

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

PUBLIC MILITARY REFUSERS

David Travis Bishop
(Pastor of a small church in Colorado, 1/1/09)
Cliff Cornell
(Pastor of a small church in Oklahoma, 1/1/09)

Peltier, continued

continued from page 2 to free Leonard Peltier are needed. Checks and money orders should be made payable to LPDOC, and mailed to Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee, P.O. Box 748, Fargo, ND 58106. If you prefer, you may donate online at www.whistleonleonardpeltier.info.

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

CARL KABAT ON TRIAL

Carl Kabat
Weld County Jail, 2110 O Street, Greeley, CO 80631.
(Awaiting trial 12/21/09 after entering nuclear missiles site N-8 near New Raymer, CO, 6/8/09, with intent to disarm it)

Ellen Barfield
DCDC #325-704 (25 days, out 1/8/10)
DC Jail/Correctional Treatment Facility, 1901 E Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003.
(Disrupted war-funding hearing in Congress, 6/09)

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continued from page 2

his AWOL arrest nearly one year ago has been disbanded. News about the wretched conditions of inmates who had been incarcerated for 2-4+ years (without being given adequate, practically guaranteed rights to speedy trials); and sought to intervene on behalf of non-English speaking inmates (especially those whose health concerns were being ignored). I discussed these issues with the prison warden (in writing, on multiple occasions, with no response), with the appropriate prison leadership (both of whom rejected my request, except for a caring nurse) and with the Pennsylvania Prison Society (who were eager to discuss a witnessed threat of a mentally disturbed male patient [by a guard], though never came back to discuss my other concerns). I received threats of violence (from guards) for my willingness to “stand against the system” and for “protesting by hitting the U.S. Military.”

My “day in court” consisted of five separate appearances (from day one, I submitted my guilt in writing and asked for sentencing). At my first appearance (on the day of my arrest), the District Justice said that he was only there to let me know my charges and to set bail. At my second appearance (preliminary hearing), the district justice said that he was not authorized to sentence me. At this appearance, the police detective and prosecutor spent considerable time discussing how my charges might be raised to felony levels. My third appearance was an arraignment, at which I officially pleaded guilty to all charges. At my fourth appearance (grand jury), the judge stated that my arraignment pleas had not been accepted and rescheduled the court date, because he did not have complete information on the charges. At my fifth appearance, a new Judge accepted my pleas, gave me time served (on all charges) plus probation, and ordered my release. I was released after one day. If it had taken this grandiose process six months to process a man who (from day one) was willing to plead and be sentenced, the “high-profile” cases that were more speedily handled were the “low-profile” cases that were (by design) processed at a snail’s pace. This is why the numbers of inmates who had been incarcerated for 2-4+ years are so unsettling.

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Once a week, Los Angeles Catholic Workers and friends hold a walking vigil around the Federal Building downtown, where they stop at the front entrance and read aloud the names of the most recent military dead as announced by the war department.

On December 9, the day before the Nobel Peace Prize was to be presented in Oslo, the latest names were read aloud. Then Jeff Dietrich, Catherine Morris, David Omordi, Mike Wistisen and John Yettich climbed the steps onto federal property and blocked the doorway while shouting "Ohmaha! No Peace, No Prize!" Documentary filmmaker Ernest Savage was also arrested while attempting to record the event. Wistisen had his arm twisted by a security guard, and was immediately transported to the hospital after being arrested. He was released several hours later with a pulled muscle, a sprained elbow and a torn ligament. The six were cited for disorderly conduct and released.

On Wednesday, November 4, the Omaha and Des Moines Catholic Workers communities joined in their fourth annual protest and die-in at the Qwest Center Omaha, site of a space weapons banner called the Strategic Space Symposium. The half dozen protesters gathered at the main entrance around a "Space Weapons = Death" banner. After a statement was read, a number of people laid down on the ground in front of the banner. After a few minutes, they arose to take the die-in outside the Qwest Center. At the same time, police stood inside the front doors by police and Qwest security workers. The protesters reentered the die-in at their feet.

Qwest security people told the protesters to leave the building or face arrest. All but one of the protesters left the building. The eight were placed under arrest, handcuffed and walked out of the building into a police van or police car.

Among those arrested was 91-year-old Peg Gallagher, who was ticketed for refusing to leave, and released on site. The other seven people were taken to the Douglas County Jail. Three from Omaha – Fr. Jack McCaslin, Mark Kenny, and Daniel McCarville – were cited and released from the jail. They and Gallagher were given a December 9 court date.

Out-of-town arrestees Steve Clemens, Frank Cordaro, Fr. Jim Murphy and Fr. Louis Vitali were held overnight and brought before a judge with other prisoners the next afternoon.

Clemens told the story of what happened in court in his blog, Memorias del Pueblo.

Prior to being ushered into the courtroom attached to the jail, one of the correctional officers warned the six of us against any outbursts of any kind. We were told to "behave yourself, or you'll be removed from court forms: You are lucky today. You have drawn Judge Lowe as your judge... He is fair but somewhat eccentric. He might ask you questions. Listen to what he says. If he suggests you might want to take a certain plea, listen to him because he will spell out the consequences to you. We were specifically warned not to talk or say anything in the courtroom until or unless the judge addressed us...

The court session began with the more serious felony cases and then progressed to the misdemeanor cases. We had no idea when we'd be called. Finally the courtroom was down to four older white male defendants. The court had fast-tracked the rapidity of the Judge's dealings with the previous four or five inmates made it clear that Judge Lowe was determined to be efficient and cut time on time.

The Prosecutor called out the next case, Louis Vitali, and added that these last four cases were all on the 60 day calendar of our orange jail uniform.

The Judge would hear none of it. "If you want to contest this sentence, bond is $100,000 – to see if you can change my mind. Now get out of here. [To the correctional officer] You can't make him go further...

Next case: Jim Murphy is called to the bench. How do you plead? Jim swallowed and said "No contest – oh, I mean guilty."

"Good call," the judge responded. "3 days."

"Case number — (I didn't hear the number but did hear my name) "Stephan D. Clemens." I walked to the judge's bench in my prison uniform and asked whether there was any punishment he didn't think I could endure in prison. "I have never heard of a person who can't be tortured." I was told to report to the jail. The judge refused to hear what I had to say.

"Good call," the judge responded. "3 days."

"And if you want to appeal, Judge Lowe...

Next: Judge Lowe issued a warrant for his arrest. If I were to contest this sentence, bond is $100,000 – to see if you can change my mind. Now get out of here. [To the correctional officer] You can't make him go further."

We are called by Isaiah to transform our own hearts and to invite all those whose hearts are hardened by blindness, fear, and mistrust of the "other" to allow theirs to be transformed into "hearts of flesh." Disarm, disempower and transform.

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We walk into the heart of darkness, the Naval Submarine Base Kitsap-Bangor, housing and deploying over 2,000 nuclear weapons and its weapons stores. By their very existence they are endangering the environment, threatening the indiscriminate destruction of life on earth, and depriving the hungry, homeless, and jobless of billions of dollars that could supply human needs throughout the world.

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The manufacture and deployment of Tritium II missiles, weapons of mass destruction, is immoral and criminal according to U.S. law, therefore, under United States law under possible prosecution of the Vandenberg Principles for this threat of first-strike terrorism hanging over the community of nations, rich and poor. Moreover, such planning, preparation, and deployment is a blasphemy against the Creator of life, imaged in each human being.

The United States continues to develop and receive even more inhumane weapons of mass destruction.

We are called by Ezekiel to transform our own hearts and to invite all those whose hearts are hardened by blindness, fear, and mistrust of the "other" to allow theirs to be transformed into "hearts of flesh." Disarm, disempower and transform.

We build carpenters' hammers to symbolically transform these weapons of death into material useful for homes and factories. On this day of remembrance, All Souls Day, we bring our own blood in solidarity with the victims of war, who are invisible to those who target them. We bring sunflower seeds to plant the hope of new life in this violent earth. War is "Ones but swords into plowshares as one step up the holy mountain where all nations can unite in peace.

At the beginning of the International Decade of Disarmament, we join the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the 2020 Vision Campaign to abolish all nuclear weapons by that date at the latest. Nuclear weapons can never be justified, defense of the helpless. They are scattered in stainless steel and mental coverings that conceal the evil incarnate lying within. They are filled with death-dealing agents that tear apart humans and leave survivors scarred for life. They leave no place for human care for the thousands who suffer and die in agony. Nuclear weapons are a lie. Their "protection" is an illusion. They make us all more vulnerable.

"God will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. He will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." Isaiah 2:4

Vandenberg Vigil Injured During Arrest

Police again disrupted the monthly vigil at Vandenberg Air Force Base, this time injuring one of the hundreds who stand for peace at the main gate. The Air Force zealously holds claim to territory all along about ten miles of California Highway 1, as it passes through the nuclear missile testing and space warfare base on the California coast. Grudgingly yielding only limited "free speech" space at a school parking lot and grusy area across from the entrance. Even there, the boundaries get tested.

On November 4, military police demanded ID from the vigilers, suspecting some were attending in violation of previous ban and later initiated arrest. World War II veteran Bud Boothe refused, and was handcuffed. Police mishandled the longtime vigil as they moved to lift him up, grabbing the handcuffs and leaving Boothe with a ripped shirt and three gashes in his arm. Civilian paramedics were called and Boothe was bandaged up, processed and released with a trespass citation. Another man who refused to produce ID was David D, was also arrested, cited for trespass and released, as was Dennis Apel, who was barred from even the "free speech" zone due to earlier convictions for trespass at Vandenberg that oddly prevent him from joining others who are legally exercising their rights in the same place and manner. For more information, visit vandenbergvigil.org.

Los Angeles Catholic Workers Block the entrance to the federal building in Los Angeles, California.

For more information, contact the Los Angeles Catholic Worker, 632 N. Britania St., Los Angeles, CA 90033, 232-267-8789, or visit la catholicworker.org.
UPDATE FILES, cont.
plus court costs. The others argued that while their action was to halt preparations for nuclear war crimes, it had not obstructed a highway because the access road to the Taaleny Gate, where they were arrested, is on Ministry of Defence land. The court sentenced two Roman Catholic priests to jail!

against an Arms Bazaar that was at the Qwest Center. Congressman Frank has been charged with illegal weapons to the Air Force and space weapons to STRATCOM and we are protesting that.

The puzzle on the judge’s face was completely transparent as Frank Cordaro, the last defendant still in the back of the courtroom stood up and said in a loud voice, “Yes, your Honor, you just sentenced two Roman Catholic priests to jail!”

The judge was even more dumbfounded. He quickly ordered Frank to come forward to confirm what he had said. He was horrified at what had just happened and immediately shouted to the correctional officers serving as court bailiffs, “Quick, get those last two men back in here!” The judge was even more dumbfounded. He quickly ordered Frank to come forward to confirm what he had said. He was horrified at what had just happened and immediately shouted to the correctional officers serving as court bailiffs, “Quick, get those last two men back in here!” The judge was even more dumbfounded. He quickly ordered Frank to come forward to confirm what he had said. He was horrified at what had just happened and immediately shouted to the correctional officers serving as court bailiffs, “Quick, get those last two men back in here!”

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We also call upon NATO to disarm its nuclear weapons. Trident — with around 160 warheads, each containing the equivalent of 15 thousand tons of TNT and capable of destroying 10 million people — is assigned to NATO, and the U.S. deploys hundreds of nuclear weapons across the continent of Europe under the NATO alliance. This is in violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, under which nuclear weapons states are obliged to enter into good faith negotiations for disarmament of nuclear weapons. NATO’s policy of deterrence threatens global peace and security. As long as NATO continues to rely on nuclear weapons for security other countries will work to ensure that they don’t.

Sylvia Boyes, Matt Bury, Brian Larkin, Jane Talents, Irene Wilkins and one other person were arrested and jailed overnight, then released the morning without charges.

The EDO Decommissioners – Elijah James Smith, Tom Woodhead, Robert Nichols, Ormella Saibene, Robert Alford and Harriedd Tadman — face serious charges for targeting a Brighton war merchant’s business during the Israeli assault on Gaza One year ago. EDO-MBM is owned by the American multinational ITT, and makes bomb release racks for fighter planes used by Israel. The Decommissioners will be joined in the dock next May by three other war merchants. Police have arrested them from the crowd for allegedly targeting with one another.

They were held in jail until court on October 19, where prosecutors produce no evidence the three had “associated,” “communicated” or even had “indirect communications” in the crowd of 70 demonstrators. A last-minute claim that they were “likely to break bail conditions” was reargued we consider, and the three were again released on bail.

in 2010, two of the decommissioning defendants were successful in their appeal of convictions for offenses related to the 2008 Carnival Against the Arms Trade in the EDO parking lot, which police had portrayed as a riot.

Nine people were in court in early November for charges arising last summer from a blockade of EDO in solidarity with communities in the No Borders camp. The blockade was to highlight the links between the arms trade, war and the creation of refugees. One defendant was found with no case to answer, two were acquitted and five were convicted of obstruction of the highway. They were given 12 month conditional discharges.

Also in November, a Brighton filmmaker, Paul Light, was told that conspiracy to commit theft charges filed last summer would be dropped and most of his confiscated footage and equipment returned. Police, convinced he had filmed the EDO Decommissioners in the act, raided his home in June and added his name to their case. He had not even been present at the scene, and no evidence was found to implicate him in the action. Police still hold his home, and he is facing charges for another upcoming EDO-related protest trial, and darkly hints that images and material related to Al-Qaeda were found there.

For more information, visit smashedo.org.uk and decommissioners.co.uk.

Letters of support should be sent to Elijah James Smith, VP 7551, HMP Lewes, 1 Brighton Rd, Lewes, Sussex, BN7 1EA, England.

EDO/Brighton

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December 2009 - START Treaty (U.S.-Russia) expires; new agreement will need Senate Ratification in 2010

January 16 – KITSAP-BANGOR NAVAL BASE, WASHINGTON

“We must find an alternative to war!” is the plea of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the theme for the traditional vigil and nonviolent direct action at the gates of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. The base is the west coast home of the U.S. Navy’s Trident nuclear submarine fleet. For schedule details, contact the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, info@gzccenter.org or visit gzccenter.org.

January 16 – LOCKHEED-MARTIN, MARTIN

Make War No More! - annual vigil and nonviolent resistance at Lockheed-Martin in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Hear his words and honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in nonviolent action for justice. April 4, 1968. Call the Brandywine Peace Community at (610)544-1818 by January 4 if you are interested in participating in the civil disobedience. For more information, visit brandywinepeace.com.

February 1 - President Obama’s Fiscal Year 2011 Budget submitted to Congress; North American Peace rankings released

February 11-May 1 - Four people are being held for two hours on suspicion of disorderly conduct at the National Security Complex, Oak Ridge, TN to United Nations

February 15 – ALDERMASTON IN BIG BLOCKADE, ENGLAND

Come to the Big Blockade of England’s Aldermaston nuclear weapons factory, coordinated by Trident Ploughshares and supported by other peace and justice groups including CND. For details, visit tridentploughshares.org/article1577.

February 17-21 – THINK OUTSIDE THE BOMB, LAS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO

Think Outside the Bomb will hold a youth training for Trainers in New Mexico and non-violent direct action at the Las Alamos nuclear weapons lab. Visit thinkoutsidethebomb.org for registration information.

February 26-28 – PACIFIC LIFE COMMUNITY, LAS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO

The annual gathering of the Pacific Life Community will take place in Albuquerque, New Mexico, including civil resistance at the Los Alamos nuclear weapons lab. For more information, contact the Trinity Nuclear Abolitionists at 530-933-0970 or visit pacificlifecommunity.wordpress.com.

March 5 – 40th anniversary of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) entering into force

March 30-April 5 – SACRED PEACE WALK, LAS VEGAS TO THE NEVADA TEST SITE

The 2010 Annual Sacred Peace Walk from Las Vegas to the Nevada Test Site is walking meditation and prayer action against the development and testing of weapons of mass destruction, and will include the opportunity for civil resistance at the Nevada Test Site and Creech Air Force Base. Sacred holy days of many traditions will be observed en route. For more information, contact the Nevada Desert Experience at 702-646-4814 or info@nevadadesertexperience.org, or visit nevadadesertexperience.org.

MORE FUTURE ACTIONS

Watch Against Torture
Witness Against Torture will mark the eighth year of the Guantanamo torturing camp with a 12 day Fast for Justice in Washington, D.C. Beginning on January 11, the anniversary of the first prisoners’ arrival, through Janu-
ary 22, the day by which the President said Guantanamo would be closed, the fasters and supporters will lobby Congress and hold daily vigils and rallies at related ven-
ues around the Capitol city. Direct action against torture and indefinite detention is planned for January 21. For more information, visit watchtorture.wordpress.org or contact Frida Berrigan (frida.berrigan@gmail.com) or Matt Dalasio (dalasio@riseup.net).

Peace News Gathering & Action
The Peace News Winter Gathering will take place at the Sutam Centre, Nottingham, England, January 15 - 17. The gathering of people from across the UK and Europe will celebrate the wisdom of the EU law which prohibits torture. British peace movement will be followed by mass nonviolent direct action against a local arms trade company, organized by the Stop the War Coalition. For more information, contact James Veasey also failed to appear for trial. Co-defendant George

Peace Against the War with Iraq
Co-defendant George

Peace of the Action
Calling for “new, creative strategies and bolder action” to stop U.S. wars in the Middle East, Cindy Sheehan and others will establish an encampment on the grounds of the Washington Monument beginning March 13, to prepare and support real civil resistance actions in Washing-

Peaceable Assembly Campaign
From January 19 through February 2, the Peaceable Assembly Campaign of Voices for Creative Nonviolence will maintain a two week vigil at the White House and engage in regular acts of nonviolent direct action. After February 2, the Peaceable Assembly Campaign will focus its work upon Congress. Groups are urged to lobby your congressional office, write to home offices of representatives and senators who do not commit themselves publicly to oppose additional funding for the wars and occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as the occupation of the Palestinian territories. Sign up to participate locally or in Washington and download campaign resources at cvcr.org/pac, or call 773-878-3815.

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recruiting arcade in a Philadelphia shopping mall last 2 for the trial of seven people arrested outside the hi-tech ARM EXPERIENCE CENTER acquired by the Federal government. The local law does law applicable to conduct occurring on lands reserved or were arrested for trespass, have not been charged to date. people who returned to Ft. McCoy last August, and who date of January 28. Terrell filed a motion for reconsidera in favor of the government motion and set a resentencing not picked up by the clerk until after the court had ruled the court that arrived before the filing deadline but were

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA: After months of pre-trial hearings stemming from anti-military recruiting protests in 2008, a misdemeanor charge of obstructing police against World Can’t Wait organizer Stephanie Tang was reduced to a non-criminal infraction. Well-known to Berkeley police, Tang was treated for injuries at the hospi -tal after being clubbed by an officer who charged a march to the recruiting station. But she was not charged until weeks later, when a summons arrived in the mail...

FT. McCOY, WISCONSIN: On November 5, the U.S. Attorney in Madison, Wisconsin filed a motion for re-sentencing of six peace activists who had not paid fines after being convicted for an alleged trespass in August of 2008 at the army training base from which soldiers are deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. He asked the court to re-sentence Joshua Brollier, Renee Espeland, Eileen Hanesen, Kathy Kelly, Jeff Leys and Brian Terrell to 30 days in jail. Leys and Terrell both filed opposition motions with senator, Kathy Kelly, Jeff Leys and Brian Terrell to 30 days in jail. 2008 for prosecution by Thurston County prosecutors. women and one man were singled out in late October, scheduled for dismissal on March 1. Court fees of $50 celebrations on October 30 after the gross misde-meanor charges in Thurston County District Court. The last eight defendants, known as the Patient Eight, continued to pursue these charges. Their pursuit faltered scaling back prosecutions of misdemeanors across the board, the cash-strapped prosecutor's office has doggedly continued to pursue these charges. Their pursuit faltered at a pre-trial hearing October 19. Although the presiding judge did not grant motions for dismissal based on recently-disclosed police spying on the protest organizer, Olympia Port militarization resistance, prosecutors offered a deal to dismiss criminal charges provided each defendant pays $150 in fees and stays out of trouble for a specified time. Eighteen of the group took the deal that

WAIHPAI PLOUGHSHARES: March 8, 2010 will be the opening day for the jury trial of Sam Land, Adrian Leason and Peter Murnane, the disarmament activists who deflated one of the domes at the Waihopai spybase on April 30, 2008. The domes protect the antennae for eavesdropping on international communications and are critical to U.S. global military dominance. The domes also obscure the orientation and possible target of the listening devices. Supporters are planning a range of activities and events in the run-up to, and during the trial of, the Waihopai Ploughshares in Wellington, which may last one week. A “Women Say No to Spy Bases” action early in the evening of March 8 will mark both the opening of the trial and International Women’s Day. Stations of the Cross around relevant Wellington institutions will take place early evening, March 9. In addition there will be vigils, including prayer vigils, at various times of the day during the trial. Send an email to eploughshares@ hotmail.com to be added to the mailing list for occasional updates, or visit www.ploughshares.org.nz...

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON: Since the anti-war demon-strations at the city’s port in November 2007, a number of women have been defending themselves against misdemeanor charges in Thurston County District Court. The last eight defendants, known as the Patient Eight, celebrated victory on October 30 after the gross misde-meanor charge of obstructing an officer was dismissed, and the lesser charge of attempted disorderly conduct was scheduled for dismissal on March 1. Court fees of $50 were also assessed. A full year after the port protests, 25 women and one man were single out in late October, 2008 for prosecution by Thurston County prosecutors. Since then, defendants and their attorneys have appeared in court more than 13 times over eleven months. While scaling back prosecutions of misde-means across the board, the cash-strapped prosecutor’s office has doggedly continued to pursue these charges. Their pursuit faltered at a pre-trial hearing October 19. Although the presiding judge did not grant motions for dismissal based on recently-disclosed police spying on the protest organizers, Olympia Port Militarization Resistance, prosecutors offered a deal to dismiss criminal charges provided each defendant pays $150 in fees and stays out of trouble for a specified time. Eighteen of the group took the deal that

day. At the hearing October 30 presiding judge Sam My-ers commented, “Everyone’s anxious to get these matters over with.” The defendants, clad in black witches hats for the Halloween holiday, circled the prosecutor, Jim Powers, and successfully negotiated the court fees down to the unusually nominal amount of $50, and reduced the deferment time on the lesser charge to four months. Leaving court, defendants Patti Imani and Kim Chaplin told the press, “We are proud that we stood for peace. We are proud that we stood for peace.”

ALDERMASTON, ENGLAND: Five people from England, Scotland and Switzerland were in Reading Magistrate’s Court October 21, facing charges of obstructing a highway during the October, 2008 “Big Blockade” of Britain’s nuclear weapons factories. One woman pled guilty and was given an 18-month conditional discharge continued on page 6

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT


Just in time for schooling a new generation of nuclear abolitionists and for reminding veteran activists just how we got to where we are, historian Lawrence Wittner has distilled his 1,750 page trilogy, The Struggle Against the Bomb* into a compact, 254-page primer. Confronting the Bomb: A Short History of the World Nuclear Disarma-ment Movement is an fast-moving read and a hopeful re- view. He trumpets the traditional non-governmental and eclectic grassroots activism of millions of people “defying the national barriers and the murderous traditions of the past” to keep nuclear war at bay for almost 65 years. One of the main intentions for next summer’s Resistance for a Nuclear Free Future gathering (see page 7) is to better understand and consciously advance the role of nonvio- lent direct action in this historic struggle. Confronting the Bomb lays out the evolution of the social and political environment wherein nonresistance must grow.