

the Nuclear Resister

"A Chronicle of Hope"

No. 138

September 15, 2005

ARMY OBJECTORS IMPRISONED FOR 15 & 13 MONTHS

Army Sergeant Kevin Benderman was court martialled July 29 for refusing to return to Iraq last winter, and sentenced to 15 months in military prison. It is the longest sentence yet for conscientious objection to the invasion and continuing occupation of Iraq. Benderman was also demoted in rank and will be dishonorably discharged upon his release from prison next year.

The Fort Stewart, Georgia, military tribunal convicted the career soldier of missing movement, but not on a more serious charge of desertion. Gratuitous charges of larceny for being overpaid due to an Army error were never prosecuted.

The court martial drew media attention and supporters from across the country to Fort Stewart, including military refusers Camilo Mejia and Aidan Delgado and other Iraq veterans. Immediately after sentencing, Benderman was taken into custody. Three days later, with no formal notice to his wife or attorney, he was flown to the military prison in Fort Lewis, Washington, 3,000 miles from home. The transfer has interfered with Benderman's ability to work with his attorney on an appeal of the conviction.

Amnesty International has declared Benderman a prisoner of conscience, and on the day of his court martial, Lt. Col. James Bo Gritz, the most decorated Green Beret commander in Army history, appropriately transferred his Soldier's Medal, the highest award for valor not involving deadly force, to Benderman. Gritz said, "Sgt. Benderman's moral courage, above and beyond the call of duty, resulting in the severest of punishment for himself, are in keeping with the very highest humanitarian traditions and reflect great credit upon himself and the spirit of leadership and sacrifice within America's Armed Forces."

For more information, contact Benderman Defense, POB 2322, Hinesville, GA 31310.



Due to the many restrictions placed on mail for the military prison system, and Benderman's desire to have the rights of all soldiers respected and for him not to be singled out, he has asked that you send your letters of support to Kevin Benderman, c/o Benderman Defense, POB 2322, Hinesville, GA 31310.

bendermandefense.org states that "Kevin would also ask that you understand that, while he values your support and appreciates every letter individually written to him, it is more important that we continue to address our concerns to people in his chain of command. He would ask that you write letters on his behalf to:

Georgia Senator Johnny Isakson, One Overton Park, 3625 Cumberland Blvd Ste. 970, Atlanta, GA 30339

Dr. Francis Harvey, Sec. of the Army, 101 Army Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-0101

Donald Rumsfeld, Sec. of the Defense, 1000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1000

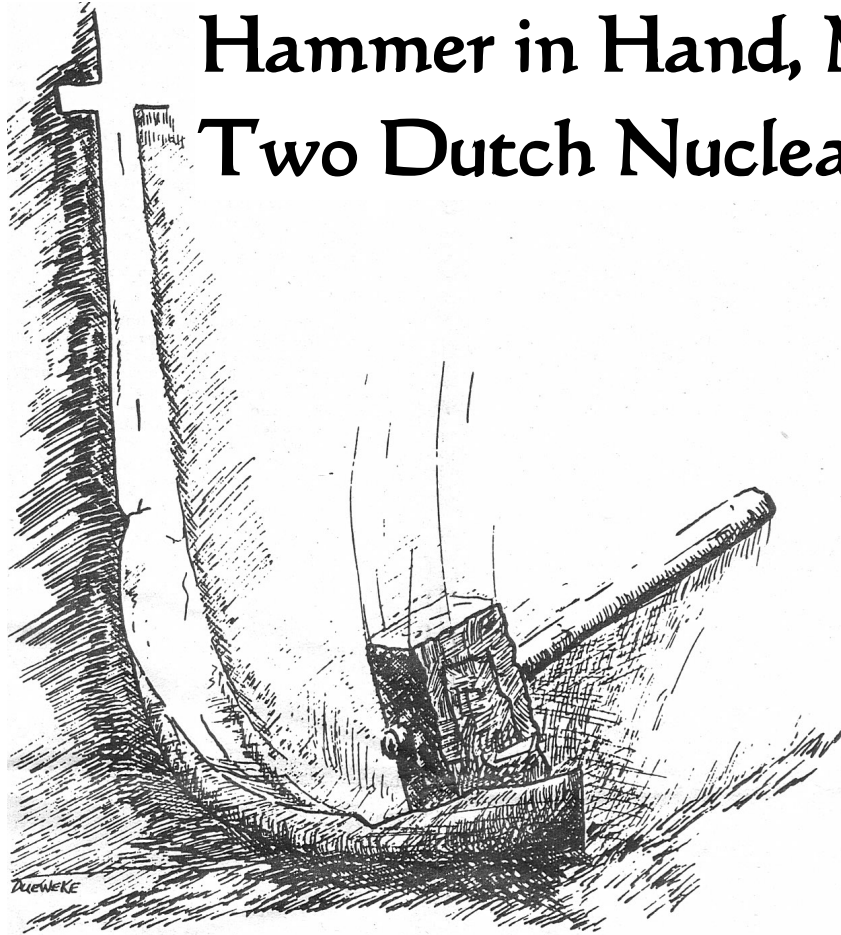
Col. John Kidd, 42 Wayne Place Ste. 203, Ft. Stewart, GA 31314

Pvt. Neil Quentin Lucas is another military refuser who is now serving a 13-month sentence at Ft. Sill.

James Branum of the Oklahoma Committee for Conscientious Objectors writes that Lucas "was a man of faith who did not believe in violence, but was told by his recruiter that he would not have to ever kill anyone if he joined. During training at Ft. Knox he realized this was a lie and attempted to get out, but his commander punished him for doing this. He later filed a conscientious objector (CO) application in 2003 which was torn up by his Captain.

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Hammer in Hand, Man Disarms Two Dutch Nuclear Bombers



With a hammer purchased in Assisi, birthplace of St. Francis, Italian-born activist Turi Salvatore Vaccaro has carried on the 25-year-old tradition of direct actions for nuclear disarmament known as Plowshares on August 10. Vaccaro gave flesh to the Old Testament prophecy of beating swords into plowshares and spears into pruning

hooks when he climbed the fence at Woensdrecht Air Force Base in the Netherlands, entered a maintenance hangar and caused significant damage to the cockpit control panels of two F-16 warplanes. The F-16s are the delivery system for an estimated 20 U.S./NATO nuclear weapons stored at Holland's Volkel Air Force Base.

Vaccaro was caught in the act and reportedly gave police a full account of acting with intent to disarm the aircraft in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The hammer was purchased in Assisi because St. Francis had inspired him to live a very sober life, with respect for people and the environment. For this reason, the action was carried out very carefully, to ensure that no one felt threatened as he caused damage estimated in court at five million euros. Vaccaro carried an old map of the base, from a time when he provided support outside the fence for Kees Koning, a Dutch Plowshares activist.

In jail and fasting since his arrest, Vaccaro was brought to trial in Breda on September 1. He did not speak in court, but communicated with his two attorneys in writing, and acknowledged supporters with waves,

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HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI REMEMBER AND RESIST

The anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is always a time to remember and resist. This past August 6 and 9 marked 60 years since the catastrophic beginnings of the nuclear era, and demonstrations and commemorations took place around the world. In the U.S., major regional demonstrations occurred at the Y-12 production plant at Oak Ridge, Tennessee; the Nevada nuclear weapons Test Site; and National Laboratories in Livermore, California and Los Alamos, New Mexico. Civil resistance actions led to arrests at three of those sites and several others around the country where commemorative protests took place.

Many of the aging Hibakusha - those who were in the Japanese cities and survived the bombings - traveled to the United States to speak at commemorative activities across the country. A sense of urgency marked their appearances, because as the decades pass, fewer survive to testify about the reality of nuclear war that only they have known.

They encountered a nuclear disarmament movement in the United States struggling for a political foothold to counter an administration bent on abandoning the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty while developing an entirely new arsenal of "usable" nuclear weapons.

Y-12/Oak Ridge

In Oak Ridge, Tennessee, the August 6 Remembrance Ceremony began before dawn at the fence of the factory that enriched the uranium that reduced Hiroshima to ash and dark memories. More than a hundred people came out to read names of Hiroshima victims, toll a bell and tie a peace crane on the barbed wire near the entrance to the Y-12 Nuclear Weapons Component Plant. Nakanishi Eiji, Hiroshima survivor, delivered a simple and powerful message of peace.

Later that morning, across town in Bissell Park, more than a thousand disarmament demonstrators gathered for a march to the plant. At the park, some had transformed a recently constructed monument to Oak

Ridge history with shrouds, signs and posters to tell the truth about Oak Ridge's legacy of death and destruction - not only in Hiroshima but in the development, production and testing of nuclear weapons since then.

The march brought together the final miles of three regional pilgrimages to Oak Ridge: a 300 mile peace walk from the Savannah River Plant in South Carolina, a Peace Run from the uranium enrichment plant in Portsmouth, Ohio, and the bike-in from Asheville, North Carolina.

The colorful march delivered a festive, hopeful atmosphere to the afternoon rally, held in a field by the fence that had been decorated earlier. The march was greeted by giant puppets and live music in the shade of a large tent erected to provide shade at the site.

Ralph Hutchinson, director of the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, the sponsor of the annual Hiroshima commemorations at Y-12, writes about their largest gathering to date:

"It was a grand festival for the afternoon—music, poetry, Nakanishi-san, music, speakers, skits, music, a puppetista drama in the field, sno-cones, music, and finally direct action. More than a thousand people spread out along the fence line surrounding the bomb plant, tying bags of ashes, peace cranes, and large Stop the Bombs signs on the fence. Banners sent from people who couldn't be here in person draped the barbed wire. Flowers adorned the top of fence posts. And as the group reached the north and south ends of the fence line, people stepped out into the road, blocking all lanes of access into the bomb plant. Fifteen were arrested for the blockade and were taken to jail.

"After the arrests, the crowd gathered beneath the tent for a brief solidarity rally, joining in 'Keep Your Eyes on the Prize,' and then it was time to clean up, head for dinner or to the police station. Four of the 'criminals' were released that evening; the rest chose to remain in jail—some logging time for their eventual sentence, oth-

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Nuclear Bombers Disarmed, cont.

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sign language and song. His attorneys argued that prosecutors had failed to take into consideration the context of Vaccaro's action, which was to prevent the commission of a grave crime against international law.

Because the prosecution did not consider the fact that the Dutch government is involved in committing such crimes by having nuclear weapons in its country and training Dutch pilots to use them, the charges are unreasonable and should be dropped.

The prosecution would only reply that international law did not have a place in the lower court. Vaccaro's lawyers asked the judge to force the prosecution to give a better answer than that. When the judge refused, he was formally accused of being partial to the prosecution. A panel of three other judges was then consulted on the point, and they sided with the trial judge.

Lawyers then asked that reasons for the decision

be put in writing. When the judge refused this request, he was again challenged. Court was then adjourned, and a week later the review panel upheld the judge's decision, and told defense attorneys they could not again challenge the judge in this manner.

Trial is now scheduled to continue October 13.

For more information, visit <http://www.motherearth.org/prisoner/turi.php>



Letters of support should be sent to Turi Vaccaro, HvB de Boschpoort, Nassausingel 26, 4811 DG Breda, the Netherlands.

HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI, CONT.

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ers in solidarity, awaiting a Tuesday court appearance. Rain began to fall as the last truck was loaded, and the clouds unleashed a deluge as we headed out.

"It rained steadily until 8:15, stopping just as we stepped out of the shelter to form a circle for the peace lantern ceremony. A hundred people circled at the marina, joined in a litany, heard Buddhist chanting, sang together, and then launched peace lanterns into the waters of the Clinch River, upstream from the bomb plant. As the lanterns drifted across the water a mist began rising, softening the corners of the light and closing the day perfectly."

In court the morning of August 9, the four who had posted bail - Maurizio Conti, Jack Hoefer, Andy Weatherly, and Martin Stephens, all first offenders - entered no contest/best interest pleas. Fines and court costs totaled over \$200 each. Weatherly, in his turn to address the judge, told that he is a 5th grade school teacher, and YWCA coach who chaperones church trips. His students learn that good people stood up throughout history when morally repugnant things happened.

"With all due respect," he told the judge, "I have to stand and set an example for my children and other children."

In the afternoon, the other defendants came to court in jumpsuits and shackles. Glenda Struss Keyes, Beth Brockman, John Heid, Bonnie Urfer, Dan Lombardo, Judy Burkhardt, and Tom Lewis pled no contest or best interest. Judy Burkhardt was sentenced to five days in jail (second offense) Glenda Struss Keyes was sentenced to fifteen days in jail (third offense) The others were released with \$25 fines and time served, and given 30 days to pay. Heid and Lewis made it clear to the court that they would not pay.

Shelley Wascom and Berta Lambert pled not guilty and were tried before Judge Murch that afternoon. Wascom presented a statement regarding the production of nuclear weapons at Y-12. "It's simple to me," she said. "The Constitution says we have to abide by our treaties, and the work at Y-12 breaks a treaty." She invoked "legal privilege" to be in the road as a citizen who sees the law being broken in a country they love.

Lambert told the judge that what happens at Y-12 is a major offense to the world; what he did, by comparison, is a small action. "Events in our lifetime, what we do, can have an impact far beyond us," he said, "I'm doing what I can to try to prevent a crime."

Judge Murch sentenced Wascom to 15 days in jail (prior offenses) and Lambert to time served and a \$25 fine plus costs.

The remaining two defendants, Pam Beziat (third offense) and Mary Dennis Lentsch (multiple offender), plead not guilty and asked for a trial by jury. Pending trial, Lentsch was released on her own recognizance and Beziat posted \$500 bond.

Burkhart was released on August 11, and supporters held a coming-out picnic for Wascom and Keyes on August 21.

Two days before, on August 19, Lentsch and Beziat received a curious concession from the prosecutor. He'd give them one last chance to "take responsibility for your actions" and change their plea to no contest, and accept a fine and sentence of time served. If they refused, "then our office will consider this matter concluded." The "offer" effectively prevents a jury from hearing any evidence about who is the criminal and what is the crime at Y-12.

For more information, contact the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, POB 5743, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, (865)483-8202, orepa@stopthebombs.org www.stopthebombs.org

Nevada Test Site

A national conference at the University of Las Vegas and public witness at the nuclear weapons test site brought 450 people to Las Vegas, August 4-7, where they were welcomed by Western Shoshone spiritual leader Corbin Harney. The major event, sponsored by Pax Christi USA and the Nevada Desert Experience, featured many presentations on diverse aspects of nonviolence and the impact of nuclear weapons on society, plus music, dance, theater, and opportunity for group prayer and other spiritual practice.

Accommodating the summer heat, conferees departed for the hour-long drive to Test Site as the sun was setting on Hiroshima Day. After a brief gathering and the promise of a presidential pardon for all from Martin Sheen, who plays the President on TV, 180 people crossed the line. They were held until after midnight in the permanent fenced pens erected near the gate for that purpose when protest peaked at the remote desert site in the early 1990s.

Many participants camped overnight to join the sunrise service led by Corbin Harney on Sunday. For more information, contact Nevada Desert Experience, POB 4645, Las Vegas, NV 89114, (702)646-4814.

Livermore

On the evening of August 6 an estimated 1,000 people rallied at William Payne Park, adjacent to the nuclear weapons lab in Livermore, California. They marched to the gate of the Lab, where they were met by a line of riot police. But the mood was festive, not confrontational, as music, street theater, prayers and the planting of sunflowers, an international symbol of nuclear abolition, commemorated the lives lost at Hiroshima.

The civil resistance action at Livermore took place on the morning of August 9, Nagasaki Day. Dr. Satoru Konishi of Hiroshima, an atomic bomb survivor, offered his testimony to over 100 people. Many were brought to tears by his words.

Police again greeted the smaller march, and then surrounded the group that approached the gate to risk arrest. As the arrests occurred, Dr. Konishi asked to address the police. He stood inches away from the riot police and offered a compelling case for the immorality of nuclear weapons and the need for global nuclear disarmament. Fifty-four people were arrested. Everyone was cited and released promptly. Security forces even shuttled arrestees to their cars.

For more information, contact Tri-Valley CAREs (Communities Against a Radioactive Environment), 2582 Old First St., Livermore, CA 94551.

Lockheed-Martin/ Valley Forge

For the last 29 of the 60 years since the U.S. dropped The Bombs, the Brandywine Peace Community has marked the anniversary with protest outside a Lockheed Martin corporate facility in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. In years past, the offices were occupied by General Electric and Martin Marietta corporations, each in their time engaged in nuclear, space and other high-tech war production.

On Hiroshima Day, 2005, nearly 100 people gathered for a Ceremony of Remembrance and Resistance that included bells tolling and a die-in. Later, the group walked from one entranceway to another, placing a large sunflower at each, and then stretched out in a "human chain of peacemaking" in front of the large, grassy main

the Nuclear Resister

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YOU CAN HELP!

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS and BULK ORDERS

One-year subscriptions are US\$15 in the United States, US\$20 to Canada, and US\$25 overseas. Payment can only be accepted in US currency or checks drawn on US institutions. All subscriptions are sent via First Class or Airmail.

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

THE NUCLEAR RESISTER ON MICROFILM

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

ABOUT THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

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

The Nuclear Resister is published about every two months and serves to network this nonviolent resistance movement while acting as a clearinghouse for information about contemporary nonviolent resistance to war and the nuclear threat.

We believe that in any significant movement for social change, many committed individuals are imprisoned. Behind bars, they are physically isolated from their supporters and their own resistance activity is limited. Broader awareness of their actions and support for the imprisoned activist are essential to the movement for a peaceful, nuclear-free future.

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

Jack and Felice Cohen-Joppa, Editors

Thanks

Thanks to Pat, Racheli, Carter, Charlotte, Jim, Emma, Nathan, Debbie, Paige, Sue, Roger and Polly for helping to mail the last issue!

entrance. Those willing to face arrest in nonviolent civil disobedience walked onto Lockheed Martin one by one, sprinkling thousands of sunflower seeds - 10 pounds in all. Twelve people were arrested and cited for disorderly conduct.

"The sunflower has become a worldwide symbol for peace, carrying the hope of a world free of nuclear weapons and war. Today, we bring sunflowers and sunflower seeds to Lockheed Martin. We seek to reclaim the land on which Lockheed Martin sits from the business of war. We seek to reclaim our country for peace and the promise of justice and democracy. We seek to reclaim a determined hope for a world free of nuclear weapons and war. Today, we join hands in a human chain of peacemaking in front of Lockheed Martin. Today, in memory of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, we plant our hopes for peace and for justice with sunflower seeds here at Lockheed Martin."

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

Peterson AFB / Colorado Springs

On August 5, Esther Kisamore, Sr. Barbara Huber and Doug Gale were arrested for trying to enter Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs. Over 50 people picketed at the base gate for the culminating event of the annual "Sisters Witness Against War" started by Roman Catholic nuns four years ago. The three intended to pray at the base chapel in remembrance of the Hiroshima bombing 60 years ago when, with the group's blessing, they crossed the line. They were immediately arrested, cited for trespass and released. A trial date will be decided on September 15.

For more information, contact Citizens for Peace in Space, POB 915, Colorado Springs, CO 80901, 719-389-0644.

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'Nam Objector Who Deserted Nabbed 40 Years Later

A career Marine Corps sleuth has bagged a Florida probationer who walked away from the Corps forty years ago, three years before the investigator was even born. Jerry Texiero enlisted in 1959 and re-upped in '63. In 1965 Texiero's unit was ordered to Vietnam. Even at that early date, he opposed U.S. military involvement there. After going AWOL in July of that year, Jerry Texiero eventually adopted a new identity as Gerome Conti.



For the last year, Chief Warrant Officer James Averhart, 37, has zealously directed the Marine Corps Absentee Collection Center. "I have a different leadership style than the guys who have had this job," he told the St. Petersburg Times. "My job is to catch deserters. And that's what I do."

He found Texiero after submitting the long-absent Marine's enlistment fingerprint records to the FBI. The national database matched them up to Gerome Conti, a mild-mannered Florida boat salesman serving 20 years probation on federal fraud and theft charges, the result of a business failure in 1997. Conti, single and living simply to pay off his legal penalties, was picked up August 16 in Clearwater, Florida. He confessed to his alias after police confronted him with a photo of Marine recruit Jerry Texiero.

After his arrest, Texiero told a long-time friend he believed he'd been granted amnesty in the decades since he first went AWOL. The friend told the St. Petersburg Times, "I understand him leaving the service. Jerry is not a killer. There is no way that man could kill anybody."

Texiero is currently being held in the Pinellas County Jail, awaiting transfer to Camp LeJeune for his court martial. Citizen Soldier, a military servicemember's advocacy group, is tracking Texiero's case.

Averhart said his team has nabbed 27 of over 1,200 current fugitive deserters. That number includes 60 or 70 older, "cold" cases, like Texiero's. It is unknown how many of these others also involve those who initially left for reasons of conscience.

For more information, contact Citizen Soldier, 267 Fifth Avenue, Suite 901, New York, NY 10016, (212)679-2250, citizen-soldier.org



Letters of support should be sent to Jerry Texiero, Pinellas County Jail, 14400 49th St. N., Clearwater, FL 33762-2890.

WAR TAX RESISTER BEGINS SIX MONTH PRISON SENTENCE

Because she has faithfully refused to pay for war, Inge Donato is now serving a six-month federal prison sentence in Philadelphia. Donato turned herself in on August 8, while fellow members of the Restored Israel of YAHWEH (RIOY) and supporters held a peaceful protest outside the tax office in Mays Landing, New Jersey, where the small pacifist religious sect is established. Two weeks after her release next February, Inge's husband Joseph Donato will begin a 27-month sentence, while his business partner and co-defendant Kevin McKee, also a member of RIOY, is to begin serving his 24-month prison sentence on October 10.

For more information, contact RIOY, POB 801, Mays Landing, NJ 08330, www.rioy.org.



Letters of support should be sent to Inge Donato 40885-050, FDC Philadelphia, POB 562, Philadelphia, Pa 19106.

Inside & Out

THE WOMEN AND MEN LISTED HERE ARE IN PRISON FOR ACTIONS TAKEN IN OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND WAR.

THERE MAY BE OTHERS! PLEASE HELP US BY SENDING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO THE NUCLEAR RESISTER, P.O. BOX 43383, TUCSON, AZ 85733 · nukeresister@igc.org

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

NUCLEAR RESISTERS, USA:

Ardeth Platte 10857-039 (41 months - out 12/22/05) FPC Danbury, Pembroke Station Rt. 37, Danbury, CT 06811-0379. (Sacred Earth and Space Plowshares disarmament of Colorado nuclear missile silo, 10/6/02; convicted of sabotage)

Helen Woodson 03231-045 (106 months - in 3/11/04) FMC Carswell, Max Unit, POB 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127. (Anti-war protest at the federal courthouse, Kansas City, Missouri, 3/11/04 violates parole following 3/9/04 release from prison. Pled guilty to violation and four new charges, 6/18/04)

Leonard Peltier 89637-132 (life) USP Terre Haute, POB 12015, Terre Haute, IN 47801. (Native American political prisoner)

NUCLEAR RESISTERS OVERSEAS:

Turi Vaccaro (now on trial) HvB de Boschpoort, Nassausingel 26, 4811 DG Breda, the Netherlands. (Plowshares disarmament of F-16 nuclear bombers, Woensdrecht AFB, 8/10/05 - trial resumes 10/13/05)

Igor Sutuyagin (15 years) 427965, Respublika Udmurtiya, g. Sarapul; ul. Raskolnikova, 53-A, YaCh-91/5, 14 otryad; Russia. (Imprisoned since 10/27/1999, now convicted of espionage for researching public nuclear weapons information - sentenced 4/07/04)

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE ARE NOW IN PRISON FOR ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIVITIES

Inge Donato 40885-050 (six months - out 2/6/06) FDC Philadelphia, POB 562, Philadelphia, Pa 19106. (Convicted 12/04 of felonies related to religious refusal to pay war taxes)

Rafil Dhafir (awaiting sentencing 11/18) Jamesville Correctional Facility, POB 143, Jamesville, NY 13078. (Convicted of providing humanitarian and financial aid to Iraqis in violation of U.S. sanctions, 2/05)

Michael D. Poulin 14793-097 (27 months - out 1/25/2006) FPC Sheridan Unit 5, POB 6000, Sheridan, OR 97378. (Convicted of damaging electricity transmission towers to show fragility of empire - 11/03)

Laro Nicol 80430-008 (2 years - out 6/15/06) FCI Safford, POB 9000, Safford, AZ 85548. (Human rights and anti-war activist framed on firearms and explosives charges, plead no contest to avoid longer term, 9/04)



Brendan Walsh 12473-052 (five years - out 7/15/08) FCI Allenwood Low, P.O. Box 1000, White Deer, PA 17887. (Arson at military recruiting station, 4/02)

VIEQUES

José Vélez Acosta 23883-069 (33 months - out 1/27/06) USP, POB 1033, Coleman, Florida 33521-1033.

José Pérez González 21519-069 (5 years - out 1/17/08) Edgefield FCI, PO Box 725, Edgefield, SC 29824. (Conspiracy, damage to federal property, &/or probation violation 5/1/03 - resisting U.S. military bombardment of Vieques, Puerto Rico)

Please send economic support for prisoners and families, and any returned letters to: May 1 Arrestees Support Committee, P.O. Box 191792, San Juan, PR 00919-1792.

MILITARY REFUSERS

Pvt. Neil Quentin Lucas (13 months - out 8/22/06) (Refused to deploy after CO claim is ignored; court martialled 6/22/05) Building 1490, Randolph Rd., Fort Sill, OK 73503.

Spc. Dale Bartell (four months - out 11/12/05) (Refused to deploy to preserve claimed CO status; pled guilty to facts of desertion, 5/05) Building 1490, Randolph Rd., Fort Sill, OK 73503.

Pvt. Blake Lemoine (seven months - out 9/17/05) (Refused to train for combat, convicted after CO petition rejected) Building 1490, Randolph Rd., Fort Sill, OK 73503.

Sgt. Kevin Benderman (15 months - in 7/29/05) c/o Benderman Defense, POB 2322, Hinesville, GA 31310. (Career Army NCO denied CO status, convicted of missing movement to Iraq, 7/29/05)

Jerry Texiero Pinellas County Jail, 14400 49th St. N., Clearwater, FL 33762-2890. (Vietnam-era Marine Corps deserter for reasons of conscience, arrested 8/16/05, awaiting court-martial)

PREVIOUSLY LISTED, RECENTLY RELEASED

Alice Gerard, Lelia Mattingly, Yuri I. Bandazhevsky, Jaya Sacca, David Boudon

Leonard Peltier Moved Again

After six weeks at the federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana, Leonard Peltier was again moved, this time to the federal prison at Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. In a letter from Lewisburg posted on his support committee's website, leonardpeltier.org, Peltier writes:

"Those of you who have contacted the Terre Haute Prison and the Bureau of Prisons on my behalf, keep me in your prayers, and are supporting my Defense Committee, have made an enormous difference in my situation. I humbly thank each and every one of you, and firmly believe that your actions most certainly saved my life and prevented me from living in an institution that is well known for its extremely high crime and violence. Also, health problems continue to plague me and the conditions I was subjected to exacerbated them. I know deep within my heart, that if there had not been such an outpouring of support, concern and overall outcry regarding my arbitrary detention, I would have probably stayed in solitary confinement for an indefinite length of time, or worse I would not have survived in the general prisoner population. Although I have been forced to endure many hardships, I will never surrender, even if all that is left of me is my spirit. Your love and support inspire me to overcome everything."

By September 9, his support committee was able to report that his privileges had been restored at Lewisburg, and there is no immediate need to continue contacting Bureau of Prison officials on his behalf. For more information, contact the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, 2626 North Mesa # 132, El Paso, TX 79902, (915)533-6655, info@leonardpeltier.org



Letters of support can be sent to Leonard Peltier at the address on this page, at right.

Cops Raise Ruckus at Pittsburgh Recruiting Station

Police in Pittsburgh have distinguished themselves with the most indiscriminately forceful response to the growing protests at military recruiting stations. The Pittsburgh Organizing Group (POG) began counter-recruiting education and small protests earlier this year, and their first publicly announced demonstration to shut down the city's main military recruiting station at Oakland took place on August 6. Nearly 200 people turned out, and the station locked its doors. A call was issued to shut it down again on Saturday, August 20. Even before more than 100 people began their march that morning, they learned that the station would be closed for the day.

Pittsburgh Indymedia reports - and ample video and still photographs confirm - what happened after they arrived at the center.

"...[S]omeone taped a cardboard sign to the station's door reading 'No Lies Told Today, Recruitment Center Has Been Shut Down.' ...A cameraman from Fox News shoved his camera into the face of a protester who was standing by the sign. When that individual asked that it be pointed somewhere else (instead of his face) the cameraman became aggressive. An altercation ensued at which point he started screaming to the cops to arrest people for assaulting his camera. Police from the City of Pittsburgh and the University of Pittsburgh promptly began to attack the crowd on the sidewalk.

"The first person arrested (and according to the police, the person Fox is pressing charges against) was hit and pepper sprayed, during which time a cop held a taser two inches from his face. After that, a woman in the crowd was grabbed, hit, pepper sprayed in the face

while on the ground, and then tasered, all while three large cops stood around her. She [was arrested and hospitalized]. A male protester was also arrested, pepper-sprayed and tasered. An overwhelming police presence started ordering people to disperse from the sidewalk, and a police dog began pursuing people. Cops hit and shoved people, while the dog lunged forward and bit a 68-year-old grandmother who was walking away with her back to the dog. The police also let the dog bite a videographer, who narrowly avoided injury as the dog only got his pants. Further outrages occurred as the police grabbed a 17-year-old girl off the sidewalk and slammed her to the ground. Her crime? She questioned the legality of their earlier actions. Pepper spray also hit a group of children and the police knocked over a man in a wheelchair."

All told, six people were arrested, while fellow demonstrators "unarrested" several others in the fracas. Two were issued citations, three face misdemeanor charges, and one woman is charged with felony incitement to riot. Their next court date is September 27.

It was the first time tasers were used to suppress protest in Pittsburgh, and this use of force has sparked an ongoing debate in the city.

POG has returned to the recruiting station regularly since the arrests, and each time recruiters have closed for the day.

For more information, contact POG, c/o Thomas Merton Center, 5125 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15224, or visit organizepittsburgh.org. Donations are needed for legal defense and can be made on-line.

Support for Cindy

By the time Cindy Sheehan came to Crawford, Texas, local authorities had finally just learned an expensive lesson about how to accommodate the Constitution and people like Sheehan who exercise the liberty it affirms. Last May 23, the city settled out of court for \$43,000 in a civil suit over unlawful arrest. The five plaintiffs - an organizer, three legal observers and a curious onlooker - had been arrested and jailed overnight in May, 2003, for violating a local parade ordinance drafted specifically to tame the peaceful protest that had come to George W. Bush's home town since his selection as President. Although convicted by a local jury, the egregious enforcement of an overly broad restriction was found unconstitutional on appeal to the McLennan County Court. The exonerated defendants then filed the civil suit just settled.

It's up to us, the people, to break immoral laws, and resist. As soon as the leaders of a country lie to you, they have no authority over you. These maniacs have no authority over us. And they might be able to put our bodies in prison, but they can't put our spirits in prison...

Cindy Sheehan, speaking at the national conference of Veterans for Peace, the night before she arrived in Crawford

The only arrests reported at Sheehan's Camp Casey (named for her fallen son) were of two people who opposed the anti-war presence.

In Las Vegas, however, one person was arrested during one of the hundreds of vigils that took place August 15 in support of Sheehan's Texas stand. While about 30 people demonstrated in front of a military recruiting station, Joe Sacco, dressed in army fatigues, poured red paint on himself and the door, and laid down in front of the then-closed office. He was arrested when he continued the die-in after police ordered him to move. Sacco was charged with disorderly conduct and released after seven hours in custody. His next court date is September 15.

Sr. Platte OK'd for Probation in Maryland

Ardeth Platte and her codefendants, Carol Gilbert and Jackie Hudson, are Dominican religious sisters who entered, revealed, and symbolically disarmed a Minuteman nuclear missile in its silo on the high plains of Colorado, October 6, 2002. Platte will be released to probation in December, and allowed to return to Baltimore and her home at Jonah House. Gilbert, who also lives at Jonah House, and Hudson, who resides in Washington state, are on probation after serving their prison terms. Gilbert and Hudson have both refused to pay fines or restitution, and federal authorities in Colorado will have to decide whether this violation should result in revocation of their probation and a return to prison.

Ardeth wrote on August 8 of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorations at Danbury Federal Prison:

"Our gatherings on August 6 here were renewing, so much so that the women requested a gathering on the 9th, also. So be it! We did poetry, prose and prayer, songs old and some old with new words. Wherever we are we can resist the illegal and immoral wars of the past and reveal the planning of those in the future to organize resistance.

"It sounds like the local POs are violating and sending the paperwork to Colorado so who knows what will happen in the future there. Time will tell. In this life of choices one prepares for the whole package since the life sentence of being faithful to conscience and to act according to convictions brings more joy than the death sentence of doing nothing, of allowing government to run amok and condemning future generations to such destructive measures.

"These August 6-9 days are our annual wake up call."

For more information, contact Jonah House, 1501 Moreland Ave., Baltimore, MD, or Jackie Hudson, c/o Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Road NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370, jackie@gzcenter.org



Letters of support should be sent to Ardeth Platte 10857-039, FPC Danbury, Pembroke Station Rt. 37, Danbury, CT 06811-0379.

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

THE INSIDE LINE



~from Ft. Lewis

August 25, 2005

There comes a time in a person's life when they have to re-examine the course they have set for themselves to see if it best for them to continue. I was a U.S. soldier for ten years of my life and after I had experienced war first hand, I came to a personal crossroad.

The decision for me was rather complex as there were many factors that had bearing on my course of action. One was the fact that there had been a member of the military in my family since the American Revolution. Also, the area where I was raised has a strong sense of the military as being one of the most honorable things you can do. Being a soldier in the service of your country is a proud tradition for many American families; it cannot be denied and it is most definitely not to be discouraged.

But isn't it time we reconsidered war as a way to settle differences among nations? When are we going to realize that creating and using weapons that are capable of killing scores of people in a single blow is a rather barbaric and outmoded way in which to solve our differences? If as much effort were put into solving our differences with positive resolutions as the world has put into developing weapons that are able to wipe out entire countries at a time, war could have been eradicated decades ago, as were various other diseases that we have worked to eliminate. Make no mistake, war is a disease that threatens all of humanity. Isn't it time to dedicate energy, efforts and resources to eliminate this scourge of mankind? I believe it is.

I have laid down my weapons of war to pick them up never again. It is my sincere hope that more people will do the same so that our children and grandchildren will never have to experience what so many of us already have--the single most barbaric of human endeavors, otherwise known as war.

September 2, 2005

"I will not compromise my integrity, nor my moral courage."

These words come directly from the NCO creed, which I swore to uphold as a member of the U.S. Army. When I filed for Conscientious Objector status, it was

after careful consideration of my duty to my wife, my step-children, my country and the soldiers I served with. But before I could consider all of this, I had to consider myself. I had to ensure that my actions did not compromise what I believed in and what I stood for. I had served in Iraq, and I had seen the destruction war brings. After careful thought, I knew that I did not believe in war as an answer, and I would not participate in it any longer.

People told me that I abandoned soldiers. I did not. I chose to no longer fight in wars, because wars will never save lives, and they will never bring peace. I stand for soldiers that their lives and service be given the respect they deserve. People told me that I was a coward. They can believe that, but I know what it takes to stand on my principles against the tide, with the only certainty being that my wife stood with me. People told me that I was letting my country down. I disagree. I am standing to defend what our constitution was founded on - moral principles.

We are learning hard lessons this week. The devastation brought by Hurricane Katrina is teaching us something important. As a country, we cannot take care of others until we have taken care of ourselves. As a soldier, to continue to participate in war would have violated my own principles. I would have destroyed myself and others if I had not chosen to maintain MY integrity as my first consideration. To continue on the destructive path of war would have made me unable to help anyone to grow in positive ways, because I was not growing in positive ways.

I believe that we, as a country, need to return to our constitution, the foundation of America. This country has compromised its integrity and lost its moral courage. We can't help others until we have fixed ourselves.

[Sgt. Kevin Benderman's application for discharge as a conscientious objector was denied in April 2005, and on July 29, he was court martialled for missing movement, and sentenced to 15 months.]

HIROSHIMA NAGASAKI

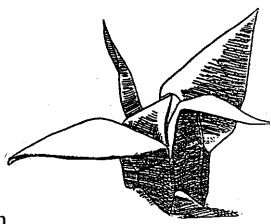
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Army Corps of Engineers / NYC

A silent procession from Foley Square on August 9, led by members of New York's Kairos and Catholic Worker communities, brought a solemn spirit of remembrance and resistance to the doors of the Army Corps of Engineers' office at Federal Plaza. It was there that the effort to build the Bomb got underway, giving it the name Manhattan Project. Eight people knelt in front of the entrance, closing the building for 40 minutes until they were arrested. All were released two hours later, with a court date of September 16. For more information, contact Matt Dalouiso at (201)264-4424.

Raytheon / Andover

The weekly Tuesday morning peace vigil outside Raytheon corporate headquarters in Andover, Massachusetts coincided with the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Nagasaki on August 9. About two dozen people participated on the anniversary. When Mary Kate Small and Tom Feagley held a banner across the entrance and refused to leave, they were cited for obstructing traffic. In court, both pled to the charge and refused to pay a \$20 fine. They both agreed to an alternative of four hours community service.



Trident/Bangor

On Monday, August 8, 70 people walked at early dawn from the nearby Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action to the entrance of the Naval Submarine Base at Bangor, Washington. The base is located 20 miles west of Seattle, and is the last active nuclear weapons depot on the West Coast, deploying over 1,700 nuclear warheads on Trident submarines. The base has been recently rebuilt for the deployment of the larger and more accurate Trident D-5 missile system. Each of the 24 D-5 missiles on a Trident submarine is capable of carrying eight of the larger 455 kiloton W-88 warheads (about 30 times the explosive force of the Hiroshima bomb.) Four older Trident submarines from the Bangor fleet are being refitted for the deployment of Tomahawk cruise missiles. Each of the older submarines will be able to launch 154 cruise missiles within a six minute period.

This year, demonstrators were joined by members of the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist Temple on Bainbridge Island, who with Ground Zero Center members and others, completed a 300 mile walk for peace, starting at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in eastern Washington on July 16, and ending at the Ground Zero Center on Hiroshima Day, August 6.

After arriving at the base gate, 19 demonstrators then blocked the highway entrance with a long banner that stated, "We Can All Live Without Trident." Incoming traffic was blocked for about 40 minutes during peak traffic when Navy and support personnel were arriving for work at the base.

Kitsap County sheriffs arrested the 19, who came from across Washington state and also Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, British Columbia. They were booked and later released in Port Orchard. County prosecutors have been unable to get convictions against nonviolent activists arrested at Bangor the last three times they have tried. Juries and judges have found that people arrested at Bangor protests have the legal right to redress grievances under International and U.S. law with nonviolent direct action.

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

St. Petersburg

For more than two years, St. Pete for Peace has engaged the public with weekly anti-war pickets and leafletting at BayWalk, a popular evening commercial and entertainment complex in St. Petersburg, Florida. The public sidewalks had already become a First

Amendment battleground when BayWalk's owners tried in vain last year to take control of the pavement and exclude the peaceful, non-obstructive demonstration. Widespread public support for free speech kept the protest in place. Earlier this year, they simply sought to buy the sidewalk from the city.

This summer, the city began placing waist-high crowd barricades to split the sidewalk and separate the multi-generational protest from other pedestrians. Each week a new barricade arrangement was introduced, each further constricting the pickets. The barricades made it nearly impossible to pass by the vigil without stepping into the street or onto BayWalk property. Zealous police warned a woman she was trespassing on July 30 when she tried to take a coffee cup to the trash can on the BayWalk side of the unmarked pedestrian area.

Then on Hiroshima Day, police arrested without warning a 14-year-old who was playing maracas as he walked back and forth in front of the barricades, apparently for dancing across the line. A man videotaping the entire incident was also cuffed for trespass.

NEVER AGAIN

Both were taken to a waiting police van, followed by many vigilers upset with the escalating police action. Two juveniles and two adults locked arms and peacefully blocked the van from leaving. They were themselves arrested and charged with obstructing traffic and failure to obey lawful orders. At the station, the three juveniles were released, but the adults were jailed until their initial court appearance in the morning.

The next week, 250 people overwhelmed the barricades, but there were no arrests. On August 20, police forbid music and drumming. Three people were cited for brandishing rhythm sticks, and police even ticketed at least three motorists who responded to "Honk for Peace" signs.

By August 27, public pressure brought the barricades down, but the police continued to enforce the noise limits, and cited two more honking drivers.

For more information, contact St. Pete for Peace at (727)520-7737 or info@stpeteforpeace.org, or visit www.stpeteforpeace.org

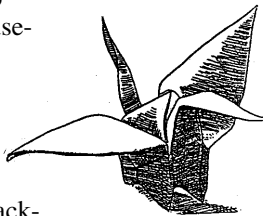
Pentagon

Pentagon police were mustered at 3 a.m. every day from August 5-9, in anticipation of a visit from people participating in the annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemorative Faith and Resistance retreat in Washington, D.C.

But those on retreat first went to the National Air and Space Museum on Hiroshima Day. The Enola Gay, the aircraft that dropped the Bomb, is there on permanent display. About 30 people held signs in remembrance of innocent lives lost in war and the tragedy of nuclear weapons that still looms large. Going inside, they knelt in front of the Enola Gay for half an hour in silence and then processed outside for reflections and closing prayer. There were no arrests, as the plan was disclosed to museum security in advance, and a mutually suitable scenario agreed upon.

In remembrance of the bombing of Nagasaki, about 40 people went to the Pentagon early the morning of August 9. Dressed in sackcloth, they held signs, prayed and sang. A banner read: "We sit in sackcloth and ashes to repent the sins of war and nuclear weapons." Seven people were arrested when they sat in the sidewalk, blocking workers from entering the Pentagon. Some police were unexpectedly rough with the peaceful penitents, while a gentler arresting officer said that he agreed with most of what the demonstrators were saying. Next court date for the seven is November 18.

For more information, contact Jonah House, 1301 Moreland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21216, (410)233-6238, disarmnow@erols.com.



Alliant Techsystems / Edina

Alliant Techsystems (ATK) was put on trial August 8 for the production of depleted uranium (DU) weapons. Members of the Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) staged a mock hearing at the entrance to ATK's corporate offices in Edina, Minnesota.

"As we mark the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we have a right and a duty as responsible citizens to hold ATK accountable for the continued development and production of weapons of mass destruction," said Michele Naar-Obed of Duluth.

CPTers joined scores of local activists who have maintained a campaign to close ATK since the mid-1990's. An indictment charging ATK with war crimes was read and testimony by three CPTers who have recently returned from Iraq was presented. A local activist challenged ATK executives to go to a nearby veterans' hospital to see the affects of these weapons on U.S. soldiers. When no one came forward to testify on behalf of ATK, the crowd declared ATK guilty.

Interspersed throughout the trial, 13 CPTers were cited and released for trespassing when they attempted to bring an indictment, subpoena, warrant and sentencing order to executives inside the building. Court dates are pending.

For more information, contact Michele Naar-Obed at Loaves & Fishes Catholic Worker, 1712 Jefferson St., Duluth, MN 55812, (218)724-2054, obedsinduluth@yahoo.com

Aldermaston AWE

In the early hours of August 5, nine peace gardeners from Europe and Australia planted vines and fig trees at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) at Aldermaston, England. After five minutes, Ministry of Defence police arrived and arrested all nine of the planters within the base on suspicion of criminal damage. The day before, the gardeners had planted a vine and a fig tree outside the main gate, and told curious security forces they would return the next day to continue their conversion of the British bomb factory.

Calling themselves the Aldermaston Vine & Fig Tree Planters, the group arrived at dawn, cut a gateway in the perimeter fence and entered carrying spades, trowels, watering cans, four vines and five fig trees. Having planted and watered the vines and fig trees, they offered their arresting officers a choice of grapes, fig rolls, grape juice or wine.

Eight of the nine gardeners (from England, Sweden, the Netherlands and Australia) gave as their address the Aldermaston site. They were jailed overnight. One man remained in jail until August 10, when all nine were in court and pleaded not guilty. They were released on condition they not go within 100 meters of Aldermaston. The Aldermaston Vine & Fig Tree Planters and their supporters went directly from court to AWE Burghfield, another nearby nuclear site, and planted their remaining vine and fig tree outside the gate. A trial date has not been set.

Inspired by the Old Testament prophet Micah, the Aldermaston Vine & Fig Tree Planters write, "...Disarmament, economic conversion and nonviolence are vital ingredients for creating a just world in which everyone enjoys the earth's abundance.

"In these fearful, suspicious times, we invite people all around the world to transform military bases into gardens of peace in which beauty and life shall flourish."

For more information, contact vineandfigtree@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.figs-and-vines.pojjoy.urevised.com/

NATO HQ and Kleine Brogel

In Belgium, an eight-year campaign of citizen weapons inspections and the broad endorsement of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Mayors for Peace Appeal led last April to approval by the Belgian Senate of a resolution asking for the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons from Europe. This August, For Mother Earth organized a commemorative peace walk across the country from July 26 - August 9, concluding with a four-day peace camp outside the air base at Kleine Brogel,

continued on page 6

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

American Bases in U.K.

Home nurse and peace activist Lindis Percy continues the work of the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases in England, making the rounds of protest at the many air bases where American personnel are deployed. Last April, Harrogate Magistrate's Court brought together 32 cases of trespass citations that arose out of the weekly Tuesday evening vigil at Menwith Hill spy base in North Yorkshire. The magistrate selected a sample of nine cases to hear, seven of Percy's and two of Anni Rainbow.

At the outset of the trial, Percy was told that the military and North Yorkshire police would seek an Anti-Social Behavior Order (ASBO) against Percy if she were to be convicted of even one of the offenses. It was the first time the restrictive finding was sought against a peace campaigner, so the trial attracted much attention.

Percy was convicted on five counts of obstructing a highway and obstructing a police officer, and the judge put off sentencing and consideration of the ASBO until May 17. The court room was full when Magistrate Roy Anderson ruled against the application.

"...None of the incidents was accompanied by aggressive behavior, abusive language or threats of violence. Mrs Percy has previous convictions but they all seem to relate to and stem from her activities as a peace campaigner. She may, in her relentless expression of her views, be thought by many to be a fanatic and by some to be a crank. Nevertheless she is entitled to express these views unless she breaks the criminal law of this country... I am firmly of the view courts ought not to allow ASBOs to be used as a club to beat down the expression of legitimate comment and the dissemination of views on matters of public concern...'

Anderson did, however, sentence Percy to eight weeks of home curfew, enforced with an electronic monitor. This would also be a first for a British peace campaigner, but the sentence is on appeal.

Percy visited the US air base at Croughton on September 8, and spent two hours walking about without seeing any security patrol. Before departing, she stopped at the gate house to express sympathy about the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Then as she turned to leave, two American military police confronted Percy, throwing her to the pavement and handcuffing her for 45 minutes until Ministry of Defense police arrived. They in turn held Percy for nearly 14 hours, on the allegation that she had resisted her arrest. She was then released on a promise to return to court October 27. For more information, contact CAAB, 8 Park Row, Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 1HQ, England; office@caabuk.plus.com; caab.org.uk

HIROSHIMA/NAÇASAKI, CONT.

continued from page 5

where U.S. nuclear weapons are stored. Nearly all the Flemish mayors along the way supported the walk with official receptions and campsites.

On August 1, the walk passed NATO headquarters, and 11 people were arrested trying to reach the main gate. All were released without charge after a few hours.

While camped outside of Kleine Brogel on August 8, five people entered the base and placed origami birds on the runway, in order to prevent the F16 warplanes based there from taking off and training for the use of nuclear weapons. They were arrested and released later in the day.

Last April 16, simultaneous "bomspotter" citizen inspection actions occurred at NATO HQ in Brussels, SHAPE (NATO military HQ) in Mons, and Kleine Brogel Air Base where 20 U.S. nuclear weapons are stored. There was also an unannounced inspection of a NATO satellite base in Gooik, which is involved in communication between these bases.

Activists were present from the six NATO countries currently hosting the 480 U.S. nuclear weapons based in Europe: Italy, Germany, Belgium, U.K., Turkey, and the Netherlands. They were joined by activists from seven other countries.

There were around 500 arrests in total (200 at Kleine Brogel, 120 at NATO, 130 at SHAPE and 20 at Gooik). Many of the inspectors were arrested while trespassing on the bases, and others were arrested on their way to enter the base. All inspectors were released after a few hours.

For more information, visit www.motherearth.org

Bandazhevsky Released

Chernobyl researcher Yuri Bandazhevsky was unexpectedly freed from prison on August 5, although he is restricted from foreign travel and remains under police surveillance until early 2006. He is also required to pay a fine of 35 million roubles (over \$16,000).

Speaking after his release about his imprisonment and his future plans, Bandazhevsky told reporters from the French newspaper *Libération* that in so far as his health was concerned, although he had suffered and was still suffering - five years incarceration does no good to anyone - he believed that provided one has the will power to follow their own destiny and be true to their own convictions it is possible to come through this sort of ordeal. He still retained the desire to work and to live happily.

Bandazhevsky explained that the reason that he was imprisoned was that the publication of his research conclusions ran counter to the interests of the official pro-nuclear group who would not tolerate contradiction.

For more information, visit www.comite-bandahevsky.org

Trident Ploughshares

After organizing the largest blockade ever at the Faslane nuclear submarine base during the G-8 summit in July, the Trident Ploughshares campaign mustered a more modest action camp beginning in late August outside the nearby Coulport nuclear weapons depot, north of Glasgow, Scotland. But the few dozen activists who attended kept themselves and police busy exploring the perimeter of the Coulport base, cutting the fence, blocking the gates and leaving graffiti to mark both bases.

At least eighteen arrests were made, including three women who painted "Terrorism", "Evil", "Make Trident History", "Bread not Bombs" and other messages on the gate of the base, on the roadway, on road signs and on the two official signs to the base which flank the entrance. They were held for several hours inside the base and charged with malicious mischief.

A few days later, six women locked themselves together and blocked Coulport's main gate September 7, while another group erected a tripod perch for an activist to block the construction gate. The base was closed for two hours while police cut through the locks to arrest the women and disassembled the tripod to arrest the man on it.

No one was held in prison, and the cases were added to the steady stream of peace protesters through the local court in Helensburgh. One of the women arrested at the blockade, Jane Tallents, served one day in jail after telling the judge she had no intention of paying a £150 fine for entering Coulport in August, 2003.

Trident Ploughshares is a campaign to disarm the U.K. Trident nuclear weapons system in a nonviolent, open, peaceful and fully accountable manner. For more information, contact Trident Ploughshares, 2-46 Bethel St., Norwich NR2 1NR, Britain, or visit tridentploughshares.org.uk

Parliament Square

The latest tough-on-terror mandate from the British Parliament is Section 132 of the Serious Organized Crime and Police Act 2005 (SOCPA). It's a customized effort to rid such public spaces near the rump of power of any "unauthorized" demonstrations, even by so much as one man, "a demonstration by himself" (sic). The one man is Brian Haw, who in July, 2001 began a solo vigil against the Iraq sanctions just opposite the British legislative assembly. Haw's presence soon enough became an anti-war and anti-occupation vigil that continues to this day. Ironically, because SOCPA came into force only on August 1, long after Haw's vigil, it was judged that he could not be in violation, post facto. But at least eleven people were arrested in the Square last month, challenging the prohibition on spontaneous and unpermitted protest. For more information, contact the Nonviolent Resistance Network, 162 N. Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ, UK, lrcndnvrn@supanet.com



Australia

An American peace activist has been deported and barred from Australia, after being picked up in Melbourne and jailed for five days. Scott Parkin was visiting down under from Houston, where he has organized protest against Haliburton corporation, formerly led by Vice President Cheney and the recipient of numerous no-bid service and rebuilding contracts following the invasion and occupation of Iraq. In Australia, he gave public talks and presented workshops on nonviolent direct action, and joined the anti-globalization/anti-war protest at the Forbes CEO Conference in Sydney at the end of August. Australian federal police who detained him while he dined at a cafe told Parkin his visitor's visa was canceled and he was considered a threat to national security.

Anti-war and immigration activists were quick to rally in support of Parkin. Melbourne activists gathered outside the detention center to shout their support. In Brisbane on September 13, 50 people tried to turn themselves in for staging "Billionaires for Bombing Baghdad" the previous day, a street theater protest action similar to the actions taken by Parkin since he arrived in Australia in June. When federal police locked them out, the group descended on Department of Immigration & Multicultural Affairs, seeking deportation like Parkin. They were unsuccessful.

In San Francisco, activists visited the Australian Consulate and delivered a letter of protest.

Parkin was accompanied back to Los Angeles by two Australian agents, and then billed \$11,000 for the cost of his five days in detention, his airfare, the agents' airfare and the agents' lodging in Los Angeles.

"I'm just completely baffled by this," Parkin told the Australian Broadcasting Company.

Seven people were arrested in Sydney during the CEO Conference protests.

In Brisbane, Catholic Worker Jim Dowling attended a September 1 public debate over national ID involving his local member of Parliament, Peter Dutton. Dutton supports Australia's involvement in the American domination of Iraq, and Dowling attempted a citizen's arrest of Dutton last year. This time, he prepared leaflets and a sign reading "Peter Dutton Supports Terrorism".

Dowling arrived late, after Dutton had spoken. So he stood at the rear of the hall, intending to leaflet the departing audience. Soon two security guards came and stood next to him. With a whisper he offered the closest one a leaflet quietly telling him it exposes Peter Dutton's support for terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. The guard took one.

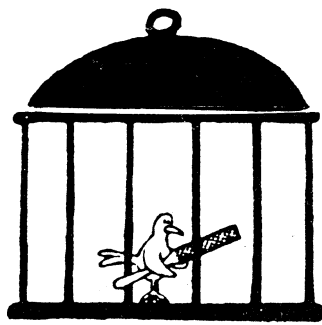
Dowling writes: "As I noticed some people leave during question time I decided it was time to go outside and leaflet people leaving. As I started to do so the guard stopped me. I said, 'I'm going outside.' He replied, 'OK, this way' and motioned towards the double doors behind me, rather than the main doors. The doors swung open and there were the police.

"They grabbed me painfully without a word or explanation. In my shock all I could say was 'Hey what's going on here? This isn't Nazi Germany!' It was at about this point that Constable Jennings decided my face needed to be rearranged with the help of his knee and the floor.

"At the police station I was charged with resisting arrest and hindering police. I go to court ... on Wednesday 28th September..."

Police claim Dowling had shouted "Dutton you're a killer" but were less certain why even that statement warranted the work-over he received.

Update Files



RAFIL DHAFIR: Sentencing for Dr. Rafil Dhafir has been postponed until October 19 in federal court in Syracuse, New York. Co-defendant Ayman Jarwan will be sentenced October 18, 2005. Dhafir is the Iraqi-born oncologist who faces up to 25 years in prison on charges he defrauded the government through the operation of a charity he founded that sent money to Iraq in violation of the sanctions during the 1990s. He has been denied bail since his arrest in February, 2003. Jarwan faces less time but possible deportation.

In a pre-sentencing filing in August, prosecutors placed on the record the allegations peddled to the press before his trial that Dhafir's charity giving was supporting organizations later labeled as terrorist by the government. Dhafir's attorney Devereaux Cannick responded with a motion that documents be produced and witnesses be present at sentencing to back up this charge, which has nullified the fairness of this prosecution from the beginning.

For background information, visit www.FreeDhafir.org or contact Madis Senner, 315-463-5369. Letters of support should be sent to Dr. Rafil Dhafir at the address on page 3...

VOICES IN THE WILDERNESS: Meanwhile, on August 12, 2005 U.S. Federal District Judge John Bates ordered payment of a \$20,000 fine imposed against Voices in the Wilderness. Voices was fined for bringing medicine to Iraq in a classic campaign of open nonviolent civil disobedience to challenge the economic sanctions imposed by the U.S. and the U.N. against Iraq. The U.S. Treasury Department initially imposed the fine in 2002, days after Voices participated in international actions to oppose the U.S. buildup for war against Iraq.

Voices in the Wilderness issued the following statement on August 12 (excerpts):

"Today, the judiciary branch of the U.S. government completed a perfect trifecta of inhumanity in upholding a \$20,000 fine against Voices in the Wilderness for bringing medicine to Iraqi citizens. Judge Bates agrees that it was lawful and proper for the U.S. government to deny needed drugs and medical supplies to Iraq's most vulnerable citizens, despite the evidence that several hundred thousand innocent children were dying because of brutal economic sanctions.

"Voices will not pay a penny of this fine..."

"...Because of this ruling, the Voices bank account is no longer available for accepting contributions. This ruling doesn't alter our refusal to pay the fine, nor does it lessen our determination to help build a better world, working for peaceful and just relations between people..."

"Efforts to refuse collaboration with a government which worships war making must continue through peacemaking efforts at home and abroad. Here in the United States, we know that we must become many more than we are now. With you, we envision a peace movement working to build a mass based movement of nonviolent civil disobedience / civil resistance to the government's foreign policies..."

LARO NICOL: Phoenix activist and federal prisoner Laro Nichol has been transferred twice within Arizona this summer, and is now at FCI Safford, Arizona (address on page 3)...

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI: Trial for Steve and Lana Jacobs was postponed until September 27. Each was arrested digging graves in the lawn of the ROTC offices at the University of Missouri, Steve during a May 2 demonstration, and Lana a short time afterwards when she returned with her own shovel to finish the job Steve had begun...

SOA WATCH: Alice Gerard and Sr. Lelia Mattingly were released this week after six months in the federal prison at Danbury, Connecticut. They are the last of eleven 2004 Ft. Benning line-crossers to complete a prison sentence. Janice Sevre-Duszynska, fired from her Kentucky teaching job for insubordination after serving three months in prison for crossing the line in 2001, has had her firing overturned by the state Court of Appeals...

ST. PATRICK'S DAY FOUR: Trial begins September 19 in Binghamton, New York, for the first federal conspiracy trial arising out of an act of civil resistance to the Iraq War. A Citizens Tribunal on Iraq planned to run concurrent with the first week of the trial will have to find a new venue. A letter from an area resident threatening the tax status of the church that would host the Tribunal caused the church vestry to cancel the contract. Four parents from the Ithaca area are being charged with federal "conspiracy to impede an officer of the United States" and lesser charges for a 2003 act of nonviolent resistance inside a military recruiting center, two days before the invasion of Iraq. The four were previously tried in April 2004 in Tompkins County Court for criminal mischief and trespassing. Nine of twelve jurors voted to acquit...

STAR ARMORY: Fran Fuller and Brian Terrell were sentenced August 1 for not paying fees nor cooperating with community service as sentenced for trespassing at the Iowa National Guard Armory last November. Fuller was sentenced to two days in jail, Terrell to three days. Both received credit for two days already served, and Terrell was taken into custody overnight to complete his sentence. Fuller told the court, "I'm a Catholic Worker, which means I do community service every day for no pay. Some days this community service looks like feeding the hungry and other days it looks like nonviolently protesting war. I've been doing this for 5 years with no salary. While my actions may appear insignificant, life and death issues are involved. Because I'm fairly new to this work, I agreed to community service and probation when sentenced last January. While doing the community service, however, I realized that if the point is my rehabilitation, it is not working and it makes no sense to me to cooperate. I plan to keep doing the things that have brought me here today: feeding the hungry and nonviolently protesting war. I cannot in good conscience cooperate with probation or community service. I cannot pay any fees or fines"...

DULUTH: A city prosecutor has lowered the charges facing Michele Naar-Obed and Michael Walli for pouring blood on the sign of a Minnesota Air National Guard fighter wing last March. The effect is to deny a jury trial, and a judge will hear the case against them for "dumping of manure or solid waste" on October 20...

TUCSON: The city dropped all charges facing the Tucson "Raging Grannies" and reporters arrested July 13 outside a military recruiting office where they had sought to enlist...

BRONX RECRUITING STATION: Manhattan College student David Segal entered a plea agreement on reduced federal charges of attempted damage to government property in excess of \$1000. Segal avoids the mandatory five-year minimum sentence on the original arson charge for a protest that alert police scuttled last January 31. Segal is scheduled for sentencing December 16, and could face 10-16 months in prison...

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MILITARY REFUSERS, CONT.

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"Neil filed a second CO application in the summer of 2004 which was ignored by the military bureaucracy at that time. Finally in January 2005 he was ordered to deploy to Iraq. Upon refusing to deploy he was held on base at Ft. Stewart. His application for CO status was denied in March 2005, and he was tried in a court-martial on June 22, 2005. Upon conviction he was shipped to Ft. Sill to serve 13 months in prison."

Commenting on the Lucas case and others, tomjoard.org, a premier internet site telling the stories of dozens of recent military refusers, notes:

"We can see trends here. First is that recruiters tell the most outrageous lies to potential recruits, and there are many instances of this. Second that conscientious objectors are treated with contempt, and their cases are consistently not handled according to military law. In this case, the Captain took the law into his own hands.

Third, is that CO's are getting very harsh sentences, despite this abuse."

Army conscientious objector Blake Lemoine, serving a seven month sentence for failure to obey a lawful order, is due to be released from the military prison at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma on September 17. Dale Bartell, another Army CO serving 4 months for intent to avoid hazardous duty, will complete his sentence at Ft. Sill in November, unless a pending request for early release is granted.



Letters of support should be sent individually addressed to Neil Quentin Lucas and Dale Bartell, Building 1490, Randolph Rd., Fort Sill, OK 73503.

FUTURE ACTIONS

allianttech

United Nations Day, October 24, will be observed with nonviolent direct action at AlliantTech Systems in Edina, Minnesota, maker of cluster bombs, landmines, and depleted uranium munitions. Training for the NVDA will be Saturday, October 22, 10 am - 4 pm. Bring a bag lunch to the Univ. of St. Thomas, Room EOC-414. For more information, contact AlliantACTION, info@circlevision.org, 651-644-8118; or Nukewatch, nukewatch@lakeland.ws, 715-472-4185.

pledge to risk arrest at the SOA/WHINSEC

Thousands of people are expected to converge on Ft. Benning, Georgia over the weekend of November 18-20 to once again say NO to oppressive U.S. policy toward Latin America, as embodied by the U.S. Army's School of the Americas/WHINSEC.

Nonviolent direct action has been the backbone of the SOA Watch movement. In that tradition, the SOAW Direct Action Working Group invites you to help amplify dissent at Ft Benning this year through mass civil disobedience. To assist in coordinating this action, they hope you will consider making a pledge to risk arrest by "crossing the line" onto Ft. Benning.

Your commitment may be contingent on how many others join you (100, 250, 500 or 1,000). To download a pledge form, go to www.soaw.org and click on "Cross the Line" under the November convergence information. Or you can simply contact Twin Ports SOA Watch by mail or e-mail and let them know at what level you will pledge. Include an e-mail and/or physical address so they can keep you posted on the number of pledgers as well as logistical information for line crossers. Twin Ports SOA Watch, P.O. Box 12, Duluth, MN 55801; soawtwinports@riseup.net

Questions can also be directed to Joel at (218)722-2490 or Eric at (202)234-3440.

For more information on the entire weekend of SOA Watch events at Fort Benning in November, including vigil organizing packets in English or Spanish, contact SOA Watch, POB 4566, Washington, DC 20017, 202-234-3440, info@soa.org.

trident ploughshares

The next Trident Ploughshares action camp is set for October 22-24, outside the Rolls Royce factory in Derby, England. Rolls Royce supplies and maintains the nuclear propulsion system for the British Trident submarines. For more information, email derbytp@pea-cepages.co.uk or visit www.tridentploughshares.org

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#138

ANNOUNCEMENTS

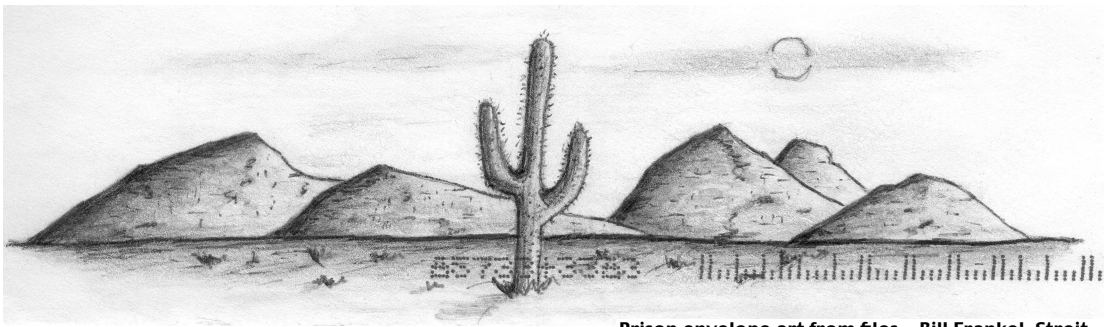
...The **Second Annual Gandhian Nonviolence Conference**, sponsored by the M.K. Gandhi Institute, the National Civil Rights Museum and the National Conference for Community and Justice, and hosted by Christian Brothers University and Rhodes College, will be held in Memphis on October 14-15. The conference will bring together hundreds of academicians, activists and the general public to participate in wide-ranging discussions about applying the principles of Gandhi's nonviolence to contemporary issues. This year's conference theme, "Gandhian Nonviolence: Personal Transformation, Political Revolution and Social Justice," will explore how Gandhi's methods can bring about personal, political and social change. The conference will feature talks, workshops, academic papers and presentations from notable speakers based on Gandhi's principles, ideas and practices, including Mahatma Gandhi's grandson, Arun Gandhi, Dr. Ken Butigan, and Voices in the Wilderness cofounder Kathy Kelly. Call Katral Rainey at 901-452-2824 for early registration through Sept. 30.

Update Files, cont.

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COLORADO SPRINGS: After a three-day trial in early July at the Federal District Court in Denver, Judge Richard Matsch ruled for the City of Colorado Springs and against Citizens for Peace in Space (CPIS) in the civil suit they filed challenging the city's ban on protests at the NATO conference at the Broadmoor Hotel in October 2003. CPIS activists were barred from City sidewalks in a residential area immediately adjacent to the hotel, when the City deferred to NATO demands for an unprecedented security perimeter. The City received ethically suspect assistance from a local TV station, who turned over all of their unedited video of the protest to the City, unsolicited. Mistakes of fact and supine deference to military authority pepper the decision, which is being appealed to the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver. Plaintiff's attorneys remain hopeful of a good outcome...

NORTHWOOD: Michael Nendick was sentenced to 14 days in jail on August 12, for refusing to pay £420 in fine and fees for sitting in at the British military headquarters in January, 2003...



Prison envelope art from files - Bill Frankel-Streit

Vieques Rejects Colonial Status

The Navy left, but unexploded bombs remain on the eastern half of the isle of Vieques, Puerto Rico. Contractors engaged in rehabilitating the land have been detonating many on-site rather than use other methods of disposal. The result is a continuing assault on a community that rid itself of the Navy but is far from rid of its impact of toxic metals and chemical residues in the air, land and water.

In another attempt to call attention to the colonial condition of Puerto Rico and to the contamination on the island of Vieques, Alberto "Tito Kayak" de Jesús, a Puerto Rican environmentalist, was arrested on June 13 for attempting to lower the United Nations flag in New York City and replacing it with the Puerto Rican flag. Kayak's latest action took place during the United Nations De-Colonization Hearings, as a delegation from Puerto Rico and throughout the United States testified for the liberation of Puerto Rico from U.S. colonialism.

Originally charged in Manhattan Criminal Court with endangerment and trespass, and facing three to seven years in prison, Kayak was arraigned in September for trespass only, and goes on trial October 11.

Contributions towards his defense and travel back to New York are welcome and may be sent to Alberto de Jesús c/o Amigos del Mar, POB 2176, Vega Baja, PR 00694-2176.

Two men remain in federal prison on the mainland serving sentences resulting from celebration of the Navy's departure from Vieques in May, 2003. Their names and prison addresses are on page 3.

For more information, contact the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques, POB 1424, Vieques, PR 00765, 787-741-0716, bieke@prorescate-vieques.org

'Nam Deserter Nabbed
40 Years Later

War Tax Resister
Begins 6 Month
Sentence

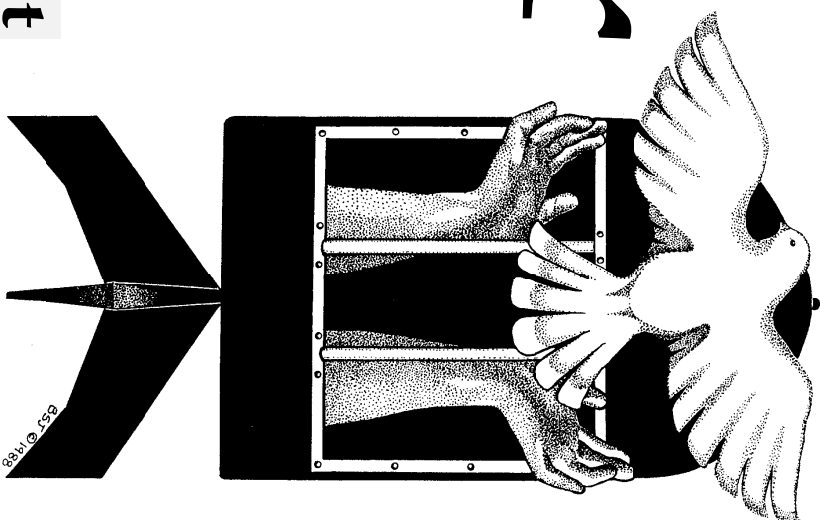
Hiroshima and Nagasaki
Remember and Resist

Army Objectors Get
15 & 13 Months
in Prison

Hammer in Hand,
Man Disarms Two
Nuclear Bombers

"a Chronicle of Hope"

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#138 Sept. 15, 2005

INFORMATION
ABOUT AND
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ACTIVISTS

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Writings from Jail
International Notes
Future Actions
...and more

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