

the Nuclear Resister

"A Chronicle of Hope"

No. 173

March 4, 2014

Irish War Resister Jailed for Bond Refusal

Margaretta D'Arcy, convicted for a 2012 die-in on the runway of Shannon Airport, is serving a three month jail sentence in Ireland. The 79-year-old artist and writer was seized by police at her Galway home on January 15 for refusing to sign a bond promising not to resist U.S. military and rendition flights at the airport. Peace and human rights groups protested her arrest, and a visit by her friend Sabina Higgins, whose husband is Ireland's President, only boosted public support for her cause.

Appearing in court a week later with co-defendant Niall Farrell on a second set of charges from a September, 2013 demonstration at Shannon, her suspended prison sentence was formally reinstated. Representing herself in court, D'Arcy, who in December attempted a citizen's arrest of Judge Patrick Durcan for "making Irish people active allies and participants in illegal wars," told him, "I'm surprised to see you there, I thought you might be with me in the dock."

Farrell signed the bond, saying his imprisonment would not bring the same attention to the cause that his co-defendant was drawing. The pair were ordered back to court again in February.

As the hearing concluded, supporters began chanting "Free Shannon Airport from the U.S. military!" and some stood up to display anti-war posters. Police quickly removed four people from the courtroom and took them down to the cells. Judge Durcan later released them all, saying their time in custody "fairly balances out what occurred earlier."

D'Arcy's imprisonment has boosted attendance at monthly demonstrations at the Airport, and weekly demonstrations are being held outside the prison where she is being held.

For more information, visit shannonwatch.org



Letters of support should be sent to Margaretta D'Arcy, Dochas Center, Mountjoy Prison, North Circular Road, Dublin 7, Ireland.

NATO 3 SPLIT VERDICT: NOT GUILTY OF TERRORISM

A Chicago jury chose facts over fear to find three men, arrested on the eve of the 2012 NATO summit and charged as terrorists under a rarely-used post-9/11 Illinois state law, not guilty of those charges.

But their February 6 verdict did find Brent Betterly, Brian Church and Jared Chase, all in their 20s, guilty of misdemeanor mob action, a lesser offense, and two felonies: possession of incendiary devices with intent to commit arson, and with intent for someone else to commit arson. They have been held in the Cook County Jail since their arrest, and will face 4 to 30 years in prison when sentenced April 25.

Before jury selection, prosecutors dropped four arson and weapons charges against the three.

The case against the out-of-town activists was built on the testimony and conversations recorded by two undercover cops, and four hastily made molotov cocktails that were suggested and then put together only with the help of one of the cops, on the same day the men were arrested. They'd come to Chicago to protest and were quickly targeted by police with a boosted security budget, prowling the political scene in the months before the NATO summit, looking for anarchists to infiltrate, instigate and provoke into illegal action, as testimony would reveal.

After jury selection, their trial began on January 21 in a tightly secured courtroom that would be packed with supporters for the next two weeks of proceedings.

Even before the trial began, the theatrical presentation

TRANSFORM NOW PLOWSHARES

3 & 5 YEARS IN PRISON FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROTEST

Three people, each with a history of nonviolent direct action for the abolition of war and nuclear weapons, were given significant prison sentences during a two-day proceeding in federal court in Knoxville, Tennessee. Sr. Megan Rice SHCJ, who celebrated her 84th birthday on January 31, was ordered to serve 35 months in federal

custody, while co-defendants Greg Boertje-Obed, 58, and Michael Walli, 65, were each sentenced to 62 months behind bars. The three were also ordered to pay restitution totaling nearly \$53,000 and they will be placed on supervised probation for three years following completion of their prison sentences. The nuclear abolitionists had been held without bond in a private prison for most of the nine months since their conviction in May, 2013 on charges of sabotage of the national defense and felony depredation of government property.

The sentencing by Judge Amul Thapar began on January 28, then recessed until February 18 when a winter storm forced the courthouse to close early.

Pre-sentencing reports prepared for the three recommended prison terms in the range of 70-87 months for Rice, 78-97 months for Boertje-Obed, and 92-115 months for Walli, reflecting the different prior protest convictions of each. The court acknowledged receiving hundreds of letters in support of the three, and more than 14,000 petition signatures seeking a reduced sentence. While the defendants themselves never asked for leniency from the court, arguments about the recommended sentence and possible departures were considered when the sentencing hearing began on Tuesday, January 28.

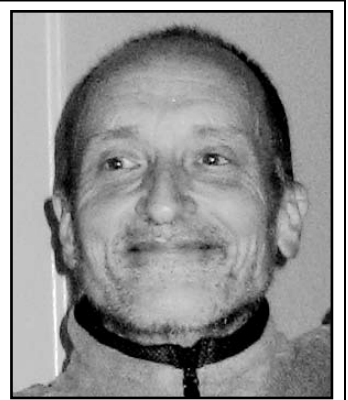
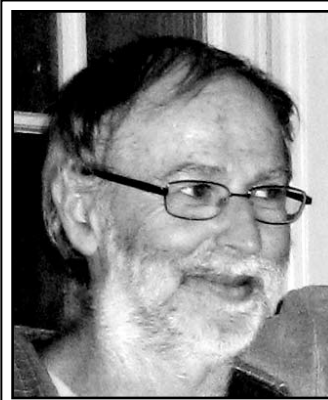
More than 100 supporters filled two courtrooms that morning, some even sitting on the floor of the overflow room where the proceedings were shown on a big-screen

of evidence seized and florid rhetoric that are the hallmark of prosecutors in high-profile trials were almost comic, but for the tragic consequences for the people involved. The state upped the melodramatic ante at trial, presenting a crude shield with small screw ends protruding as a deadly weapon, and repeatedly talking about the "violent anarchists" they identified for the jury as "Mr. Cop on Fire," "Captain Napalm" and "Professor Molotov".

The three, who have made no public statements since their arrest, were defended by attorneys from the National Lawyer's Guild and People's Law Office in Chicago. They called no witnesses, building their defense instead on vigorous cross-examination of the state's witnesses, including undercover cops Mehmet "Mo" Uygun and Nadia "Gloves" Chikko, who recorded many conversations with the defendants in the days prior to their arrest. All of the defendants can be heard on the tapes making what prosecutors said were violent statements about the police, but much of the tapes are filled with joking banter and talk about video games and getting high.

In their opening and closing statements, the defense team mocked the state's claim as "trivializing terrorism," and presented their clients as alcoholic or stoned "goofs" and braggarts, unsophisticated misfits seeking to impress older, more "militant" activists who were in fact cops, but too high most of the time and too lazy to be serious terror threats in the City of the Big Shoulders.

Two hours before his arrest, Chase told undercover



Photos by Felice Cohen-Joppa

Greg Boertje-Obed, Sr. Megan Rice and Michael Walli – the Transform Now Plowshares

TV. They came from across town and across the country. Many had attended a Festival of Hope program and shared a meal the night before.

One supporter who was not present was Chris Spicer, a graduate divinity student and former SOA Watch prisoner of conscience. Two days earlier, Spicer left the weekly Sunday peace vigil at Y-12, crossed the street and then crossed the painted blue line onto the property of the nuclear weapons complex. He was arrested and jailed on a state trespass charge. He was released from jail after the Plowshares' hearing had adjourned on Tuesday. A few days later, Spicer did not return to court for a scheduled appearance.

The sentencing hearing for Walli, Rice and Boertje-Obed began at 9:00 a.m. with arguments about the amount of restitution to be charged. After testimony about the damage repair costs from a Y-12 official, the judge heard brief arguments, overruled all defense objections, and set restitution at \$52,953. The amount is far in excess of damage estimates produced at the trial.

After a brief recess, the court began considering objections to the pre-sentencing reports. Thapar sustained the defense's objection to the use of the word "maliciously" in the charge against the three.

Then a detailed discussion began about whether the defendants had accepted responsibility for their actions or not. Federal prosecutor Jeffrey E. Theodore argued successfully that the defendants – "recidivists and habitual offenders" – were not entitled to departure from the guidelines because, "They have shown no remorse for their criminal conduct. To the contrary, they have reveled in their violations and used it to gain publicity for their cause."

Theodore described their argument that they were trying to uphold international law as "specious and disingenuous" and, in apparent ignorance of multiple state court acquittals, claimed that in no case had international law been seen as justification for breaking U.S. laws.

The judge was unmoved by the defense's reasoning that the defendants had admitted to the actions, but merely disputed any criminal intent. "The critical point is contrition, and I don't think any of the defendants are contrite about what they did," the judge concluded.

Thapar also denied the defendants' claim that they deserved sentencing consideration because they believed their "criminal acts" at Y-12 "were committed to prevent a perceived greater harm," the possible use of nuclear weapons. Thapar said, "I understand that the defendants perceived a greater harm, but I think the United States has a different point of view."

He then took up consideration of reducing the sentence because of "special or unusual circumstances," and whether their acknowledged lives of service and charity to others were sufficiently exceptional to warrant consideration for a reduced sentence. Four friends of the defendants took the stand to affirm their character and good works.

Kathy Boylan, who lives with Walli at the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker House in Washington, D.C., spoke about the appreciation and respect that people in their

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continued on page 4

Resistance Reflections

WHY WE CHOSE AN UNCONVENTIONAL APPROACH AT BEALE AIR FORCE BASE TO TRY TO STOP ILLEGAL U.S. DRONE KILLINGS

by Toby Blome

(excerpts from sentencing statement, see page 3)

The 1st Amendment to the Constitution clearly states our right, as U.S. citizens, to petition our government for a redress of grievances. However, our modern society has devolved to the point that conventional methods of petitioning government officials are most often futile, especially when involving issues of foreign policy. The following examples will support this fact.

In early 2003, millions and millions of people around the world rallied and marched in the streets to try to stop the pending illegal and unjustified invasion of Iraq; a war based purely on lies, with a cost of over \$3 trillion to U.S. taxpayers. An unprecedented unified world voice said emphatically: NO WAR! Our government and the Pentagon were deaf to the world's cries for peace and reason, and 13 years later Iraq remains in ruins with no stable future in sight.

In 2006, I joined the "Troops Home Fast" campaign, where citizens from all over the country participated in a hunger fast to protest the Iraq War. Dozens of us traveled to D.C. to fast publicly in front of the White House. While on a water only fast for 3 weeks, I and Father Louis Vitale, a Franciscan friar, visited nearly every Senator's office in D.C., hand delivering an educational letter about our campaign, talking with staff, and inviting each Senator to talk with us. Not a single senator or staff person responded to our effort.

In 2007, in San Francisco, I joined a coalition of 60-75 people representing 15-20 peace organizations in the Bay Area, gathering every Wednesday for 5 consecutive weeks in the S.F. office of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi. We requested from her staff a formal meeting with Ms. Pelosi to discuss our objections to her funding of the Iraq War. Not only did she refuse to meet with us, she continued to support war funding throughout the war, against the will of the vast majority of her S.F. constituents.

All of these examples provide concrete evidence that traditional ways to appeal to our elected officials through letters, phone calls, mass marches in the streets, are useless or severely ineffective at best. All four of us could share innumerable personal stories of how our voices are ignored by our government. It appears that "We The People" don't count.

As the horrors of Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo unfolded, we all witnessed absolutely no accountability and no justice for the tortured. Shockingly, the orchestrators of these war crimes are serving as judges in our courts, professors in our universities, and profiting from public presentations and book sales of their memoirs...

Fast forward to the Obama Administration and drone killing. If our government and the military industrial complex can so easily capture and hold hundreds of innocent human beings for years under horrendous conditions, what errors are being made in our name with targeted U.S. assassination?...

Is wrongful execution by hellfire missile preferable to wrongful indefinite detention? With a government that is practicing such unrestrained abuses without any oversight by other branches of the government, is that a government that would listen to the voices of justice in conventional ways that have previously failed?...

Where should a citizen turn? What choices are left? What effective means do we have to change the disastrous and unprecedented course we are taking with drone warfare? The unlimited powers that are being unleashed are unfathomable. From the examples that I have given, do you think that we can have any hope that petitions or letters or phone calls will make an ounce of difference? Especially when so much of the truth is being hidden from the vast majority of Americans? How do we change course, and how do we hold our elected officials accountable when so much of the public is in the dark?

War Tax Resister Must Pay Up, Spend Weekends in Jail

A New York chiropractor entered into a plea agreement with federal prosecutors and was sentenced on October 12 to serve 26 weekends in jail and pay back-taxes and penalties totaling nearly \$250,000. Joseph Olejak, a convert to the Quaker faith who undertook war tax resistance on his own, without guidance from the experience of others moved similarly by conscience, was allowed to plead guilty to just one count of attempting to evade taxes, although admitting that he did not file a return from 1994 through 2009. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) began an investigation, and filed a "Substitute for Return" for each year. When the IRS then took action to notify Olejak of its assessment and place liens on his property, he admitted in the agreement to making false statements to the IRS and placing funds and properties outside his recorded ownership to avoid the liens.

Olejak told reporters the judge "was sensitive to the basic principles behind what I did," and "I think there was leniency because of the First Amendment issue. I thought I was going to get three years in federal prison, so I'm very thankful."

In an essay titled "The Arc of a Convinced Quaker Towards Peace Activism," Olejak wrote,

"One does not wake up and think 'Hey, I think I'll take on the Federal Government today.' Coming to a decision of that magnitude is a process of consciousness emerging over time; a process that is hundreds of steps in the making."

For Olejak, "the day I decided enough is enough" was in 1996, when Secretary of State Madeline Albright infamously responded to a reporter's question about the death of half a million children under the Iraq sanctions to say, "We think the price is worth it."

"I was sitting in my office when I read this news story. I chose then and there that I was through paying for government war games. My mind was galvanized by the decision and I stuck to it for years," he wrote.

But the decision had its cost, and Olejak has concluded:

Looking back on the idealistic and impulsive man I was at 34, an older and wiser man of 50 would say something like "good intentions, but maybe not the best execution strategy." ...

In one sense I feel I honored my conscience by removing a significant sum of money (1/3 of the cost of a cruise missile, \$1,410,000) from U.S. military coffers, but on the other hand, 15 years of being a lone protestor is very hard. It is hard on a person and hard on everyone who surrounds that person. In fact, it is a personal and financial catastrophe. In my case, the dissolution of my marriage and untold financial losses paying for lawyers and liens on my property. ...

I was moved by moral and ethical considerations. People said I was mad, like crazy. And maybe I am "mad" in the same way that others who have met injustice are "mad" but as George Bernard

Shaw famously said: "...all progress depends on the unreasonable man..." I simply stopped being reasonable.

Given the horrors that the second Bush and then the Obama administrations have visited upon the world - I'd say my instincts were correct.

Thanks

Thanks to Bill, Rosemary, Steve, and Paige for help with mailing the last issue, and to Joyce for proofreading.

Cindy Callahan took the photo of the Sadako puppet at Tucson's All Souls Procession that appeared in the last issue.

Chelsea Manning Update

In a year-end public letter received by the Private Manning Support Network, jailed whistleblower Chelsea (formerly Bradley) Manning wrote to "share my gratitude for all those who have been so generous to me by sending your well wishes for my birthday and the Holidays. I really wish I had the resources and the time to respond to each and every one of you. Sadly, the best I can possibly offer at this time is ... my warm appreciation through this statement." She also described problems with receiving misaddressed mail: over half in the previous month had been incorrectly addressed, requiring added review in the mailroom.

Manning was honored to be named the 2014 recipient of the Sam Adams Prize for Integrity in Intelligence. Edward Snowden was last year's recipient. Manning has asked her friend, Aaron Kirkhouse, to accept the award on her behalf in a February ceremony at Oxford University's Oxford Union Society.

In February, Manning had a two-day visit at the military prison in Leavenworth, Kansas from her sister, as well as her aunt and uncle visiting from Wales - her first family visit since her conviction last summer. Travel expenses were paid for by donations to the Manning Family Fund, established in Britain for this purpose. Activists in the American midwest have offered practical

support for visiting family members.

Her aunt reports that after their Saturday visit taken up with more serious discussions, at their Sunday visit, "It was really relaxed. Chelsea was joking around. We laughed and laughed."

For more information, visit www.privatemanning.org.



The Private Manning Support Network is collecting signatures on a petition for pardon, to be delivered at the appropriate time in the legal process to President Obama. Download the .pdf at bit.ly/PardonManning or contact Private Manning Support Network, c/o Courage to Resist, 484 Lake Park Ave #41, Oakland CA 94610, www.privatemanning.org.

Manning notes that she may not receive personal checks, but can receive bank checks and money orders made payable to Bradley E. Manning at her address. Letters of support should be addressed accurately for delivery to Manning's name of record: Bradley E. Manning 89289, 1300 North Warehouse Road, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027-2304.

the Nuclear Resister

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YOU CAN HELP!

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

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

THE NUCLEAR RESISTER ON MICROFILM

The Nuclear Resister is available on microfilm as part of the Alternative Press Collection (1986 - present) and the Alternative Press Center Supplement of the Underground Press Collection (1980 - 1985) offered by the ProQuest Company, 789 E. Eisenhower Pkwy., Ann Arbor, MI 48106 or online at proquest.com.

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

JAIL TIME FOR ACTING TO STOP DRONE CRIMES

Twelve people from a group protesting drone warfare waged from an upstate New York airfield were sentenced to the maximum 15 days in jail on February 7. Saying, "At some point this has to stop," Town of DeWitt Court Judge David Gideon also fined each member of the group \$250 and imposed a \$125 court surcharge. He then renewed for two years an Order of Protection (OP), prohibiting the resisters from going to the home, school, business or place of employment of the Commander of the "chair force" at Hancock Air National Guard Base.

The resisters are part of the Upstate New York Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars, which seeks to educate the public and Hancock personnel about the war crimes perpetrated in Afghanistan with the MQ-9 Reaper drone piloted from Hancock. They were arrested in October, 2012 as they blocked the gates, and charged with trespass and disorderly conduct. Judge Gideon acquitted the group of trespass but found them guilty of disorderly conduct.

All of them – Judy Bello, Daniel Burgevin, Mark Colville, Clare Grady, Mary Anne Grady Flores, Martha Hennessy, Brian Hynes, Ed Kinane, Rae Kramer, James Ricks, Mark Scibilia-Carver and Paki Weiland – were released from jail on February 14 after serving 2/3 of the term and getting out early before the weekend.

Their trial took place over several sessions in the small Syracuse suburb's night court beginning January 3. Supporters filled the courtroom each time. Two of the 17 arrested accepted a plea agreement, pleading guilty to trespass and a sentence of one year conditional discharge and a one year extension of the OP.

Representing themselves, as were all but one of the remaining defendants, Ed Kinane and Clare Grady called for a moment of silence for those killed by drones before they began the opening statements to the court.

Kinane stated that the defense was the convergence of two paths – the paths of legalism and of justice and conscience – and that the activists came not to break laws, but to uphold International Law. Grady then spoke movingly that "law is here to serve humanity NOT the other way around" and that very important laws have been signed and agreed upon by the nations of the world that reflect this.

"When we go to Hancock," she affirmed, "we go to call a halt to drone War Crimes. We breathe life into treaties and agreements that are the supreme laws of our land. These laws, treaties and agreements are designed to lead us toward peace and away from war."

The prosecution brought to the stand Col. Earl Evans, the commander seeking protection from the court for his warmaking, and another witness. Both agreed the protest had been nonviolent and did not seem dangerous or threatening. There was much discussion about property lines, as another town court judge in October had acquitted Hancock protesters of trespass because they

were already demonstrating on the base property when they blocked the road.

Court recessed after midnight, and resumed the following Monday for a few hours. Police officers and sheriff's deputies testified and were cross-examined by the pro se defendants. Were they aware of the illegality of base operations, using MQ-9s to kill people in Afghanistan? Did they know that drone wars violate international law? The lawyer for one defendant brought out the fact that no signage indicated where one might or might not be trespassing and that the gates were closed as soon as the activists stepped forward, so the base blockaded itself.

Court adjourned early because some prosecution witnesses were not available. The defense asked for a dismissal on speedy trial grounds but was denied.

Court resumed again January 23 with more law enforcement testimony to conclude the State's case. Two defendants had their charges dismissed because of problems identifying them.

In their own defense, three men testified that evening. Elliott Adams, past president of Veterans for Peace, testified as a descendant of Revolutionary War veterans, stating that it is our right and our obligation to uphold International Law as prescribed by Article 6 of the United States Constitution. Dan Burgevin, an Ithaca artist who painted the banners held by the defendants, spoke with eloquence and humility of the pain and suffering of the children living under drones. Mark Colville, a Catholic Worker from New Haven, Connecticut, identified a photo of himself holding a poster that said "Drones = War Crimes", and said those words accurately reflected his intention for protesting at Hancock Base.

Trial finally concluded the next week, January 31. Eight defendants gave legal and moral closing arguments, and Judge Gideon listened carefully to each. Another week later, Gideon delivered the verdicts and sentence to all but Elliot Adams, who received the same sentence on February 25 and was to be released from jail as this issue went to press.

In her sentencing statement, Rae Kramer pointed out that the defendants had never met or known of the Commander before their arrest, so the intent of the OP is clearly to keep people away from the base. "No person on the base was intimidated by us, that is clear," she said. "But the end result is to deprive me of my 1st Amendment Rights."

Clare Grady said, "We went there to stop the war crimes. That was our intent." James Ricks hoped the judge would "sentence us to community service to investigate the war crimes they are committing at the base." Judy Bello said, "The people suffering are so significant. It requires a persistent response," and argued that the international law argument is indeed valid.

Mark Scibilia-Carver quoted the Pope, saying "Violence is a lie," and "Faith and violence are incompatible." Mark Colville challenged the Court, stating, "This court has been found guilty of stopping it's ears to the laws that are in place to protect life. This court has been found guilty of stopping it's ears to the voices of the victims of the drones."

More Hancock resisters await a trial date, and monthly peace vigils outside the Hancock gate continue. For more information, visit upstatedroneaction.org.

California Drone Resisters Get Community Service

Four people were convicted of trespass in federal court in Sacramento, California on February 3. Judge Claire presided over the day-long bench trial, and while denying Martha Hubert, Robin Ryan, Bill Doub and Toby Blomé the use of a defense of necessity or Nuremberg obligations, she did allow them to address the court before imposing her sentence.

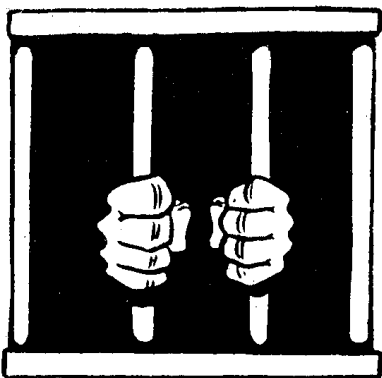
Each defendant spoke to different aspects of what motivated their protest of the Global Hawk surveillance drone command based at Beale Air Force Base, north of Sacramento. Doub read from their action statement, and spoke about his opposition to drone warfare and his hopes for a peaceful world for his grandchildren. Ryan told stories of wedding parties attacked, and post-traumatic stress disorder suffered by U.S. military. Hubert addressed the failings of the justice system, making a farce of the issue with a trespass charge.

Blomé spoke of her personal experience trying to right these wrongs and the ineffectiveness of conventional approaches that make "unconventional" tactics necessary. [Read excerpts from her statement on page 2, Resistance Reflections.]

Each was sentenced to ten hours community service, and warned that because they had been issued ban and bar letters when they were arrested last April, they should expect a harsher sentence if they return to her court. Co-defendant Barry Binks had his charge dismissed before trial because, as a veteran, he was permitted to enter the base. They were the second group of Beale drone opponents convicted in federal court in the last six months. Four more people, arrested in November, pled not guilty and are in pre-trial proceedings.

For more information, visit occupybealeafb.org.

Inside @ Out



NUCLEAR RESISTERS

Gregory Boertje-Obed 08052-016

Megan Rice 88101-020

Michael Walli 92108-020

c/o the Nuclear Resister, POB 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733.

(62 months for Boertje-Obed & Walli, 35 months for Rice - in 5/13)

(Transform Now Plowshares action group convicted of sabotage and depredation of government property at Y-12 nuclear weapons complex, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, 7/28/12)

Leonard Peltier 89637-132

USP Coleman I, POB 1033,

Coleman, FL 33521.

(life)

(Native American political prisoner framed for murder while defending traditional indigenous from threats including uranium mining on sacred lands)

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

Please refer to
nukesister.org/inside-out
for current addresses before writing.

ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS

Margaretta D'Arcy

Dochas Center, Mountjoy Prison,

North Circular Road, Dublin 7, Ireland.

(three months - in 1/15/14)

(Refused bond conditions on suspended sentence for anti-war die-in on the Shannon Airport runway, 10/12)

Shakir Hamoodi 21901-045

USP Leavenworth, POB 1000,

Leavenworth, KS 66048.

(three years - out 4/17/15)

(Plea agreement to one count of violating 1991-2003 U.S. sanctions by providing personal charity for family and friends living in Iraq)

Rafil Dhafir 11921-052

Unit HB, Federal Medical Center Devens,

POB 879, Ayer, MA 01432.

(22 years - out 4/26/22)

(Convictions resulting from providing humanitarian and financial aid to Iraqis in violation of U.S. sanctions, 2/05)

Norman Edgar Lowry Jr. KN 9758

SCI Dallas, 1000 Follies Rd., Dallas, PA 18612.

(one to seven years - in 8/1/11)

(Repeated trespass at military recruiting office, 8/1/11)

Bradley E. Manning 89289

1300 North Warehouse Road,

Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027-2304.

(35 years - in 5/10, out 2/3/20)

(Whistleblower convicted on espionage and other charges for release of military video and documents showing evidence of U.S. war crimes. To ensure delivery, any card or envelope must be addressed exactly as noted to Bradley E., not Chelsea Manning)

Yang Yoon-Mo Prisoner No. 301

Jeju Prison, 161, Ora-2 dong,

Jeju-si, Jeju-do, the Peace Island, Korea.

(18 months - in 2/1/13)

(Obstruction of business of military port contractors, Jeju Island, South Korea)

Brian Jacob Church 2012-0519002

Jared Chase 2012-0519003

Brent Betterly 2012-0519001

P.O. Box 089002, Chicago, IL 60608.

(NATO 3, awaiting sentencing April 25 for arson related and mob action charges at the NATO summit in Chicago, May 2012)

PREVIOUSLY LISTED,

RECENTLY RELEASED: Gerald Ebner, Park Do-Hyun, Kim Eun-Hye

Just Shut it Down Already!

from Shut it Down affinity group

Acting on their conviction that governments, regulatory agencies and corporations fail to honor the public trust, nine women of the Shut It Down Affinity Group went to Entergy Corporation headquarters in Brattleboro, Vermont on January 15 to demand the immediate shut down of Entergy's 42-year-old Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon, just across the border from Massachusetts.

Entergy officials ignored their demands, and Brattleboro police arrested the women when they refused to move from the main headquarters door. The women were booked on site and released pending charges and a court date.

The women demanded immediate closure of Vermont Yankee, immediate removal of fuel rods that have been in the fuel pool for more than five years, hardened on-site storage, and using the cooling towers as intended.

In 2013, Entergy scheduled closure of the nuclear plant in December 2014. Vermont's Governor Peter Shumlin

recently announced a deal that will require Entergy to finance and follow through on decommissioning the plant without leaving radioactive materials on site for decades as the corporation first proposed.

"Greed is the only reason not to close Vermont Yankee now," said Hattie Nestel of Athol, one of the Shut It Downers. "There has been a persistent false belief that the nuclear fuel rods must cool before the plant shuts down, but that is wrong. It's the other way around. The plant shuts down, and the fuel rods cool.

Arrested were, from Vermont, Linda Pon Owen and Ulrike von Moltke, and from Massachusetts, Hattie Nestel, Priscilla Lynch, Anneke Corbett, Frances Crowe, Nancy First, Connie Harvard and Susan Lantz.

Since 2005, the Shut It Down Affinity Group has engaged in civil resistance more than 30 times at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon or at Entergy headquarters in Brattleboro. Each time, Shut It Downers insisted upon the immediate closure of the nuclear plant. Most often, the Vermont state's attorney fails to press charges against the women arrested.

ARRESTING PETRAEUS

Deb Van Poolen writes:

I was arrested for trespassing on January 31 at the DeVos Place in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I interrupted David Petraeus as he was speaking at a luncheon sponsored by the West Michigan World Affairs Council.

As I sat in that ballroom luncheon, I designed to send a fissure through David Petraeus' edifice of lies with the intent to reach someone with the truth who desperately needed to hear it like I once did. While Petraeus was talking about Iraq, I stood up and yelled, "David Petraeus, you are a war criminal! You are responsible for the deaths of thousands of innocent men, women and children!"

At some point during those sentences my arm was grabbed as I was told to stop speaking and leave the room. I stood in place and kept talking. I don't remember exactly what I said next; I had intended to talk about the escalation of the drone wars under Petraeus and the hundreds of innocent men, women and children that were killed. I was escorted out of the room and told I was under arrest for trespassing at a private event. They put handcuffs on me while in the lobby and then escorted me to the police car outside.

The response to this action from the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan are two misdemeanor charges against me for trespassing and "obtaining property by fraud or trick." I pleaded not guilty.

For more information, visit debvanpoolen.com.

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from Knoxville

Good morning! Thank you, Judge Thapar, and each of you, in this Beloved Community. We are so grateful this morning, in the depths of our hearts. Grateful to each of you for gracing us from your very busy lives, to be here once again...

...The issue here before us today has touched with perilous risk, for 70 years, the very existence of our sacred, lovely home, which we all share and try to treasure – our Planet Earth, which many of us revere as Mother!...

This trial has exposed, quite gratuitously, in the evidence, thanks to the prosecution's witnesses, the truth about what is happening. That this one facility is part of what Kristen Iversen says the U.S. has become: one huge bomb factory, of which Y-12 is but one very significant part.

We are all grateful, as Anabel Dwyer points out, with the Defense team of Lawyers, that the details of the goings-on at Y-12 were revealed by the witnesses for the government, details kept mostly secret, over nigh to 70 years – the specific warheads being "enhanced" and "modernized" – the enormous quantities of highly enriched uranium material (HEUM) produced and stored there, in the very building we were able, almost unknowingly, to reach, to touch, and to label with statements and symbols of truth. This alerted Y-12 workers to what has been kept secret for nearly 70 years.

The secrecy began in 1943, when worker women, by thousands, could not tell fellow workers or family. Still now, secrets are kept between workers, officials and managers. The secrecy prevailed to try relentlessly to turn these United States into a "super power," an empire. As Germany tried to be under the Third Reich. When I was growing up, to our generation, these were very evil terms. Has any empire, or aspiring super-power not declined, not fallen apart from exceptionalism into decadence? So we had to come to this facility to call it to transformation. Thank you for revealing these secrets as evidence.

Many who were here on January 28th had attended plowshares trials around the country, your honor, including the most recent in Tacoma, WA – the Disarm Now Plowshares (seniors also, I allege, aged from 84-60: One Sacred Heart Sister, Anne Montgomery of happy memory, 2 Jesuits Frs. Bill Bichsel and Steve Kelly, and 2 grandmothers, Susan Crane and Lynne Greenwald.) In many of these earlier trials, even the words "nuclear weapons" have been called "classified" and denied to be alluded to. Despite being components for weapons of mass destruction, contrary to the Non-Proliferation and other treaties and laws to which the U.S. is legally bound, and for which crimes we citizens bear shared responsibility by law to expose and oppose as crimes, when we know they are being committed.

And still we have more room and reasons for gratitude, your honor. Because recent laws by the U.S. Congress gave you distress, you felt that you had to keep these jury-convicted, conscience-bound peace-makers as "violent saboteurs," felons accused of "seriously damaging the national defense of the U.S." in detention while awaiting sentencing. Detention in a privately-contracted, for-profit, rendition warehouse, which punishes and tortures unsentenced people, partly because of the enormously overcrowded courts and prisons in this country.

THE INSIDE LINE



These facilities are not effectively overseen nor accountable. Because of our experience of the ill-equipped conditions and inadequately trained personnel in those for-profit warehouses, we now know how U.S. citizens and non-citizens are treated for nonviolent crimes of "conspiracy" and other medical, drug laws as they exist. Crimes engendered by the failed socio-economic situation which prevails today in a national security state. The direct fall-out from gross misspending to maintain a nuclear industrial complex – of ten trillions of dollars over these last 70 years. An economic system devoid of any outcome other than death, poverty for the masses in a debt-ridden country, with obscene wealth for the less than 1% of the people – individuals wealthier than the GNP of entire countries and I would ask, from war-profiteering?

We thank you, Judge Thapar, for giving us this time to become inspired by truly great human beings, so patiently enduring flagrantly inhuman conditions. We can now report to you and the general public, who are the government, of the conditions where people are experiencing punishment and torture as unsentenced, awaiting changing court dates, or places in federal prisons today. We have seen how this for-profit detention contract system fails to accomplish any kind of restorative justice or rehabilitation. Women and men who are the victims of a nation, impoverished by the violence and cost of an economy based on manufacturing WMDs and war-making – inhumanly separated by distance and poverty, managerial incompetence; inordinately separated from contact with loved ones and families.

I am grateful also for what Daniel Berrigan called in a letter to me in Danbury Prison in 1998, "my time under federal scholarship." We have tried to make the most of it. (Have learned enough for 2 or 3 Masters degrees, and written and received letters to and from enough to do a doctoral dissertation!) We are activated by the people who suffer under disempowering conditions of detention. Activated to invite U.S. prison reform, which calls for transformation of minds and hearts from violence. Violence of profiteering from the "fall out" of constant, unending war-making, by a military industrial complex. Those engaged in the production of ever more massively powerful, death-dealing weapons – nuclear, chemical, biological, unmanned weapons, which rob the poor and sabotage and pollute all of life and creation on this Planet.

We are energized to call for life-enhancing alternative projects: like disarmament, depleting radioactive isotopes and toxins, and those which meet real needs – social, cultural, spiritual and environmental: restoration, healing, harmony, balance and peace in nonviolence.

[Excerpted from Sr. Megan's Rice's written sentencing statement for the Transform Now Plowshares nuclear disarmament action. Rice has been jailed since her conviction in May, 2012, and was sentenced to 35 months for sabotage and destruction of government property.]

TRANSFORM NO

continued from page 1

neighborhood have for Walli, who embodies generosity.

During cross-examination, Theodore asked, "You don't believe what he did was wrong, do you?"

Boylan answered, "There is a higher law than the one in this court. There is the law of God."

"If he were to come back to be reintegrated into your community, would you try to discourage him from doing this kind of action again?"

Boylan said she would not.

Walli's attorney Chris Irwin rose to redirect, asking Boylan to describe the basis for the Plowshares movement. She paraphrased the Isaiah passage, and explained that we should always take a hammer to the chains that enslave people. We have fashioned these weapons with our hands; we can take them apart.

"One more question," said Irwin. "If Martin Luther King, Jr. were still alive, and he came to the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker house, would you discourage him from committing civil disobedience?"

"No!" said Boylan.

In her testimony, Yale professor and author Mary Evelyn Tucker, a longtime family friend of Rice, said, "It is clear that Megan is a person of high moral principles with a profound Christian commitment to alleviate suffering and advance the cause of peace." She said that hearing Theodore earlier describe the defendants as "disingenuous", "hit my heart."

World War II veteran Wilfred "Andy" Anderson, 87, a friend of both Boertje-Obed and Walli, called for the release of the three, calling them "terrific" and "decent, warm-hearted human beings" who did not "present a danger to society."

Last up was John LaForge, co-director of Nukewatch in Luck, Wisconsin, and a long-time friend of both men in the dock.

Boertje-Obed, representing himself, asked LaForge to describe his own 1984 Plowshares case before federal Judge Miles Lord in Minnesota. LaForge told how the judge spoke from the bench to condemn nuclear weapons production and the companies that made them before sentencing LaForge and co-defendant Barb Katt to six months unsupervised probation.

During the recess after LaForge's testimony, it was learned that the courthouse would be closing early due to a severe winter storm moving into the region. After consultation with the attorneys, the sentencing was adjourned until February 18.

HEARING CONTINUES

The defendants were returned to Knoxville area jails for three weeks until once again supporters filled two courtrooms to hear the allocation of each Plowshares resister and closing arguments.

Nonviolent Action Honors Dr. King

BANGOR

The annual commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy at the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action began the morning of Saturday, January 18. Participants screened "The Ghosts of Jeju," a documentary about the people of Jeju Island, South Korea who are resisting the military advance on their island today, just as their parents and relatives did in 1947. Monks from the Bainbridge Island Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist Temple arrived after a two-day walk from Olympia to the nuclear abolition group's Poulso center, just up the road from the main gate to Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, the West Coast nuclear submarine base and nuclear weapons storehouse.

On that afternoon, the group maintained a peaceful vigil at the base gate. Honoring King's strong stand against war and nuclear weapons, they held a large banner with a quote from Dr. King: "When scientific power outruns spiritual power, we end up with guided missiles and misguided men."

Gilberto Perez and Michael Siptroth entered the roadway, symbolically closing the base. They were arrested and removed from the road, cited for being a "Pedestrian on Roadway Illegally." Perez, a Buddhist monk who has visited Jeju Island in South Korea, held a banner (translated from Korean) "No Naval Base until Death."



photo by Leonard Eiger

Michael Siptroth and Br. Gilberto Perez are arrested for blocking traffic into the Trident nuclear submarine base at Bangor, Washington, January 18, 2014.

Another participant, Tom Krebsbach, walked onto the base to deliver a message in the form of a poem to the base commander. He was arrested for trespass and released a short while later.

After Krebsbach's arrest, one last resister entered the roadway carrying a sign reading "Abolish Nuclear Weapons." MacKnight Johnson was also escorted from the roadway by State Patrol officers and cited.

For more information, visit gzcenter.org.

LOCKHEED-MARTIN

On January 20, about 40 people stood at the main driveway entrance to Lockheed Martin's complex in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania as a recording of Dr. King's voice was loudly amplified. The group held a 20-foot-long bar graph banner showing the share for warrior's greed vs. human needs in the federal budget.

Following a litany built around Dr. King's 1964 Nobel Peace Prize Speech, those prepared to face arrest stood with banners, pictures and quotes of Dr. King, blocking the company's main driveway entrance. To the sound of Dr. King's 1967 "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence" speech at Riverside Church, they took a few steps up the road to Lockheed Martin. They were stopped, arrested by the Upper Merion Township police, and taken to the police station. Released there with disorderly conduct citations were Bernadette Cronin-Geller, Annie Geers, Sylvia Metzler, Tom Mullian, Paul Sheldon, Fr. Patrick Sieber OFM and Robert Smith.

This is the 37th consecutive year that the Brandywine Peace Community has held a peace demonstration and time of nonviolent resistance honoring King's legacy of justice, peace and nonviolent action. Lockheed Martin is the #1 U.S. military contractor and worldwide arms dealer, the country's chief nuclear weapons contractor and among the top manufacturers of drone war technology – from drone aircraft and deadly Hellfire missiles to the satellites that direct them.

For more information, visit brandywinepeace.com.

OW PLOWSHARES, cont.

Greg Boertje-Obed, Megan Rice and Michael Walli each took the stand on February 18 and reminded the court that the central purpose of their action was to call attention to the ongoing illegitimacy of the Y-12 plant in Oak Ridge. The Uranium Processing Facility (UPF) on the drawing board is a multi-billion dollar factory for the sole purpose of producing new thermonuclear cores for bombs, and workers at Y-12 today are already performing Life Extension Upgrades on the W76 warhead in violation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). The court was reminded that in Ramsey Clark's testimony at a pretrial motions hearing, the man who was Attorney General of the United States when the treaty was negotiated and signed called the production of nuclear weapons components at Y-12 "unlawful," and the work there "a criminal enterprise."

Prosecutor Jeff Theodore returned to his refrain that the "incorrigible, habitual offenders ... pretty much celebrated their acts."

Ignoring each of the defendant's direct appeals to the government's binding legal obligations under the NPT and the Constitution (which holds that treaties are the "supreme law of the land"), Judge Thapar repeatedly accused the three of showing "complete disrespect for law." This, from the same judge who penned pre-trial orders that forbade the defendants from presenting legitimate law-based defenses.

Speaking for himself in reply, Michael Walli said in part, "I'm offended by the notion that Auschwitz had a legal right to exist. The gas ovens, the crematoria, fences and buildings there all had a purpose that was not legal or just.

"I am a citizen of heaven," Walli continued. "I was acting upon my God-given obligation as a follower of Jesus Christ... We engaged in our lawful, missionary work at Y-12... I committed no crime. I have no sense of remorse or shame... I make no apology. I would do it again."

Inviting Judge Thapar to look at him, Walli said, "I am the face of tomorrow, the face of total demilitarization and vindication of the prophets."

On the stand, Greg Boertje-Obed read an excerpt of Dr. King's Beyond Vietnam speech, and from Daniel Berrigan's poem, Hymn to a New Humanity, both being perspectives that shaped his life of nonviolent resistance to war. He then told the court that if the U.S. were to abide by the NPT, it "would promote respect for the law" in a world where U.S. lawlessness is often noticed more.

As she addressed the court, Megan Rice spoke not only of the immorality and illegality of nuclear weapons, but also addressed the injustice she had witnessed first-hand in the dehumanizing conditions of the private prison where they'd been held, connecting the oppression of impoverished lives to the theft of social wealth by the military. [see The Inside line, page 4]

Rice ended by asking the judge if it would be all right

to lighten the mood, and sing a song. He agreed, then was taken aback as she turned to supporters and they rose to join her in singing:

Sacred the land, sacred the water,
sacred the sky, holy and true.
Sacred all life, sacred each other;
all reflect God who is good.

In a challenge widely quoted in press reports, Rice also told Thapar: "We have to speak, and we're happy to die for that. To remain in prison for the rest of my life is the greatest honor that you could give to me. Please don't be lenient with me. It would be an honor for that to happen."

But Judge Thapar said the defendants' many good works throughout their lives deserved consideration in his sentencing. Throughout the hearing, he repeatedly questioned the long prison terms the government was asking for. He also challenged the prosecutor on his claim that the three had "harmed the national defense." When Theodore asserted that the protesters "did not just monetary harm," but much more, the judge flatly disagreed.

"What is the other harm, beyond the property damage? Harm to pride? What is the real harm to the security of the United States?" the judge asked. Theodore merely noted the sworn testimony of a General Johnson who said that break-in had destroyed the "mystique" of robust security around nuclear weapons factories.

After everyone else had their say, Judge Thapar addressed the defendants before passing sentence.

He repeated again how much voice he believes the defendants and their supporters have and how much sway they could have toward affecting change solely through legal means.

"If all that energy and passion was devoted to changing the laws, perhaps a real change would have occurred today." But Thapar also said he hoped that significant jail time would deter others, if not the defendants, and "will lead people back to the political process I fear they've given up on."

The judge's ignorance about the history of public consent in the nuclear age and his naivete about the dynamics and radical potential of nonviolent direct action frustrated many in the courtroom who have personally spent years and decades engaged in public education, legislative lobbying and other legal activity for nuclear disarmament, with nothing more comparable to success than the small chunks of concrete the three activists had dislodged from the uranium vault.

At their trial, they were prohibited from presenting testimony in their defense about the illegality of nuclear weapons under international law, and from arguing that their acts were intended to prevent the much greater crime of preparing to wage nuclear war.

They were arrested at morning twilight on July 28, 2012 at the foot of the massive nuclear-age fortress holding the United States' bomb-grade uranium stockpile in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. They had cut through a few poorly-secured fences, marked the building with blood and Biblical quotes, chipped the concrete wall with a hammer and hung banners. When the first guard arrived on the scene, they broke bread and offered it to him. They called their bold action, the first of its kind in Tennessee, the Transform Now Plowshares. Plowshares are a tradition of more than 100 mostly faith-based direct actions taken since 1980 that use hand tools against weapons as suggested by the Biblical prophecy of Micah and Isaiah that proclaimed that peace will come when people beat swords into plowshares, and spears into pruning hooks.

Historically, their sentences are comparable to those imposed for some past Plowshares actions. For example, Dominican Sisters Carol Gilbert, Ardeth Platte and the late Jackie Hudson were sentenced in 2004 to 30-41 months for the same crimes after their Sacred Earth and Space Plowshares II action at a Colorado nuclear missile silo. In 1999, Daniel Sicken and Sachio Ko-Yin were also convicted of sabotage, conspiracy and destruction of government property at another Colorado missile silo, and sentenced to 41 and 30 months, respectively. The original sentences for the 1984 Silo Pruning Hooks foursome ranged from 8 to 18 years.

For more information, visit transformnowplowshares.wordpress.com and orepa.org.

Thanks to Ralph Hutchison, Patrick O'Neill, Art Laffin and John LaForge for their first-hand reports that contributed to this story.



The three activists were moved back to the private prison in Ocilla, Georgia on February 28, where they will be held until transfer to their designated federal prisons. For now, letters of support should be sent individually to Greg Boertje-Obed, Megan Rice and Michael Walli c/o the Nuclear Resister, POB 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733. They will be forwarded to the three as soon as they have arrived at their federal lock-up. Prisoner addresses are regularly updated at nukeresister.org/inside-out.

Donations are needed to help with modest commissary accounts and transportation assistance to family members for prison visits. A check can be mailed, with TNP on the memo line, to: Catholic Worker, PO Box 29179, Washington, D.C. 20017. Online donations can be made on the Nukewatch website - www.nukewatchinfo.org. Scroll down to the Donate button, enter a Paypal account or credit card number, proceed to the review page, click a link and indicate the donation is for the TNP support team.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Fukushima

In a highly political case, a Japanese anti-nuclear activist faces criminal prosecution over a Tweet she sent in July.

Mari Takenouchi is the founder of Save Kids Japan and a free-lance English-bilingual journalist publishing at savekidsjapan.blogspot.jp. She advocates that mothers and children, who are most sensitive to radiation exposure, be supported and relocated outside of the contaminated zones around the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power site.

She tweeted a pair of quotes dismissive of radiation concerns – one from the CIA-funded father of Japan’s nuclear industry, Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone, and the second from Ms. Ryoko Ando, director of the Fukushima ETHOS project – prefacing them with the words, “Common points of the 2 criminals of the century”.

ETHOS is a program where residents, including pregnant women and children, are encouraged to keep living in contaminated areas while carrying out decontamination and radiation measurements. A similar project in post-Chernobyl Belarus had an adverse impact on children’s health. Both are supported by pro-nuclear forces that seek to establish a new, post-Fukushima regime of exposure limits for affected areas and populations. Explaining the program, Ryoko Ando has said, “It is important to establish your own standard of radiation safety to achieve your true sense of security.”

On January 28, police called Mari Takenouchi to tell her that Ryoko Ando (legal name Yoko Kamata) had filed a complaint accusing Takenouchi of criminal contempt. Police visited Takenouchi’s home in February,

interviewing her and asking her questions for six hours. The prosecutor will review the information gathered and likely decide by next July whether to move forward with the charge of criminal contempt. It is a minor offense that could result in fines and up to a month in jail.

Takenouchi recently wrote on her blog:

I would like to apologize regarding the expression of “criminals of the century” to both Ms. Kamata and Mr. Nakasone.

At the same time, I would like both of them to reflect themselves [on] what they have done. I used the word “criminal of the century” due to my long time resentment seeing that nobody has taken true responsibility after the nuclear accident while lots of children are left being exposed to radiation.

In addition, I had a slight hope that both Ms. Ando and Mr. Nakasone, whom I criticized, would rethink what they have done and reconsider the situation of children who have been exposed to radiation.

Following the police investigation, Ms. Ando particularly objected to the expression, “human experiment” regarding ETHOS, but Mari Takenouchi said, “I have no intention to withdraw this word, because what is going on in Fukushima is truly a human experiment.”

A petition asking the prosecutor to dismiss the complaint can be signed at bit.ly/MariTakenouchi.

China

Liu Yaundong is one of a new generation of Chinese, notably in the south, who have been arrested, sometimes tortured, and jailed over the last two years because of public demonstrations for a constitutional regime and public accounting of Communist Party leaders’ wealth. As a prominent leader of one ad hoc group known as “Southern Street”, Liu was arrested in February, 2013 during one of the group’s regular street banner protests in the southern city of Guangzhou.

Guangzhou has long been known for a more liberal political atmosphere due to its proximity to Hong Kong, and the movement’s small protests had been attracting more public interest – and growing police reaction – in the year since organizers concluded their growing online advocacy was not affecting progress towards their goals and took to the streets.

On February 23, 2013, the focus of a monthly protest was North Korea’s recent nuclear weapon test. Liu and three others were jailed for 15 days for illegal assembly, then Liu remained in custody on new charges of disturbing public order related to an earlier demonstration and financial crimes related to his business.

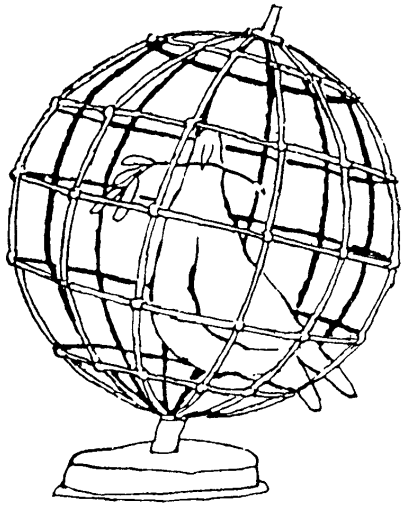
Liu was finally on trial on January 24, but no verdict was read. He remains in prison along with other Southern Street organizers.

[Editor’s note: Because we have learned that Liu Yuandong is not in prison due to his protest against North Korea’s nuclear test, we have removed his name from the list of anti-nuclear prisoners. Thanks to Human Rights in China (www.hrichina.org/en) for covering his trial and those of other human rights activists.]

FOR PRISONER ADVOCATES

The United States’ Federal Bureau of Prisons recently redesigned their Inmate Locator page at www.bop.gov/inmateloc/. The page is a useful tool for keeping track of people being moved through that archipelago of concrete and steel. Now it has a new link, *Voice a Concern*, that directs the user to a page where a message can be sent to officials regarding a particular prisoner. No telling what kind of response the user might get, but it could also be a useful tool for prisoner advocates.

Prison Legal News is a valuable resource for prisoner advocates. An independent, non-profit 64-page monthly publication that reports, reviews and analyzes court rulings and news related to prisoners’ rights and prison issues, with a focus on U.S. federal, state and private prisons. Subscriptions start at \$35/year for individuals, \$30 for prisoners from Prison Legal News, P.O. Box 1151, Lake Worth, FL 33460.



Jeju

Winter brought the election of a new mayor in Gangjeong, the center of struggle against the strategically provocative naval base under construction on Jeju Island, South Korea. New mayor Cho Kyung-Chul, like former Mayor Kang, opposes the naval base.

In January, two activists were released from the local prison. Following appeal and reduction of her jail sentence to time served, Ms. Kim Eun-Hye was released on January 9 after three months in prison. She had been accused of assaulting a policewoman, but despite the absence of actual evidence, the appeals court found her guilty of the “possibility of violence.”

Although his court case is still ongoing, Br. Park Do-Hyun was released January 14 after serving a maximum six-month jail sentence for his alleged crime. He was arrested at sea with Dr. Song Kang-Ho last summer. They were accused of violating a Coast Guard order closing the immediate area to leisure boating. Yet in November, the Jeju local court had ruled that such environmental monitoring by kayak cannot be considered leisure boating, and therefore fines may not be imposed.

Over the last three months, upwards of 100 people have had appeals of suspended prison sentences and fines considered. Most of the appeals were simply rejected, while a few sentences were slightly altered. One person was found not guilty on appeal, while another was convicted when the prosecutor appealed an initial verdict of not guilty. At least two more people were convicted in their first trial and sentenced to suspended prison terms of 8 and 18 months plus fines and years of supervised probation.

In Seoul, the trial of Sr. Stella Soh, the first nun ever put on trial in Korea, continued with a hearing before a courtroom full of supporters on January 17. She is charged with obstructing government affairs and injuring police while she was missioned to Gangjeong to support the daily Catholic Mass at the construction gate.

Soh stated that she is above all sad and sorry for a situation that even a religious person like her has been indicted just because she opposes “a project which is illegal from the beginning to end.”

Tears flowing, she told the court, “I followed my faith, according to teacher Jesus, that one should stand beside the weak. Witnessing that villagers are trampled down by state power, I could not but be with them.”

The Sister also said that, “The Jeju naval base is only a base for the United States to restrain China, nothing to do with the interests of Korea, and it would be a setback for unification.” Her trial continues on March 21.



With the release of two prisoners in January, only Yang Yoon-Mo remains in prison, serving an 18-month sentence for obstructing the businesses building the base. Letters of support should be sent to Yang Yoon-Mo, Prisoner No. 301, Jeju Prison, 161, Ora-2 dong, Jeju-si, Jeju-do, the Peace Island, Korea.

Pope Francis is expected to visit Korea in August. Given the active support of the Catholic Church in Korea to the struggle against the naval base, a call has gone out for the Pope to visit Jeju and Gangjeong village. International supporters are asked to send a letter encouraging his visit to Pope Francis, Apostolic Palace, Vatican City, or write online at pope2jeju.org.

Israel

Nearly ten years after completing an 18-year prison sentence for giving the world photographic proof of Israel’s clandestine production of nuclear weapons at the remote Dimona factory in the Negev Desert, Mordechai Vanunu remains under court order to report and gain approval for any change in residence, avoid diplomatic missions, and not leave the country nor have contact with foreign nationals.

In December, Israel’s High Court of Justice rejected an appeal of the unusual post-prison punishment, much as it had each prior appeal. The government, in secret testimony, persuaded the court that “the evidentiary material suggests that there is still additional privileged information that [could be jeopardized] by the petitioner.”

But Vanunu, who worked as a technician until he left Dimona in 1985, has repeatedly insisted that he has no more secrets to tell, including in his first public statement to the throng of international reporters gathered to cover the moment that he emerged from prison on April 21, 2004. He shared all that he knew with *Sunday Times* of London journalists in 1986.

On the eve of publication of his revelations, Vanunu was lured from London to Rome, where he was kidnapped, drugged and bound on a freighter to Israel. There a special court convicted him of espionage and treason. He served nearly 12 of his 18 years in prison in solitary confinement. Since his release in 2004, he has been taken in for police questioning many times and was once jailed for three months for meeting with foreigners, which he frequently does in spite of the restrictions.

Brussels

In December, a series of anti-militarist street theater actions and protests greeted the European Heads of State gathering in Brussels to talk about European Union (EU) military policy and boosting the European arms industry. That industry sees combat drones as their future flagship.

German activist Michael Ebeling intended to simply fast in front of an EU office building to oppose a new subsidy for the development of combat drones. But before he could even settle in, he was arrested by Belgian police for “protest in a neutral zone.”

“Representatives of the arms industry are regulars at the EU institutions,” Ebeling said. “The preferential treatment of the industry stands in stark contrast with the lack of democratic control. I’m here to raise my voice. When we outsource the EU defence and security policy to the arms industry, there is not much left of the European peace project.”

For more information, visit www.vredesactie.be/en.

Marquette U. ROTC Foes Arrested Again

In January, the monthly Catholic Worker Stand for Peace vigil opposing ROTC military training at Marquette University ventured inside the student union for respite from the cold. Bob Graf, Roberta Thurstin and Don Timmerman were arrested when they refused to remove themselves and their banner from the building. They were issued citations for trespass.

Following arrests last year, the group was told that the University does not object to the content of their message but that any activities on University property must be “peaceful, safe and not disruptive to the teaching, research and support activities on campus.”

Although the trio plan to plead guilty at their March court date, they believe the simple act of holding a banner was “peaceful, safe and not disruptive,” and the vigils continue.

For more information, contact breakingthesilence@nonviolentcow.org.

NATO 3, CONT.

continued from page 1

cop “Gloves” he didn’t want to test the firebombs “Mo” just helped him make; he just wanted to wrap up in a blanket and sleep. Recordings from the day of their arrest revealed that the “molotovs” were first suggested by the police after one of them insulted Church for failing to follow through with plans to turn a plastic pipe into a mortar launcher. While “Mo” helped Chase buy gasoline and assemble the crude firebombs, Church told “Gloves” that he didn’t believe in “pre-emptive strikes.”

Betterly’s attorney demonstrated that her client was not even present on the apartment porch with Chase and “Mo” when the undercover cop cut and placed the wicks himself to complete the job. Later, “Mo” put them into his backpack and left them in the trash can, where arresting officers were told to find them.

The jury deliberated for about 8 hours before returning with the split verdict.

In another case coming out of protests at the NATO summit, Raziell Azuara, originally charged with aggravated battery to a police officer, took a plea agreement a few days after the NATO 3 trial. He pleaded guilty to misdemeanor battery and accepted a sentence of two years probation and 20 hours community service.

For more information, including daily trial notes, visit freethenato3.wordpress.com.



Individually addressed letters of support should be sent to Brian Jacob Church 2012-0519002, Jared Chase 2012-0519003 and Brent Betterly 2012-0519001; all at P.O. Box 089002, Chicago, IL 60608.

Update Files, cont.

continued from page 8

VOLK FIELD/CAMP WILLIAMS: Five grandmothers arrested last June at the Wisconsin site for training surveillance drone operators were first told that their charges of disorderly conduct and trespass would be dropped. A few weeks later, the women were contacted by a sheriff’s deputy and informed that they’d be prosecuted instead for a local ordinance violation. Their trial judge recused himself in January when his son got a job at Volk Field, so the women are awaiting a new trial date...

GERMAN N-WASTE BLOCKADE: Four people refusing to pay fines of €1,100 for blocking a rail shipment of nuclear waste in 2011 have agreed to the court’s suggestion that they instead contribute €250 to the Children of Chernobyl, a charitable organization. It took police 15 hours to clear the tracks because the four were locked into an elaborate concrete anchor buried under the tracks. An interactive travelling art exhibit created by the Vastorf Action Group now recreates the device in life-size, cut-away view, educating about nuclear issues and inspiring nonviolent resistance...

BURGHFIELD: Five women who took part in the big international blockade of Atomic Weapons Establishment–Burghfield last September 2 have had their charges of obstructing the highway dropped. Photos and documents convinced a magistrate in Reading that the five were arrested on the Mearings, a private road owned by the Ministry of Defense, and not a highway as the law defines it. Three other protesters had their charges dismissed due to bureaucratic blundering, and the judge ordered their costs to attend court be paid back...

March 4, 2014

FUTURE ACTIONS

More future actions and event details can be found at nukeresister.org/future-actions

HOLY WEEK

virginia

Join the Norfolk Catholic Worker and Hampton Roads Pax Christi April 14-18 for a five-day, 50-mile Via Dolorosa that will stop at 14 area military sites in the Hampton Roads, Virginia area, one of the most militarized places on the planet. There will be a one-hour vigil at each site to remember the crucifixion of Jesus and the crucifixion of humanity in war. Stops will include Norfolk Naval Base, the CIA’s training camp, the home of Navy SEAL Team 6, and the only builder of aircraft carriers in the country. The walk will end on Good Friday at Langley Air Force Base. For more information, contact Steve Baggary at williamsbaggary@gmail.com.

2014 sacred peace walk



The Nevada Desert Experience’s annual spiritual pilgrimage takes place April 12-18. Come walk the ways of peace in the desert from Las Vegas, Nevada to the Nevada (Nuclear) Test Site/Nevada National Security Site and transform fear into compassion and apathy into action. Join nonviolent witness and resistance at the Test Site on Good Friday. For more information and registration, visit nevadadesertexperience.org or call 702-646-4814.

washington d.c.

The annual Holy Week Faith and Resistance retreat sponsored by the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker and Jonah House will commence with a 6 p.m. dinner on April 16 and conclude on Good Friday April 18 following a non-violent witness at the White House from noon – 1 p.m. A time of prayer, reflection, community building and acts of nonviolent resistance focusing on the theme: “PUT AWAY THE SWORD.” St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church, 1525 Newton St. NW, Washington, DC 20010 (corner of 16th St. and Newton). For more information visit www.DCatholicworker.wordpress.com or call 202-882-9649.

livermore lab

On Good Friday, April 18, people of good will from all of the world’s faith traditions are invited to gather at 7:00 a.m. at Vasco Road and Patterson Pass Road in Livermore, California. A program of education, culture and ritual will conclude with nonviolent action at the Livermore nuclear weapons laboratory west gate. For more information, contact Tri-Valley CAREs at 925-443-7148 or trivalleycares.org.

FASLANE: Sylvia Boyes and Mary Millington were in court last September 24 for cutting the fence and entering the Trident nuclear submarine base in Scotland in February 2013 to protest a recent announcement that millions of pounds had already been spent on Trident’s replacement even while Parliament was still considering the matter. The Trident Ploughshares activists were found guilty as charged, but then simply admonished and sent on their way...

MENWITH HILL: Prosecutors told Lindis Percy she won’t be prosecuted after five referrals by Ministry of Defence police (MDP) at the U.S. National Security Agency-controlled spy base in North Yorkshire. Thereafter, agreement between vigilers, North Yorkshire police (NYP) and the MOD superintendent on policing the 14-year-old weekly demonstrations was brokered on January 3, and immediately “torn up” after the MDP were instructed by their legal department and “Whitehall” that on no account were protesters to protest on Ministry of Defence land. In the latest chapter of an epic campaign to uphold Britons’ right to passage on public lands taken by military fiat, demonstrators had been permitted in the car park area of the base for 18 months. Percy writes: “As we had shaken hands on an Agreement carefully brokered by [NYP], some of us continued to uphold what had been agreed. However, each week there have been problems with inconsistent policing. It was clear that policing by the MDP did not match the way NYP wanted the demonstration to be policed. Discussions continued, including a meeting on base with NYP and the U.S. authorities, who we understand were told in no uncertain terms as to how protests are policed in this country.”...

lockheed martin

Following the program at Livermore Lab on Good Friday, the Pacific Life Community of Northern California will host a vigil, reflection and nonviolent action at Lockheed-Martin corporation’s nuclear missile plant in Sunnyvale, California, from noon to 2 p.m. at the corner of Java Drive and Mathilda Avenue. Park on 5th Avenue or some places on Bordeaux Drive, or take the light rail. For more information, visit wevigil.org.

faith & resistance/midwest

The Midwest Catholic Worker Faith and Resistance Retreat will be “Chasing the snakes and drones out of Iowa...” on St. Patrick’s Day weekend. Join over 100 Catholic Workers from throughout the Midwest, along with members of Veterans for Peace and other activists for a rally and nonviolent direct action at the Iowa Air National Guard 132nd Attack Wing drone command center in Des Moines beginning 10 a.m. Saturday, March 15. For more information, contact frank.cordaro@gmail.com or 515-282-4781.

spring days of drone action

An international call for a coordinated campaign of educational events, lobbying and public action in April and May to *End Drone Killing, Drone Surveillance and Global Militarization* includes some plans for civil resistance actions. To read the call and add local actions to the calendar of events, visit springdaysofdroneaction.org or knowdrones.com.

trifecta resista

PeaceWorksKC and local Catholic Worker communities will host the 2014 Trifecta Resista May 30 – June 1 at Bishop de la Salle High School, 3740 Forest, Kansas City, Missouri, a three day program of public witness, community building and nonviolent action at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where Chelsea Manning is imprisoned; the Bannister federal complex with its toxic legacy of production of parts for nuclear weapons, and Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri, a drone warfare outpost. It’s free. Donations are invited, and sleeping bag space is available. For more information, visit, www.PeaceWorksKC.org or phone (816)561-1181.

mothers day/bangor

This year, Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action is taking their invitation to a special Mothers’ Day tea party all around the Puget Sound area. On Saturday, May 10, people will gather at the gate of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, in Silverdale, Washington. Tables will be set with table cloths, cups, saucers, tea and cookies. A reading of Julia Ward Howe Mothers’ Day Proclamation and opportunity for civil resistance will highlight the event. For more information, see the calendar at gzcenter.org or call 360-930-8697, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. PST.

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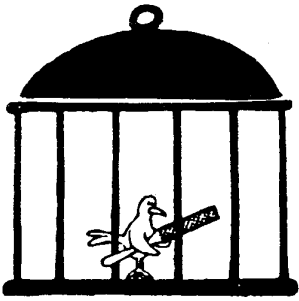
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Update Files



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY: Five people convicted of trespass after trying to deliver an indictment of the CIA's killer drone program at the agency's headquarters were back in federal court February 7 as pro-se appellants. They were surprised to see Assistant U.S. Attorney Eugene Rossi in attendance, as Rossi is the man they had met with in May, 2012 before their arrest, to submit a criminal complaint against the President, CIA Director Brennan and others. In rejecting their appeal, Judge T.S. Ellis was dismissive of their arguments, laughed inappropriately while discussing drone casualties, and left doubt as to whether he had even read the legal brief prepared by defendant Max Obuszewski. Defendant Joy First wrote: "One theme that Ellis went back to over and over was that we live in a democracy and obviously most people don't agree with us or we wouldn't have drone strikes. He also said that we should be going to Congress rather than to the CIA. Max responded that we have made many visits to Congress to talk about this issue. The judge said if that is the case, then our voices have been heard and we need to just let it go then..." As he left the courtroom, the defendants asked Rossi about their criminal complaint, because his office had never responded. Rossi responded by just repeating, "I gotta go. I gotta go," as he rushed into the elevator...

LONDON ARMS FAIR: Five arms trade opponents were acquitted in early February after a two-day trial for aggravated trespass at the DSEi exhibition last September 10. The court's judgement from a police video was that the five, all Christian activists who spent an hour blocking the entrance as they prayed, sang, and read aloud from the Bible, had not received adequate police instructions about just where they should "pack up and move on." The deeper irony was revealed in testimony comparing their arrest to the treatment of two exhibitors told to leave

the fair that same day because they were selling torture equipment outlawed in Britain. Neither the exhibit staff nor their bosses were arrested or charged, and police on duty were never informed of a hasty Parliamentary inquiry that led to the expulsion. Two weeks after the acquittal, the Crown dropped charges against another six people arrested during a day of multiple actions and arrests on the eve of the exhibition, September 8. Attorneys with the Campaign Against the Arms Trade and allied groups have sought disclosure through the court and Freedom of Information requests to gather evidence of the government's failure to prosecute the expelled merchants in support of a defense of justification for those arrested. One expert has said "there have been specific breaches of UK arms export control legislation at every DSEi fair since 2005." Nevertheless, on February 25, Sylvia Boyes was convicted in Stratford Magistrates Court and fined a total of £440 for "obstructing the highway" at the September 8 protest...

NARBONNE, FRANCE: Only one person, the driver of the van that stalled in front of a truck, was brought up on charges of blocking the road last September in a choreographed highway action where about 40 people stopped a shipment of uranium leaving the Comurhex plant in Malvési, near Narbonne. The action was part of a campaign to denounce the risks of the routine radioactive convoys. So when Terry Morantin was summoned to court in January, 22 cohorts from the group Sortir du Nucleaire came along and asked the court to join her on trial. The charge carries a maximum sentence of two years in prison and €4,500 fine. Unprepared for this turn of events, the judge adjourned the case until February 20. By then, over 8,000 people had also signed a petition supporting Morantin. In court, the judge confirmed the identity and intention of each of the volunteer defendants, but ruled against their submissions. It was appropriate that only the driver be charged, he said. Testimony from a local mayor and a nuclear engineer thanked the activists for drawing attention to the issue. Both confirmed danger posed by the unannounced daily shipments between uranium processing sites in southern France, citing inconsistency between radiation standards for transportation vs. public health. Summing up, the prosecutor told the court it was *not* the judiciary's role to tell the nuclear industry what to do. He then affirmed that it *is* the work of activists to change society: "Our country is built partly by the action of people who sometimes violate the law to get things

in the right direction." He also commended a separate ongoing legal action by Sortir du Nucleaire against the Comurhex factory. The prosecutor said that Morantin was guilty, but should not be punished. The judge concurred, declared Morantin guilty, and suspended her sentence...

AUSTRALIA: State prosecutors have yet to issue summonses for a dozen protesters who entered the Swan Island military base in Victoria last September. To the north in Queensland, charges were dismissed when the prosecution did not proceed with the scheduled January 6 trial of four people who blocked the entrance at the Rockhampton army base during last summer's Talisman-Saber war games. But the costumed "Santa" Greg Rolles and "Elf" Shane Anderson, who in December scaled the wall to enter another barracks outside Melbourne and scolded the naughty drone warriors, have been summoned to court on April 9...

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK: A judge in January denied a motion to dismiss charges against six students who were assaulted by police during a September protest of visiting lecturer, former commanding general, CIA director and accused war criminal David Petraeus. Two other students, arrested during a related protest over the University's take-over of a community center vital to student/community organizing in Harlem, also await trial at a future date...

VETERANS MEMORIAL/NEW YORK CITY: Fourteen people facing minor charges after police shut down an overnight Veterans for Peace vigil in October had their charges all dismissed by a sympathetic judge in December. The trial on multiple charges for five others who handcuffed themselves together at the base of the memorial wall in a Constitutional challenge over the public shrine's closing time has been postponed until March 10...

HART SENATE OFFICE, WASHINGTON D.C.: Three women arrested outside New York Senator Chuck Schumer's office in the direct action following last November's international summit on drone proliferation and resistance have accepted an offer to avoid trial by agreeing to perform 16 hours of community service in their home jurisdictions. D.C. Superior Court magistrate Diana Epps also allowed the joint statement of Beth Adams, JoAnne Lingle and Alice Sutter to be read into the court record, and accepted the submitted photos of drone victims as well...

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the Nuclear

Resister

"A Chronicle of Hope"

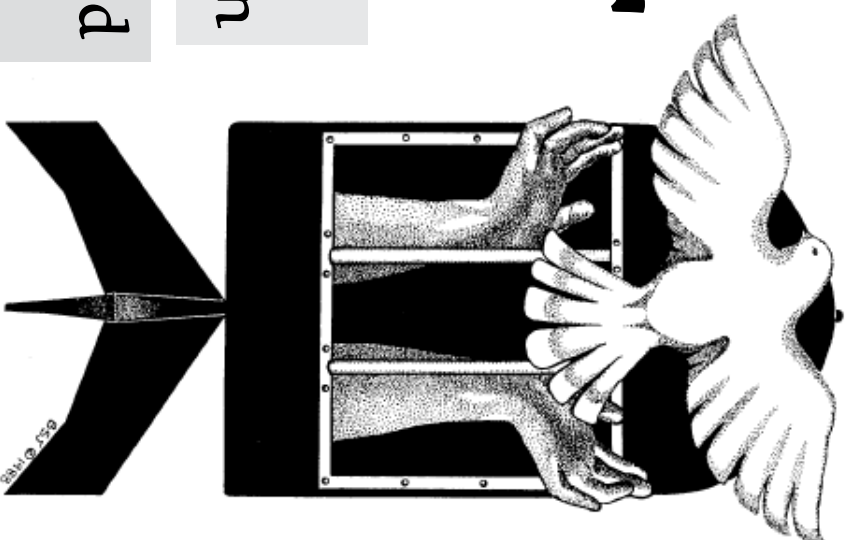
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