

# the Nuclear Resister

"A Chronicle of Hope"

25<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Issue  
1980-2005

No. 139

November 18, 2005

## Six Months for Damage to Nuclear Warplanes

Turi Vaccaro confounded the Dutch prosecutor with his lighthearted clowning at several court sessions this fall. But at a final hearing on October 27, the judge paid no heed to Vaccaro's demeanor nor his anti-nuclear motivation. The 52-year-old activist was convicted of causing €750,000 in damage to two F-16 nuclear bombers at Woensdrecht Air Base last August 10. Vaccaro was then sentenced to six months in prison and ordered to pay the full amount of damage or serve an additional year in prison.

The disarmament of the F-16s was undertaken as a Hiroshima/Nagasaki memorial and accomplished with a hammer purchased in Vaccaro's hometown of Assisi, Italy. In his closing statement, Vaccaro cited St. Francis of Assisi as his great hero. The action against the warplanes was the latest of the 25-year series of faith-based nonviolent direct actions known as Plowshares that use hand tools to disarm nuclear weapons and their delivery systems.

After defense testimony about the Plowshares movement at an earlier hearing, the prosecutor had asked (quoted in the Dutch magazine *Ravage*), "Is he a simple-

ton who was a sacrifice from the movement, someone who sings songs (at which point

Turi shouted 'Hallelujah!') and lies on the floor of the court when he feels like it?" Vaccaro, who would entertain supporters with song and mime during court recess, did another headstand as he was taken from the court following that hearing.

An appeal of the conviction is being considered. For more information, visit [www.motherearth.org/prisoner/turi.php](http://www.motherearth.org/prisoner/turi.php), or email [steungroepuri@hotmail.com](mailto:steungroepuri@hotmail.com)



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



## FEDS NAIL CHARITABLE ANTI-WAR MUSLIMS

The founder and director of a New York charity are in prison for sending humanitarian aid to Iraq in defiance of the sanctions that were imposed from 1991-2003.

Dr. Rafil Dhafir is the founder, and Ayman Jarwan the executive director, of Help the Needy, an unregistered charity that sent millions in contributions - much of it food aid - directly to Iraqi civilians. The men are the only people to be criminally prosecuted for violating the International Economic Powers Act (IEPA). Others who openly sent aid to Iraq, notably activists associated with Voices in the Wilderness, have received civil fines only.

Ayman Jarwan is a Jordanian national who pled guilty to incorrectly claiming a tax deduction for donations to Help the Needy on his tax return, in addition to the IEPA violation. On October 18, Federal Judge Norman Mordue in Syracuse sentenced Jarwan to 18 months in prison on each count, to be served concurrently. He was handcuffed and led from the courtroom by U.S. marshals. Upon completing his prison sentence, Jarwan faces likely deportation to Jordan.

But the prosecutor's big fish was Dr. Dhafir, a successful oncologist and naturalized Iraqi-American. He was already known as a devout and generous leader in the Muslim community of upstate New York, and an outspoken opponent of the Iraq sanctions when he was arrested in February, 2003. Since then, Dhafir was denied bail four times amid repeated claims that he is a threat to national security and somehow supported terrorists overseas. No such charge was ever brought. On October 27, Judge Mordue sentenced Dhafir to 22 years in prison.

The terrorist claim has been a contentious feature of the Dhafir prosecution. The government first smeared him as a terrorist in the immediate aftermath of his arrest. It successfully won a motion to prevent the defense from raising the issue of terrorism and the government's intent in arresting Dr. Dhafir during the trial. A month before sentencing, the prosecutor again implied that Dr. Dhafir was a terrorist to bolster its case against an Albany imam trapped in a questionable sting.

Instead, prosecutors poured over business records seized when Dhafir was arrested, and added nearly five dozen criminal charges related to Medicare overbilling to his indictment. After a 17-week trial, Dhafir was convicted on 59 of 60 counts, during which no evidence was ever produced to show that Dhafir personally profited from the alleged fraud, nor that patients suffered as a result. The seized business records were not all brought into evidence nor made available for his defense. Only an estimate of the total alleged overcharge was offered. Evidence did show that Medicare billing is often confusing, and Dhafir's office had repeatedly sought clarification from its administrators.

At his sentencing, Dr. Dhafir spoke briefly, setting aside a 50-page statement he had prepared. Instead he began in Arabic with a "Praise Allah" which he interpreted and noted how he had been in jail for close to 1,000 days.

He said apologies were in order. To God, for him not being a good enough person. To the prophet, for him not being able to endure as much as he must. To his wife, for the time she has and will spend alone. He apologized for putting his charity work ahead of her which led to his current predicament. He hopes that she understands and forgives, and hopes that they will be together again, if not in this lifetime then in the life to come.

He went on to apologize to others: the Muslim community, his supporters. By the time he finished, his

## WHAT NOBLE CAUSE?

## HUNDREDS ARRESTED AT WHITE HOUSE DEMAND TROOPS OUT NOW

National Park police were reportedly unprepared for so many to be so civilly disobedient at the White House on September 26, when more than 370 people were arrested. For many who took part, the anti-war sit-in on the sidewalk was the first time they'd gone to jail for justice, if only for several hours. By nearly all accounts, published on-line and in many local newspapers and peace newsletters, it was a great introduction to nonviolent direct action for many who now plan to continue, believing the time is ripe for greater civil resistance to the U.S. occupation of Iraq.

Three misdemeanor arrests were reported on September 24, along the routes where hundreds of thousands of people marched in the nation's Capitol. The anti-war crowd was joined by thousands of opponents of corporate globalization, also gathered in Washington to protest the annual meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Early Sunday, about 100 activists in the Movement for Global Justice blocked the intersections surrounding the hotel where IMF meeting delegates were staying, delaying them and the start of that day's sessions. Police made two arrests, but otherwise held back for the rest of the morning. The visual highlight of the event was the street theater performance of "The Capitalist Parasite" by the "NeoClowns for War and Impoverishment." Disruption accomplished, the blockades ended when police finally moved in.

Elsewhere, more than 500 people spent the better part of Sunday in preparation for the major nonviolent direct actions on Monday.

The organization of an anti-war civil disobedience component in the weekend of protest, education, and lobbying actions was given nominal support by United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ), the umbrella national organization that initiated the call to rally in Washington. UFPJ's Nonviolent Direct Action Working Group took on the task of creating an action that would be symbolic of the anti-war message; media-friendly; respectful of diverse constituencies of nonviolent activists; and calculated as predictable enough to encourage participation of

those risking arrest for peace for the first time. The NVDA Working Group included activists from the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance/Iraq Pledge of Resistance; Clergy and Laity Concerned about Iraq; Military Families Speak Out; Direct Action Tendency of the Socialist Party USA and others. They incorporated a number of suggested scenarios in planning the mass action that was promoted over the weekend and unfolded at the White House.

Other nonviolent direct action advocates, many from the New York City chapter of the War Resisters League, Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, the D.C. Anti-War Network, Veterans for Peace and Jonah House, took another approach. Their common focus was early Monday morning at the Pentagon, where the Catholic Workers keep a weekly vigil that engages the war workers as they arrive.

Several groups of people were arrested after they repeatedly blocked the pedestrian ramp leading to Entrance 3, forcing it to be closed. Another group was arrested at the entrance of the Pentagon Metro station. All told, at least 41 people were arrested, cited for disobeying a lawful order, and released within a few hours. Court dates begin in January.

Des Moines Catholic Worker Elton Davis writes, "Pentagon police processing those arrested finally had to release nearly a dozen persons without charge as the arresting officers could not identify which officers had arrested various persons. When asked by the Pentagon police if those arrested could identify which officer had arrested whom, the group of detainees was seized by a sudden bout of collective amnesia."

The Pentagon arrestees were cited and released, and at least ten of them made it to the White House in time to get cuffed again before the day was done.

The White House event also began in the morning with a procession of 500 people (and a significant police escort) from Foundry United Methodist Church on Dupont Circle to the Ellipse, just south of the White House. There they briefly joined at least 500 others.

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# Where We're At

Jack & Felice Cohen-Joppa, editors

This issue is going to press as a pair of direct actions days against military recruiting - National Not Your Soldier, Youth and Student Day (November 17 - National Youth and Student Peace Coalition) and National Stand Down Day (November 18 - National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance) - are underway, as well as the line crossing at the annual vigil at Ft. Benning, Georgia (November 20 - School of the Americas Watch).

Reports of these actions and more will be found in the next issue of *the Nuclear Resister* newsletter, due out in January, 2006. If you are not already a subscriber, please write, call or email to receive a free sample issue.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

# Military Recruiting Challenged

It was a double whammy for campus recruiters on September 29. The campus anti-war coalition at Holyoke Community College in Massachusetts was picking military recruiters when campus police - led by the staff advisor to the College Republicans - physically assaulted several of them. One student who was choked was visited at home the next day by state police. They told him he was barred from campus and would be arrested if he returned. Widespread community outrage got the bar lifted.

At George Mason University (GMU) in Fairfax, Virginia, Air Force veteran Tariq Khan was assaulted by police and a ROTC student, then arrested. All Khan had done was stage a spontaneous vigil near the recruiter's table, holding a sign that read "Recruiters lie, don't be deceived." Khan's local support, embarrassing national coverage, and finally GMU's wish that charges be dropped, all bore fruit November 14, when the county dismissed trespass and disorderly conduct charges.

Another veteran ran afoul of campus cops on October 19 when he took advantage of the portable rock climbing wall the recruiters had set up to attract attention on the campus of Kent State University in Ohio. Dave Airhart, who'd seen action as a Marine in Afghanistan, Iraq and Guantánamo Bay before leaving the service in 2004, climbed the wall and hung a banner that declared "Kent, Ohio for Peace." When a recruiter climbed up the front to evict Airhart, he released his harness and climbed down the back. For this, he allegedly endangered himself and others, and was fined \$105 for disorderly conduct.

Public support included this note from historian Howard Zinn to Kent State President Carol Cartwright: "Surely, the memory of that shameful episode at Kent State in 1970 would be enough to make the university

administration sensitive to unjust wars and the right of protest." In a public statement, military refuser Pablo Paredes observed that, "Dave Airhart did not climb a playful climbing wall, he climbed an unwelcome mountain of military exploitation of our youth, and upon conquering it, rightfully and courageously reclaimed his campus, placing his flag of dissent atop a symbol of deceit."

A university disciplinary hearing was cancelled November 16, and Airhart will just have a private meeting with the dean.

From across the nation, the Raging Grannies roared into Times Square on October 18, leading a procession of war protest to the military recruiting station in the heart of Manhattan.

"We insist, we enlist" they chanted, as the recruiters locked the door and police moved in to gently arrest 18 women, ranging in age up to 90 years old. The grannies were hauled off to the station where they were cited and released.

On November 1, seven people were arrested in front of the Duluth Army Recruiting Center, where they had brought a casket draped with the American flag and blocked the entry way. Meanwhile, for about two hours, more than a dozen other supporters read the names of the 2,000 U.S. war dead from 39 printed pages. After each page was read, the group announced together "AND 100,000 IRAQIS". The page of names was then placed in a folder on top of the casket.

The number 2,025, indicating the number of U.S. soldiers who have been killed in Iraq between March 2003 and October 2005, had also been painted on the window. When recruiters tried to clean it, the paint ran

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# ARRESTED FOR PEACE?

It's getting harder to characterize anti-war arrests as the nation polarizes. Allegations of lawbreaking are made in unexpected places. It's not all civil disobedience, and revulsion against the war in Iraq drives more than just peaceniks into action. And while some arrests just seem silly, police and prosecutors are serious people, especially in the age of the Patriot Act. It's worth taking note.

New York police broke up a September 19 peace rally in Union Square and arrested "Camp Casey New York" organizer Paul Zulkowitz. He did not have the permit for a sound amplification system he was setting up for Cindy Sheehan and others on the Bring Them Home Now Tour to address the public. Zulkowitz reports one other arrest and eight citations during efforts to hold a 24/7 anti-war solidarity vigil in Union Square.

Several members of St. Pete for Peace and Food Not Bombs were "peace cornering" October 22 at Curlew Road and US 19 when Pinellas County sheriffs drove up and confronted a 16-year old boy and his "Fuck Bush" sign. He was told to put the sign down or be arrested. He put the sign face down and was arrested, nonetheless. Independent audio and video recording of the event put lie to police and press reports the boy had been profane to police, confrontational, or in the roadway. He was photographed, fingerprinted, and released without paperwork to his mother's custody an hour later and is waiting for word from the court. The following week at the same location, Pinellas County sheriffs threatened 60 activists with arrest for simply holding signs on a public sidewalk.

The Fort Worth Star Telegram reports the arrest October 25 of a constituent confused for a protester by the zealous guardians of Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison's Dallas office. Mary Steffenhagen saw "about three people praying" outside when she arrived at the office building to ask her senator about the investigation into White House leaks of a CIA agent's identity. A man who did not identify himself stopped Steffenhagen 30 feet from the door and asked her to leave.

"I did refuse to leave, because I couldn't believe they wouldn't let me into a public building, an office paid for by taxpayers," she told the paper. Police quickly sur-

rounded her and she was arrested for trespass. "I was naive, and I thought if she was there and wasn't busy she would talk to me. But they treated me like a criminal." Steffenhagen is asking for a jury trial. Police say that without an appointment, the building is closed when protesters are outside.

Two thousand and five hundred people marched through a cold, steady rain in Augusta, Maine on October 26 to a statewide anti-war rally. One man was arrested later when several dozen people left the rally and marched back down the middle of State Street. Police ordered the group onto the sidewalk, and cited one man who refused with failure to disperse.

A Republican fundraiser in Arlington, Texas, on November 11 was disrupted when the Republican, ticket-holding aunt of a soldier killed last February heckled a pro-war speaker and held up photos of her nephew's daughter and mother. She was assaulted by other Republicans and hustled out of the hall by police. Three women who were outside picketing against the war then entered the hall and, choosing the right moment, began chanting against the war. Police said the women then began throwing hard candies - with the message "Don't be a sucker for the GOP" - at the rabble. They arrested all three for trespassing, and charged two with misdemeanor provocative contact assault. The women say the candies were knocked from one woman's purse when the energized party activists grabbed at them.

Several days of anti-war protest greeted former Secretary of State Colin Powell to the campus of De Anza College in Cupertino, California recently. The demonstrations escalated on Friday, November 11, when a rowdy protest took place outside the Flint Center, where Powell would deliver a final speech. An alleged "anarchist" contingent pushed through police lines and began battling first campus police, then county sheriffs. Helmeted police responded with force, plowing through the crowd and contributing to a riot situation. At least eight arrests were reported, leading to charges of racial profiling by police. Most of those charged were Muslim students of Middle Eastern heritage, while by all accounts, most of the blatant property damage and engagement with police was carried out by mostly Caucasian youth. Various charges are pending.

## 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 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

# Judge to Weigh Nuns' Alternate Restitution

On November 8, U.S. Judge Robert Blackburn in Denver issued an order for consideration of modification of Sister Carol Gilbert and Sister Jackie Hudson's terms of supervised release to provide for reasonable community service in lieu of restitution.

Gilbert and Hudson are including co-defendant Sister Ardeth Platte in their response even though she is still in prison. In October, 2002, the three sisters cut the fence to inspect and symbolically disarm a nuclear missile at its silo out on the prairie of northeast Colorado.

They now have until December 12 to file their plan for consideration by the court.

The three have been soliciting support in their name, and are offering 1) \$595,969.50 in alternative restitution in which people gave money to various organizations in their names 2) their lives as already devoted to community service and 3) indigency as Roman Catholic sisters.

They are also requesting that their supervised release be rescinded since the probation offices are so overcrowded, and a documentary film about their disarmament action shows the former U.S. Attorney John Suthers and U.S. Prosecutor Robert Brown saying the charges could just as easily have been misdemeanors with penalties of 0-6 months in prison. Hudson served a 30 month sentence, and Gilbert a 33 month sentence in federal prison. Platte will be released December 22 after 41 months in prison. Payment of about \$3,000 restitution was also ordered but the three have refused to pay.

Platte is still being told to report to Colorado for probation, but will return to her home at Baltimore's Jonah House, regardless.

For more information, contact Jonah House, 1501 Moreland Ave., Baltimore, MD, 21216, disarmnow@verizon.net.



Letters of support must be posted by December 15 to arrive before the scheduled release of Sr. Ardeth Platte, 10857-039, FPC Danbury, Pembroke Station Rt. 37, Danbury, CT 06811-0379.

# Military Refusers Still in Jail

Jerry Texiero - who went AWOL from the Marines 40 years ago because he knew he could not kill - remains in solitary confinement at the Florida county jail where he's been held since his arrest last August, after investigation by a special Marine Corps unit. Local authorities made the arrest.

He's still in Florida in part because of a state charge for using the false name, Jerry Conti, for over 30 years prior to his arrest. For much of that time, Jerry Conti has been under probation on state charges resulting from a business gone sour in the 1990s, and diligently working to pay off a substantial fine. He's never used the new name fraudulently.

Recently, a packet of supportive letters from Jerry's friends and associates was presented to the state's

## FEDS NAIL MUSLIMS, CONT.

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supporters were in tears, or nearly so.

In a rare interview with the Syracuse Post Standard last week, Dhafir repeatedly spoke of his Muslim faith guiding his life, and that he has no doubt that religious persecution is behind his own prosecution.

"He shook his head or shrugged his shoulders in response to questions about his emotional state, his wife and his health.

"Why are we still staying away from the real issue?" Dhafir said. "The real issue is the thousands and thousands of people who died in Iraq."

"He said he never broke the law and remains proud of his charity work. "We saw a need and then pursued it in the way we thought was appropriate," he said.

"He raised his voice several times and occasionally tapped the window with his index finger but said he is not sad, angry or depressed.

"My faith will not allow that," he said. "The children in Iraq: That's what you and I should be talking about. That's what you and I should be weeping about."

"He never despairs?"

"Never, never. It never even crosses my mind. Despair is not in my dictionary," he said. "My anger, if there is any, is for those Iraqi children and those cancer patients who did not need to suffer."

"Dhafir worries about losing track of time and said he plans to continue exercising and reading to stay sharp. As he thinks about his future, he said he has few regrets..."

Katherine Hughes is a court watcher who attended most of the trial of Dr. Dhafir. She writes at her blog, [www.dhafirtrial.net](http://www.dhafirtrial.net)

"I believe it is impossible to overstate the message that has been sent to the Muslim community via this detention, prosecution and sentencing. It says, in no uncertain terms: 'If we can get Rafil Dhafir, we can get anyone'. It also lets them know that a pillar of their society can be felled without so much as a call for equal justice from the non-Muslim community. Even as a person who is not Arab or Muslim, these messages frighten me. I have spent my entire life secure in the knowledge that my civil rights would be respected - as a consequence of attending this trial I no longer believe that to be true.

"Three of the defendants in the Help the Needy case have graduated from Syracuse University with advanced degrees, and many of the 150 mainly Muslim families interrogated between 6 and 10 a.m. on the morning of Dr. Dhafir's arrest, have ties to Syracuse University.... In a year of trying, I found a total lack of willingness to move anyone in the University community to even have forums on what was happening in front of our noses..."

"I now believe I know exactly how the Holocaust likely happened in Germany. A complicit media and a willfully ignorant public are all that is needed and we have both."

Dr. Dhafir's conviction is being appealed. For more information, visit [dhafirtrial.net](http://dhafirtrial.net) and [freedhafir.org](http://freedhafir.org)



Individually addressed letters of support should be sent to Ayman Jarwan 11920-052, FCI Allenwood (Low), POB 1500, White Deer, PA 17887; and Rafil Dhafir 11921-052, MDC Brooklyn, POB 329002, Brooklyn, NY 11232. Despite the request of the defense and recommendation of the judge that he serve the time at FCI Otisville, nearer to his New York home, Dr. Dhafir is designated for FCI Fairton, POB 420, Fairton, NJ, 08320. His present address, and that of any federal prisoner, can be confirmed with the "inmate locator" link at [bop.gov](http://bop.gov)

attorney, and a new bail hearing was requested. There is hope that the hearing will be held within a week, and that Texiero will be released to the Marines, pending trial on the state charge next February. Texiero's defense attorney and a close friend have been told that the Marines intend to process an administrative discharge within a couple of weeks, once he's in their custody. The discharge is now expected to be from Parris Island, South Carolina.

Despite the hardship of unexpected imprisonment over an issue Texiero thought he was finished with years ago when many Vietnam-era military refusers were given amnesty, one positive consequence has developed. His friend was seeking to learn more about Texiero's early life that might benefit his defense on the AWOL charge. She discovered that his mother is still alive, now 85 years old and living across country. The family had disintegrated after his father died when Texiero was about two, and Texiero had a difficult youth in state care and foster homes before joining the Marines. He had kept in occasional contact with his mother, but sometime in the 1970s, each mistakenly came to believe that the other had passed away. Hopes are high now for a family reunion as soon as Texiero is free to travel.

It was also learned that Texiero should never have been accepted into the Marines in the first place. A serious auto collision that killed three teenage friends had left him in traction for months and with metal pieces holding bones together. The embedded metal should have disqualified him.

For more information, contact Citizen Soldier, 267 Fifth Avenue, Suite 901, New York, NY 10016, (212)679-2250, [citizen-soldier.org](http://citizen-soldier.org), or email to [jtexiero@yahoo.com](mailto:jtexiero@yahoo.com).

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# THE WORLD CAN'T WAIT

The Not In Our Name network of anti-war groups urged die-ins and resistance actions on November 2 under the theme "The World Can't Wait" to be rid of the Bush regime and its wars. Dozens of campuses and cities reported demonstrations. In Seattle, some students walked out of more than three dozen area high schools and middle schools to join a vocal march downtown. Two young people told organizers they were arrested on minor charges as they headed home afterwards.

In San Francisco, thousands marched and eleven people were arrested at a street blockade. A molotov cocktail was thrown at the San Francisco Chronicle building without injury or significant damage. Later, two men were arrested with "incendiary devices," but not linked to the one thrown.

Eureka police and California highway patrol intercepted a Critical Mass bicycle ride, arresting four people. About 40 people were cycling south on US 101, between the morning open microphone at Humboldt State University in Arcata, and the afternoon peace rally in Eureka, several miles down the coast. Impatient police ineptly tried to force the riders into a parking lot. Officers on foot grabbed others off their bikes and tackled some, as the ride was thoroughly disrupted and traffic more thoroughly delayed. Four people were charged with failure to obey an officer and related charges. One woman, a ride organizer and HSU student, was also charged with assaulting a police officer. All were cited and released.

For more information, visit [www.worldcantwait.net](http://www.worldcantwait.net)

## 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](mailto: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)

**Helean 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 Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837. (Native American political prisoner)

### NUCLEAR RESISTERS OVERSEAS:

**Turi Vaccaro** (six months - out 2/10/06) HvB de Boschpoort, Nassausingel 26, 4811 DG Breda, the Netherlands.

(Plowshares disarmament of F-16 nuclear bombers, Woensdrecht AFB, 8/10/05 - may serve additional year for nonpayment of €750,000 damages)

**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

**Milan Rai** (28 days - out 11/29/05) HMP Lewes, Brighton Road, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1EA, England.

(Refused to pay compensation for anti-war graffiti, 11/04)

**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)

**Ayman Jarwan** 11920-052 (18 months - in 10/19/05) FCI Allenwood (Low), POB 1500, White Deer, PA 17887.

**Rafil Dhafir** 11921-052 (22 years) MDC Brooklyn, POB 329002, Brooklyn, NY 11232. (Convicted of providing humanitarian and financial aid to Iraqis in violation of U.S. sanctions, 2/05)



**Michael D. Poulin** 14793-097 (27 months, now in halfway house/home detention until 1/25/2006) c/o 14819 E. Fourth Avenue, Spokane Valley WA 99216 (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) FCI Yazoo City Medium, POB 47, Yazoo City, MS 39194. (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.

**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 Conti (Texiero)** Docket #1147653 - CPD 7, 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

**Pvt. Blake Lemoine, Spc. Dale Bartel**

# Keep Space for Peace

On October 8 over 100 peace demonstrators met at the main gate of Vandenberg Air Force Base, 30th Space Wing Command, north of Santa Barbara, California to demand compliance with international law. As part of the international Keep Space for Peace week ([www.space4peace.org](http://www.space4peace.org)) the action was one of many around the globe protesting the militarization of space and the deployment of "Star Wars" missile defense.

Visiting speaker Stacey Fritz, from No Nukes North Alaska, explained how the deployment of Star Wars interceptors not only violates international treaties but also a U.S. law that requires the system not be deployed until the U.S. has the consent of its allies and until it has been successfully tested. These criteria have not been met for interceptors at either Vandenberg or Fort Greely in Alaska.

A statement was read from Tony de Brum of the Marshall Islands, who was unable to attend. The Star Wars test missiles and the ICBM test rockets use Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands as their target.



The people of Kwajalein have asked Americans to tell the government to stop using the Marshall Islands as a test site and to finish cleaning up the radiation damage done to the environment and people by the atomic bomb testing at Bikini Atoll during the Cold War.

After the rally and speeches, MacGregor Eddy stepped across the heavily guarded "green line." She wanted to ask base personnel to stop violating international law by militarizing space and launching satellites to help direct the illegal invasion of Iraq. Instead, she was arrested and cited for trespass.

Eddy's November arraignment in federal court in Santa Barbara was postponed, so she and supporters held a sidewalk arraignment of the U.S. for war crimes. No new date has been set. A Vandenberg trespass charge against Denis Apel from May 15, 2004, has finally been dismissed after several postponements. For more information, contact the Vandenberg Peace Legal Defense Fund, POB 5789, Salinas CA, 93915-5789; [www.vpeacelfd.org](http://www.vpeacelfd.org).

## WHITE HOUSE ARRESTS, CONT.

*continued from page 1*

The protest then separated into two marches that encircled the White House, east and west, on their way to rally at Peace Park (also known as Lafayette Park), on the north side of the President's mansion. The crowd had swelled to a few thousand people, including the resisters and supporters.

The media in the park had also multiplied in anticipation of the arrest of Gold Star Mother Cindy Sheehan. Sheehan's notoriety and her unmet public demand that the President tell her just what "noble cause" her son Casey died for while serving in Iraq placed her at the front of the first group to cross the plaza and approach the White House gate. With her were religious leaders from many faiths; Dr. Cornel West, a leading academic critic of the war; and former senior U.S. diplomat Ann Wright, who had directed the reopening of the U.S. embassy in Kabul in December, 2001, and later resigned in protest on the eve of the Iraq invasion. The group was mobbed by the media, a frenzy that continued as they were turned away and sat down on a sidewalk long off-limits to such protest.

Hundreds more people, organized into smaller affinity groups, then crossed the barriers to join them. They came from every part of the country, and as far away as North Pole, Alaska. Among them were Veterans for Peace from past wars, members of the fledgling Iraq Veterans Against the War, and surviving family members of Americans killed in the current war.

Code Pink women tried to deliver reams of paper with 1,000,000 reasons to end the war: individual statements that several groups had collected. The White House fence was thoroughly decorated with the names and photos of U.S. and Iraqi war dead, along with many creative personal and group expressions of opposition to a policy that has made such protest necessary. Sunflower seeds were scattered on the sidewalk and tossed onto the lawn to chants of "Plant seeds of peace; not seeds of war and terrorism". "CRIME SCENE" tape was unwrapped across the fence, and a large eviction notice from "The People" was posted. One man scaled the fence and was immediately arrested by the waiting line of armed officers.

Police were slow to make arrests, impeded perhaps by the numbers, perhaps by the media, perhaps because many seemed to agree with the cause.

First-time resister Steven P. Dolberg from Montana, writes at [newwest.net](http://newwest.net) that, "As the afternoon dragged on, police officers began handing out plastic bags, so that those of us who had not yet been arrested could empty our own pockets and remove our own belts and laces.

"Relations between the police and those of us being arrested were so congenial that even most of those who had intended to go limp and require the police to carry them away changed their minds..."

"In fact, the police were so nice to us that I wonder whether we were missing something. What is the utility of making a statement when there is so little risk in making it?"

The last arrests were made late in the afternoon. Arrestees were taken to a booking station in the Anacostia section of Washington, in crowded paddy wagons and half a dozen commandeered city buses. Booking continued into the wee hours of Tuesday before the last person was released. All were given the option to pay a \$75 fine or appear for trial. The first bench trial on November 16 and 17 brought 29 convictions and \$75 fines. Ten more defendants had their charges dismissed, and dozens more had already paid the fine prior to this trial date. Two more trial dates are set for January.

The foundation for the national anti-war mobilization that took place in Washington, D.C. over the last weekend of September was seen in hundreds of towns and cities across the United States, where people marched and rallied, picketed and prayed. Arrests were reported in several locations: some incidental to marches, and others from organized nonviolent direct actions.

While Washington resisters took on the Pentagon and White House, San Francisco Bay area activists turned the spotlight of shame on the tame and complicit Democratic leadership in Congress, specifically House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, who represents San Francisco.

United for Peace and Justice-Bay Area rallied at the San Francisco Federal Building on September 26 to demand that Pelosi stand behind her anti-war rhetoric and faithfully represent the overwhelming majority of her constituents. Instead of calling for an immediate withdrawal from Iraq, Pelosi has voted to fund the war and occupation in Iraq, and declined to support any measure in Congress that would hold the Bush administration accountable for its illegal war. Following the mid-day speak-out, a die-in both in the lobby and just outside the main entrance of the building resulted in 39 arrests: 17 people inside were cited for refusing to obey an officer, while 22 outside were held in custody for a short time, then formally released. That afternoon, a group of activists, including some who had just been released from police custody, met with Pelosi's staff to articulate their demands.

During the San Francisco anti-war march on September 24, police reported 24 arrests. Most were reported late in the afternoon when police confronted an unpermitted march near Fulton and Hyde Streets, and cited 22 people for failure to obey a traffic officer and related violations. Another person reportedly threw something at officers and was charged with minor assault on an officer. Earlier in the day at Jefferson Park, a man reportedly got into an altercation with a cop on a bicycle that led to his arrest. Police found a couple of knives on him and charged him with felony possession of a deadly weapon. Bail was set at \$12,500 and the man was released five days later after friends raised the amount.

In Los Angeles, Sam Sanchez was arrested on the steps of City Hall as the big anti-war rally was ending. Seven bits of colored chalk were seized from the alleged graffiti vandal, nabbed in the act of tracing body outlines on the plaza and labeling them Raytheon, Boeing, Northrup Grummond and No War. He was released late that night on \$1,000 bail.

## UN Day at ATK

Forty-two anti-uranium weapons activists were arrested at the offices of Alliant Techsystems in Edina, Minnesota on October 24, in a nonviolent protest against the company's production of indiscriminate weapons.

Organized by AlliantACTION and Nukewatch, the gathering - dubbed "UN Day at ATK" - celebrated United Nations Day and the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the U.N. Charter outlawing wars of aggression.

Edina police officers corralled several dozen people in the company parking ramp after they walked onto Alliant property. All the demonstrators were issued citations alleging trespass in violation of a new Edina city ordinance and then released. They await arraignment. One minor was escorted to her high school by the police.

The United Nations Subcommittee on Human Rights has twice condemned the use of "depleted uranium" weapons as an assault on minorities. Millions of the armor-piercing uranium shells have been machined and sold by Alliant to the Department of Defense. Hundreds of tons of munitions, which are toxic and radioactive, have been used in U.S. bombardments of Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Kosovo. The resulting uranium contamination has raised health and environmental concerns around the world.

Twelve people arrested at Alliant last July are set for trial December 12. Thirteen members of Christian Peacemaker Teams, arrested there August 8, were on trial November 16.

For more information, contact Alliant Action at 651-388-4814, [alliantaction@circlevision.org](mailto:alliantaction@circlevision.org); or Nukewatch, POB 649, Luck, WI 54853, 715-472-4185, [nukewatch@lakeland.ws](mailto:nukewatch@lakeland.ws)

## SOLIDARITY WITNESS IN WEST DES MOINES

By Fran Fuller

Four Iowan peacemakers joined their efforts with the hundreds risking arrest in Washington, D.C., on September 26. They carried a banner with the message "Shut Down the War Machine - Solidarity Action Sept. 26" onto the property of the U.S. Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) in West Des Moines, Iowa, and were joined by 40 supporters.

Their plan was to enter the facility with the banner and effectively shut the place down for the day. When they discovered that the door had been locked, they lined up in front of the door and announced their plan to remain there until 5 p.m. - mission accomplished!

It was short-lived, however, because the West Des Moines police arrived ten minutes later, arrested the four and took them to jail. Lou Hellwig, Chris Gaunt, Ed Bloomer, and Frank Cordaro received both a federal obstruction of entrance charge and a state criminal trespass charge.

Bloomer was cited and released while the remaining three chose not to sign their state trespass citation and spend a night in the Polk County Jail. The next morning they pled guilty, were sentenced to time served, fined \$100 and released. The federal obstruction charge calls for a \$75 fine to be paid to the U.S. Central Violations Bureau in Atlanta, Georgia.

Later, in county court, Bloomer made a simple statement of resistance, and refusal to do any community service or pay any fine. The judge nonetheless fined him \$50 and sent him on his way. A similar statement in federal court got his fine reduced to \$10, and "Teflon Eddie," as friends now call him, walked again.

For more information, contact the Des Moines Catholic Worker, 515-282-4781.

## 2000 AND COUNTING

A month after the September 26 action at the White House, Cindy Sheehan and other members of Gold Star Families for Peace returned with supporters to decry the milestone of 2,000 U.S. military deaths in Iraq with a die-in. Sheehan told reporters following her that "what I think it's going to take now is nonviolent, peaceful civil disobedience all over the country. Go to your senators' offices, to federal buildings. Sit down and say enough is enough. The killing has to stop..."

Park police arrested 26 people who were slowly booked and released again in the middle of the night.



# VIEQUES AT THE U.N.

Last June 13, when the United Nations Committee on Decolonization was meeting in New York, Puerto Rican environmentalist and civil disobedient Tito Kayak was arrested as he called attention to the colonial condition of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Navy's contamination by bombardment of the island of Vieques. Kayak climbed a flagpole in front of the United Nations and attempted to replace the UN flag with the flag of Puerto Rico.

He was held overnight and charged with felony endangerment and misdemeanor trespass. The felony charge was dropped by the time of his October 11 trial. The recent FBI siege killing of beloved Puerto Rican nationalist Filiberto Ojeda Rios helped to draw more than 50 supporters to Manhattan Criminal Court that day.

Kayak was convicted of trespass. In his closing comments to the judge, he raised his left fist in the air and said, "Filiberto vive!"

Kayak continued, "You can put me in jail but there are many Puerto Rican women and men who will follow in fighting for a just cause. Do you know what the saying on my shirt, 'Bieké o Muerte', means? [Vieques or Death] Well, they do," as he looked at the supporters behind him in the room, "and they will fight from their hearts as I do for our liberation from colonial occupation."

Kayak was sentenced to 60 days in jail or a \$500 fine. New York supporters had raised most of the fine by nightfall.

The special FBI Hostage Rescue Team that stalked and assassinated Filiberto Ojeda Ríos is the same group that spearheaded the arrests of hundreds of peaceful civil disobedients on Vieques in May, 2000, following an eight month clandestine operation against residents non-violently occupying the bombing range.

Tito Kayak, known to the law as Alberto de Jesús Mercado, served prison time in New York and Puerto Rico for hanging the Puerto Rican and Vieques flags from the Statue of Liberty in November 2000.

Vieques prisoner José Pérez González has been moved at least twice in recent months. He spent two months crowded four to a cell in the squalid conditions at the federal prison in Atlanta before transfer to a medium security facility in Yazoo City, Mississippi. Prisoner José Vélez Acosta, who will complete his sentence in January, has recently suffered severe pain and loss of appetite.

For more information, contact ProLibertad Freedom Campaign, ProLibertad@hotmail.com, ProLibertadWeb.com, 718-601-4751.



Letters of support should be sent to José Vélez Acosta 23883-069, USP, POB 1033, Coleman, Florida 33521-1033; and José Pérez González 21519-069, FCI Yazoo City Medium, POB 47, Yazoo City, MS 39194.

## Military Refusers, cont.

continued from page 2



Letters of support should be sent to Jerry Conti (Texiero), Docket #1147653 - CPD 7, Pinellas County Jail, 14400 49th St. N., Clearwater, FL 33762-2890. Letters emailed to jtexeiro@yahoo.com will also be printed and delivered.

In other news of military refusers, jailed conscientious objector Kevin Benderman continues to serve his 15-month sentence at Ft. Lewis, Washington, and he and his wife Monica Benderman are posting a blog at bendermantimeline.com.

As we go to press, another conscientious objector whose status was rejected by the military has gone public with her refusal to pick up arms. Army National Guard Specialist Katherine Jashinski, on active duty since January, made her declaration at a press conference in Columbus, Georgia, just as thousands gathered there for the annual SOA Watch vigil and line crossing. She is under orders to begin weapons training at Fort Benning, Georgia, November 19.

# TRIAL BY TRIAL

## ST. PATRICK'S FOUR

Despite the determination of the U.S. attorney and federal judge, a Binghamton, New York jury rejected felony conspiracy charges and convicted four military recruiting resisters on lesser charges of damage to property and trespassing. It is believed they were the first war opponents prosecuted on federal conspiracy charges since the Vietnam War era.

Instead of a possible six years in prison, Peter DeMott, Daniel Burns, Clare Grady and Teresa Grady will now face six and twelve month maximums when they are sentenced in January. All four are parents with a long involvement in the Catholic Worker movement.

The activists earned the name St. Patrick's Four just days before the Iraq invasion on St. Patrick's Day, 2003 (March 17). They entered and prayed just inside a military recruiting station in Ithaca, and then poured small bottles of their own blood around the entryway and on an American flag there. Their first trial on state charges of felony criminal mischief ended with a hung jury. Federal prosecutors picked it up nine months later with their own indictment and the trial that began September 19.

The day the trial began, supporter Gary Kline poured some of his own blood and made red handprints on a courthouse pillar. He was searched by police but not charged.

Three days into the trial, U.S. District Judge Thomas J. McAvoy interpreted the law in a significant way that made it much easier for the government to obtain the conviction for conspiracy to impede a federal officer.

The trial was a constant negotiation of what the defendants could say was in their hearts and minds as they entered the military recruiting center. McAvoy overwhelmingly sustained the objections of Miroslav Lovric, the federal prosecutor, whenever they attempted to speak of the illegality of the Iraq war, international law and its relevance to their actions, facts or statistics about the Iraq war, descriptions of the damages or deaths caused by war, and descriptions of what defendants had seen when they traveled to Iraq.

"The closer we get to the truth of violence and war", said DeMott, "the more the government tries to suppress the truth."

"Our actions were lawful, however, we were repeatedly denied the chance to explain why," said Teresa Grady. "We were not allowed to mention Article VI, paragraph four of the Constitution, which says that the treaties of the United States are the supreme law of the

land. We were not allowed to explain our actions in the context of the Nuremberg Principles, which declare that citizens can be held responsible for crimes of their government. Nor could we explain how this war was a violation of the U.N. Charter. The jury made a wise choice with what they had. It's unfortunate, however, that they were denied the full truth."

In state court in April 2004, the defendants were able to fully explain their action in this broader legal context, and nine of twelve jurors voted to acquit.

During their testimony, Burns, DeMott, and Teresa Grady were each held in contempt of court, for saying nothing at all about who helped them and anything at all about their previous trial in state court. Penalty for the contempt charges will occur at sentencing.

"Regardless of the penalties, we will continue to call for justice for the Iraqi people and our troops," stated Daniel Burns. "We know our principled dissent now represents the majority of the public, and we're inspired by the jury's decision to refuse the government's attempt at intimidation."

The prosecutor had asked that the four be jailed until sentencing, but the judge declined, and cautioned them only to avoid being arrested.

As it now stands, DeMott will be sentenced on January 24th, Clare Grady on the 25th, Danny Burns on the 26th and Teresa Grady on the 27th. This can be seen as a move to dilute the presence of supporters in the courtroom. A motion to consolidate the sentencing on one date is pending.



The four are asking for letters of support in advance of sentencing, particularly from those who know them. Please address your letters to Honorable Thomas J. McAvoy, U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of New York. Encourage Judge McAvoy to act according to his conscience. The act of sentencing is an opportunity for the judge to take a stand against the U.S. war on Iraq. More specific talking points can be found at [stpatricksfour.org](http://stpatricksfour.org)

Please send letters as soon as possible to Peter A. Orville, Esq, 30 Riverside Drive, Binghamton, NY, 13905. He will hand deliver them to Judge McAvoy.

For more information, contact the St. Patrick's Four at [info@stpatricksfour.org](mailto:info@stpatricksfour.org)

## PITSTOP PLOUGHSHARES

For the second time, the actions of the judge led to a mistrial for the five Pitstop Ploughshares activists in Ireland. In both cases, the potential for a perception of judicial bias was admitted.

By Monday morning, November 7, the Dublin court had heard more than a week of testimony from the five defendants - Deirdre Clancy, Nuin Dunlop, Karen Fallon, Damien Moran, and Ciaran O'Reilly - as well as expert testimony from Voices in the Wilderness founder Kathy Kelly, former U.N. Iraq relief coordinator Denis

Halliday, U.S. Marine veteran Jimmy Massey, and others. The testimony presented why the activists were justified to enter Shannon Airport in February, 2003, and use hand tools to disable a U.S. war supply aircraft hangared there.

The judge had just mooted much of the testimony by ruling out the two statutory defenses available to the five; lawful excuse when acting to save life or property, and justifiable use of force to prevent crime or breach of the peace. Closing arguments would be presented after lunch.

But then the defense told the court they'd just learned something of interest that might have some impact. Could the judge please confirm that in or around 1995, while a barrister, he had attended a photocall in Houston, Texas, and been photographed posing beside the then-governor of Texas, George W. Bush? And had then subsequently been invited to and had indeed attended the Bush inauguration in 2001? And been further invited to the 2004 re-inauguration by Mr. Tom DeLay, but had been unable to attend due to a schedule conflict?

Judge Donagh McDonagh confirmed all of this, saying, "You are absolutely correct".

Defense then asked the judge to dismiss the jury, because of the potential for a public perception of bias, and the likelihood that a juror with such connections would surely have been excused for cause at the start.

McDonagh took a brief recess, then returned to the court. He called in the jury and dismissed them from further service. Bail was continued for the five. An informal poll of jurors outside the court suggested they may have acquitted the five, based on the expert testimony they heard.

Later that week, a third trial date was set for July 5, 2006 - three and one half years after the original action.

For more information, visit [peaceontrial.com](http://peaceontrial.com) or contact Pitstop Ploughshares, 518 South Circular Rd., Rialto, Dublin, Ireland, [ploughsharesireland@yahoo.ie](mailto:ploughsharesireland@yahoo.ie)

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# Citizens Indict Torture Chauffeurs

An integral part of the Bush administration's so-called "war on terror" has been to facilitate torture by obscuring its legal definition, and to define many other-wise illegal actions as outside the jurisdiction of any authority but the President's.

In response to the resulting abuse of human rights, fourteen social justice activists entered the property of Aero Contractors near Smithfield, North Carolina, on Friday, November 18, seeking to deliver an indictment to Aero regarding its violation of international law. Aero Contractors has provided planes and pilots for the C.I.A.'s program of "extraordinary rendition," which flies terror suspects to locations where they will likely be tortured. The 14 were arrested for trespass and held overnight before being released on \$500 bond.

Members of Stop Torture Now and the Center for Theology and Social Justice Analysis of St. Louis, the protest organizing groups, held signs along Route 70 during rush hour traffic to alert commuters to Aero's activities. Immediately following the arrests, other activists delivered an indictment charging Aero Contractors with violations of federal criminal law and international law. The indictment charges conspiracy to commit torture, and details how seven individuals were "abducted, blindfolded,

shackled, sedated, and transported by private jet to a destination country for interrogation under circumstances where there was a substantial likelihood that the subject may be in danger of torture"

The document was delivered to officers and directors of Aero Contractors Ltd. Copies were also delivered to the director of Johnston County Airport, members of the Johnston County Airport Authority and the Johnston County Board of Commissioners. The letters asked the airport and the county to investigate the charges raised in the indictment and to take appropriate measures to cease Aero Contractors' operations in furtherance of extraordinary rendition.

For more information, visit [stoptorturenorw.org](http://stoptorturenorw.org)

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## Recruiting Challenged, cont.

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*continued from page 2*

and pooled red at their threshold.

Those arrested reported anti-war comments from most of the police, who charged them with an infraction for obstructing the sidewalk. Their arraignment is December 21.

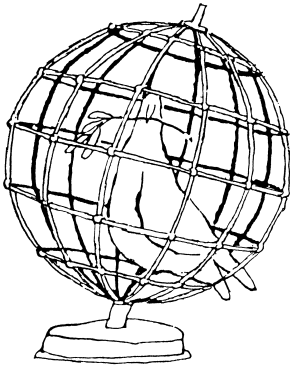
Again on November 9, a group of 15 people - including Army veterans, advocates for the homeless and two who have traveled to Iraq on humanitarian missions - delayed the opening of the recruiting office for over an hour, also blockading the doorway with their bodies. They pasted photographs of Iraqi war victims and painted the message "Do recruits know the truth?" on office windows.

Police arrested Michael Latsch, Kurt Greenhalgh, John LaForge and John Heid after they refused to leave the doorway, citing them again with obstructing a sidewalk. Heid was also charged with "obstructing the legal process" and held overnight due to nonpayment of a 2001 protest fine. Their arraignment is on December 22.

"For many people, this office represents the first step on a road to mental anguish and homelessness," said Latsch, a volunteer at a local hospitality house for homeless men. "Recruiters won't tell them about the horror of combat, and the government won't take care of them when they can't forget it." Latsch points out that Veterans' Administration studies indicate that between 30% and 40% of adult homeless men in the U.S. are military veterans.

For more information, contact Joel Kilgour, 218-722-2490, [jrkilgour@yahoo.com](mailto:jrkilgour@yahoo.com)

# INTERNATIONAL NOTES



## Trident Foes Put the Brakes on Rolls Royce

When they're not camped out in Scotland, blockading the Faslane submarine base and Coulport nuclear weapons store, Trident Ploughshares campaigners take action where Britain's nuclear arsenal is supported by corporate interests. In pouring rain, about 40 activists demonstrated Monday, October 24 at the Rolls Royce factory in Raynesway, County Derby. The luxury automobile maker is also the provider of the British Trident submarine's nuclear engines. The activists were attempting to uphold international law by closing the factory on United Nations Day.

The activists were outnumbered by police who followed them to the plant gate from the church where they stayed overnight. Ten people were arrested during efforts to blockade the plant between 7 and 11 a.m. By special order, these are the only hours permitted for legal protest at the factory. The activists were taken to a dry place, booked for trespass and released.

Five weeks earlier, two Trident Ploughshares "insurgents" escaped arrest after they had scaled a 150' communications mast at a military fuel storage and distribution hub at Padworth Common in Berkshire. The intent of Ludwig Appeltans and Kate Holcombe was to disable the mast in an effort to disrupt and prevent fuel distribution to the United Kingdom's nuclear weapons factory at Aldermaston and all United States military bases in the U.K. The depot, located between the U.K.'s two nuclear weapons factories at Aldermaston and Burghfield, is part of a nationwide network of military fuel lines supplying U.S. and British military establishments.

They'd been up the mast several hours and hung banners before security forces took notice, and remained there for two days while police considered whether to evict them or wait them out. After a supporter successfully dodged security and joined them on the mast, the trio made a predawn escape down the mast and off the base. After a shower, snack and a short nap, they returned to the scene of the crime and tried to turn themselves in. But base managers and military police had no interest, perhaps to save further embarrassment about their lack security.

For more information, visit [tridentploughshares.org](http://tridentploughshares.org)

## New Zealand Tank Blockade

About 70 protesters in Wellington, New Zealand, including members of the Aotearoa Revolutionary Clown Army, took on Te Papa (National Museum of New Zealand) and a tank on October 19 as part of protests against the New Zealand Defence Industry Association conference being held at the museum.

Activists marching on the museum outflanked fencing designed to pen them in and went around the side. Chants of "No arms at our place", "Arms trade, Death trade!" and "War mongers, Out! Out! Out!" went up as protesters rushed to link arms and block the front entrance. The blockade held for two and a half hours, during which time a tank was stopped from leaving the area by a second blockade.

The clowns made persistent fun of both the conference attendees, the mayor and the police by lining up with them, marching around behind them, as well as riding bikes and throwing water balloons. Hundreds of leaflets were also handed out to a receptive public.

Scuffles broke out when police moved in to end the blockade, and several people were injured. For more information, visit Peace Action Wellington at [www.peacewellington.tk](http://www.peacewellington.tk)

## British Activist Jailed for Nonpayment

Milan Rai was sentenced November 16 to 28 days imprisonment for refusing to pay £2000 "compensation" to the British government for spray-painting the Foreign Office with the words "Don't Attack Fallujah" on November 3, 2004, just days before last year's devastating U.S.-led assault on the city. For more information, visit Justice Not Vengeance at [www.j-n-v.org](http://www.j-n-v.org)

Rai will serve 14 days and be released before letters of support could reach him at HMP Lewes, East Sussex.

## Fauske Spy Base Inspected

The military base at Fauske, Norway, was built by the U.S. in the 1960's as part of a global satellite and communications network monitoring the Soviet Union. Tucked in a valley of the Veten Peninsula just a few miles outside the small town, the base sports three giant "golf ball" antennas that were upgraded by the U.S. National Security Agency in 1999-2000, and are now widely suspected to be an integral part of the Pentagon's global war fighting ability based on dominance from space.

Last summer a bus load of activists from Sweden and Finland rolled into town for a peace camp and citizens' inspection of the still-secretive installation.

Reporting on the camp, a member of the Swedish anti-war group OFOG wrote that "being outsiders we

could ask the questions locals barely did - what is the function of the base, what are the 'golf balls' on the hill for, who works there?"



"...We had announced our visit long before, and now the terrain around the base was swarmed with policemen. At the police station the chief of police, Petter Grønås, was waiting to ask about the action and to plead with us not to do anything illegal.

"Without promising anything, we tried to explain why we were there. Our action was to be strictly non-violent, but it might happen that some of us would decide to climb the fence.

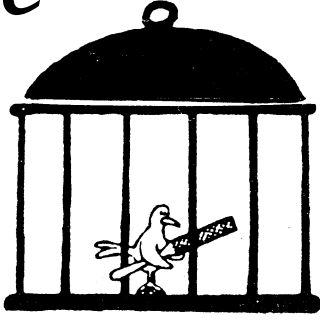
"Possibly as an attempt to make us change our plans, Petter Grønås promised to try to set up a meeting with the commander of the base. We would then be the first to meet him, so far he had never given an interview and his name was not supposed to be known to the public."

While the peace campers prepared action groups, media and support teams, the meeting with the commander was arranged for the next day.

At the police station, a delegation of three activists met with Per Arne Didriksen, the very nervous commander, while the other campers dressed in Star Wars costumes and leafletted through the town. The commander was proud of his work as part of NATO but short on details about base operations. In simple language echoing G.W. Bush, he declared that the purpose of the base is to collect information about "foreign powers that want to hurt our people... We have to cooperate. We are a small pawn in a big game, and that game is tough."

The activists surprised police the next day when they turned their bus down the narrow road entering the base to inspect it a day earlier than they had announced. Some left the bus and unfurled banners while blocking the road. Others moved through the woods to surround the site, and four were eventually arrested after climbing the fence to commence their inspection. Malin Christensson, Anna Sanne Göransson, Joakim Karlsson and Petter Joelson, all from Sweden, were each fined 10,000 Norwegian crowns (about \$1,000).

For more information, visit [frednu.se/artikel126](http://frednu.se/artikel126). Donations toward their fines can be made at [www.ofog.org](http://www.ofog.org)



**LEONARD PELTIER:** The federal district court in North Dakota has denied a motion to overturn Leonard Peltier's conviction. His attorneys have appealed the decision, pursuing the claim that because the crime occurred on sovereign tribal lands, the court lacks jurisdiction under federal law. 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 Peltier at his address on page 3...

**MICHAEL POULIN:** Two years after his careful sabotage of electric transmission towers in the west, a cautionary statement that the nation's infrastructure is defenseless and real security means stopping our attacks on the world, Poulin was released to a Spokane, Washington halfway house on November 16, and from there will be paroled on January 25. His address is on page 3...

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE:** Judge Spotswood Williams of the Colorado Springs Municipal Court denied three peace defendants' motion for continuance, citing the prosecution's need to call military police witnesses before they are deployed to Iraq. He also restricted the defendants' testimony to the facts of their alleged trespass last August 5, when they sought to pray for peace at the base chapel. Within a few hours on November 4, a jury was chosen and Esther Kisamore, Barbara Huber and Doug Gail were convicted of trespass and fined \$300 (Gail) and \$400 (Huber and Kisamore)...

**YURI BANDAZHEVSKY:** The French anti-nuclear group CRIIRAD has paid the Chernobyl researcher's \$16,000 fine, enabling him to travel abroad from Belarus after his parole ends in January. Just in time, perhaps, to attend the Chernobyl+20: Remembrance for the Future International Conference in Kyiv, Ukraine, April 23-25, 2006. For information about this premier international conference, in the U.S., contact Michael Mariotte, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, nirsnet@nirs.org; 202-328-0002. More information about Dr. Bandazhevsky's research can be found at www.criirad.com...

**PITTSBURGH:** Felony charges that followed the police bust-up of a peaceful recruiting station protest last August 20 have been dropped. One person was fined, four others await trial on minor charges...

**COLUMBIA, MISSOURI:** Facing separate trials for attempting to dig graves in front of the University of Missouri ROTC offices last May 2, Steve and Lana Jacobs got different results. Steve Jacobs showed up for a pre-trial conference to learn that his trespassing charge had been dismissed. Lana Jacobs, who'd brought her own shovel back to the scene after her husband was arrested and got in a few more digs before she, too, was apprehended, was convicted of misdemeanor property damage. She was fined \$500, ordered to pay the University \$27 restitution, and placed on two years probation...

**CARL KABAT, OMI:** The veteran Plowshares activist has been arrested twice this year outside a Missouri prison on the eve of an execution. Kabat was cited March 16 when he tried to enter the Potosi Correctional Center in protest, just before Stanley Hall was killed by the state. Again on October 25, just before the execution of Marlin Gray, Kabat was charged with trespass when he approached the prison with a lighted candle, wearing a sandwich board that pleaded "Stop the Murder" on the front, and on the back, tying it all together, it read "Thou shall NOT KILL - IN PRISON - IN WAR - IN CRIME - OR ANYTIME" ...

**VANUNU:** Israeli nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu was arrested again November 18, this time on a bus entering Jerusalem from the West Bank. He was held overnight for questioning by the International Crimes unit, then released on bail. Vanunu is prohibited from leaving Jerusalem without police permission, and told reporters he had visited the Jerusalem suburb Al-Ram to protest the wall of separation Israel is building on Palestinian lands, and which divides Al-Ram...

## Faslane 365 - a call to action

*A civil resistance project focused in Scotland to apply critical public pressure for the disarmament of Britain's nuclear weapons by a continuous peaceful blockade of the Trident base at Faslane.*

Nuclear weapons undermine our humanity. They are the tap-root of violence in the world today. An ultimate expression of militarism, they pollute and degrade our spirit, our environment, our economy, our international relations and undermine all our efforts to create a fair and sustainable world.

Despite decades of protests, nuclear weapons continue to be deployed and nuclear threats continue to be made. Many of us believe passionately in nonviolent civil resistance but we now recognise that to be effective it needs to be supported by large numbers of people and it needs to take place continuously over weeks and months to be effective and needs to be backed up by political pressure applied in Parliament and in the media. One-off blockades from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. have been effective in raising the profile of the issue but much more is required to achieve a critical level of pressure.

We therefore invite you all to do your part to make possible a people's blockade of the home base of Trident at Faslane in Scotland, a blockade, that with your help, will continue for hundreds of days. The blockade will not begin until we have 100 groups signed up for the first hundred days, hopefully on 1st October 2006.

A people's blockade means that all sections of civil society will be invited to come and disrupt the illegal operations at Faslane. Each group will be encouraged to make the links between their own mandate, interests and the Trident issue - on the understanding that the deployment and threat to use nuclear weapons undermines their vision of a better society. No one organisation will "own" the continuous blockade. It will be a diverse grassroots community attempt to halt the legitimisation of state terror. All groups will commit to a basic set of nonviolent guidelines that stress openness and respect for all. All groups must also commit to the main demand: Trident is to be taken off patrol and a clear timetable for dismantling the U.K.'s nuclear weapons to be made plus a commitment not to develop new nuclear weapons.

More information at [www.faslane365.org](http://www.faslane365.org)

**Special appeal to U.S. readers: You are invited to take part in this proposed campaign of sustained civil resistance against nuclear weapons in Scotland.** Angie Zelter, initiator of the ongoing Trident Ploughshares campaign in Great Britain and now this project, has asked if it is possible for North Americans to take on a complete 48-hour block to make the links between the U.S. and the U.K. Trident, and other related issues. Stephen Kobasa, coordinator of the Trident Resistance Network in the United States, has agreed to serve as contact person and moderator of the necessary discussions to accomplish this, and invites your participation. Email Stephen at [skobasa@snet.net](mailto:skobasa@snet.net)

## Pine Gap

Christians Against Terrorism will conduct a citizens inspection of Pine Gap, Australia, in mid-December, 2005, in conjunction with an outback peace camp. Pine Gap is the most strategically significant U.S. base in Australia. Its giant antennas receive satellite intelligence that is vital for the wars of today and tomorrow.

Christians Against Terrorism write, "We oppose those sitting in caves in Afghanistan planning a car bombing as well as those sitting in air conditioned computer rooms of Pine Gap working out the next targets for the dropping of Cluster Bombs, Fuel Air Explosives, DU munitions, or other Weapons of Mass Destruction." For more information and to join the list of public supporters, email Jim Dowling at [penange@octa4.net.au](mailto:penange@octa4.net.au)

## Menwith Hill

The WoMenwith Hill Women's Peace Camp will be re-established as a permanent presence in mid-December, at a highway rest area near the Menwith Hill spy base in North Yorkshire. Documents recently disclosed under the United Kingdom's new freedom of information act show that the original camp's eviction in August, 1999, after three years and five High Court hearings, was not simply due to highway regulations, as then alleged. As long suspected, the eviction process was initiated on a complaint from officers at Menwith Hill. This information was withheld from the peace women at the time, in violation of a court order. For more information, contact Helen John at [helenmenwith@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:helenmenwith@yahoo.co.uk)

## Washington, D.C.

The annual Faith and Resistance Retreat for the Feast of the Holy Innocents will gather at St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church, 16th & Newton Sts., NW, Washington, D.C., beginning with 6 p.m. supper on Tuesday, December 27, and continue through early afternoon Friday, December 30. Theme for reflection, presentations and nonviolent direct action is "The massacre continues; our hands are full of innocent blood; there are no innocent bystanders." Sleeping bag space and simple meals prepared in common at the church. Children's program - please RSVP with number attending and ages to assist with providing for them. For more information, contact Dorothy Day Catholic Worker Community at 202-882-9649 or [csm91@hotmail.com](mailto:csm91@hotmail.com); or Jonah House, 1301 Moreland Ave., Baltimore MD 21216, 410-233-6238, [disarmnow@verizon.net](mailto:disarmnow@verizon.net) or visit [www.jonah-house.org](http://www.jonah-house.org)

## STRATCOM

The Des Moines and Omaha Catholic Worker communities will host the annual Feast of the Holy Innocents Retreat in Omaha, Nebraska. The Retreat starts at 6 p.m. Monday, December 26 and ends at noon December 28 at Offutt Air Force Base's main gate with a prayer service and line crossing. Gather at St John's Church on the campus of Creighton University. For more information contact Phil Berrigan Catholic Worker House, 713 Indiana Ave., Des Moines, IA 50314, 515-282-4781.

## Voices for Creative Nonviolence

In the wake of a \$20,000 fine that leaves much of the work of Voices in the Wilderness "legally unfeasible", a core of more than two dozen people, including Chicago staff and activists from across the country, founded a new organization in September called Voices for Creative Nonviolence. The new Voices committed to four distinct actions through March, 2006, including organizing The Winter of Our Discontent: fasts, vigils, civil disobedience and lobbying to press demands for an end to the U.S. occupation of Iraq and an end to all forms of economic and military warfare against Iraqis. They will also coordinate locally organized actions for those unable to make it to D.C.

To get involved, or contribute, contact Voices for Creative Nonviolence, 1249 W. Argyle Street #2, Chicago, IL 60640, 773-878-3815, [info@vcnv.org](mailto:info@vcnv.org); [www.vcnv.org](http://www.vcnv.org)

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# Post-Prison Reflections

In these days there have been many invitations to speak, to write, to be interviewed, and I could only feel grateful for the opportunities to share the unique experiences of "crossing the line" at Ft. Benning and the accompanying prison time. My eyes have been opened to see the connections to abuses in both systems... in militarization and in mass incarceration.

Visiting my "ole Kentucky Home" in October for 10 days was quality time with family and friends. It's amazing how the feelings of separation and isolation in prison could bring such joy in reunions.

Most of all, I have wanted to be able to say "Thank you" to each and every person who reached out to me in all the different ways, of writing, of asking to be included to receive my letters by e-mail, and of thinking and praying for us. The frustrating part is that it's just impossible to do that. So, I ask my faithful friends, Val Fillenwarth

and Sr. Marilyn Snediker, to help me by passing on one last message to you which comes with tremendous gratitude and heartfelt prayers. I ask our God of love and peace to bless each of you in a most tender way, to enable you to feel the solidarity which you helped me to feel all those days in Danbury. I have become so convinced that we are all part of a global family, and I have been incredibly blessed by each of you. I'm grateful to you and to the women in Danbury for teaching me how to make the best of a hard situation, and that we are all children of God, worthy of respect, capable of loving and forgiving...

Lil (Dee) Mattingly, MM

[Lil Mattingly was released from prison in September, after serving a six month sentence for crossing the line at Ft. Benning, Georgia, in November, 2004.]

## ANNOUNCEMENTS


**...December 1 is International Prisoners for Peace Day.** For 47 years, War Resisters' International (WRI) has publicized the names and stories of prisoners of conscience and encouraged people to take at least an hour that day to write cards to at least four prisoners, or engage in other activity to draw attention to the prisoners. In addition to the prisoners listed in this newsletter on page 3, WRI has published for 2005 the names and prison addresses of more than 50 conscientious objectors to military service now imprisoned in several countries around the world. For the list of prisoners visit the Prisoners for Peace Honor Role at [wri-irg.org](http://wri-irg.org), or in North America contact the War Resisters League at 212-228-0450 for a print edition. This year, conscientious objectors in Eritrea are featured on the Honor Role, along with first-hand reports from the African anti-militarists.

**...Globalising Nonviolence** is the theme for the War Resisters' International (WRI) conference in Schloss Eringerfeld, Paderborn, Germany, July 23-27, 2006. Meet activists from all over the world, get to know what makes them tick, and see how you can help each other make another world possible. Around the world, a movement of movements is converging. This movement seeks to contrapose the perspective and values of people's power for those of global financial institutions, transnational corporations or governments. This is a movement of globalisation from below, and WRI believes that nonviolence has a major role to play. For more info visit [www.globalisingnonviolence.org](http://www.globalisingnonviolence.org)

**...The Rosenberg Fund for Children** was established to provide for the educational and emotional needs of children whose parents have been harassed, injured, lost jobs, or died in the course of their progressive activities and who therefore are no longer able to provide fully for their children. The RFC also provides grants for the educational and emotional needs of targeted activist youth. Professionals and institutions will be awarded grants to provide services at no or reduced cost. "Progressive activities" are actions taken to further the beliefs that: All people have equal worth; World peace is a necessity; People are more important than profits; Society must function within ecologically sustainable limits. If you know of a child who might be helped by the Rosenberg Fund for Children, or wish to contribute to the work of the Fund, please contact them at 116 Pleasant St. Suite 3312, Easthampton, MA 01027, 413-529-0063, or visit [www.rfc.org](http://www.rfc.org). The RFC is usually unable to consider grant applications outside of the United States.

**...Resistance, Power & Social Change Studies** is the subject of an invitation from Plowshares activist and Swedish peace researcher Stellan Vinthagen and his colleague Mona Lilja to create a global multi-disciplinary network of resource people and interested researchers. An international research seminar on "Movement Theory, Resistance Repertoires & Social Change" with invited key scholars and interested network participants is planned for the autumn of 2006, as well as other educational and practical application projects. To join the network, or for more information, email [resistance@padrigu.gu.se](mailto:resistance@padrigu.gu.se)

**2006 PEACE CALENDAR**



Jafeth Gómez Ledesma (Colombia)

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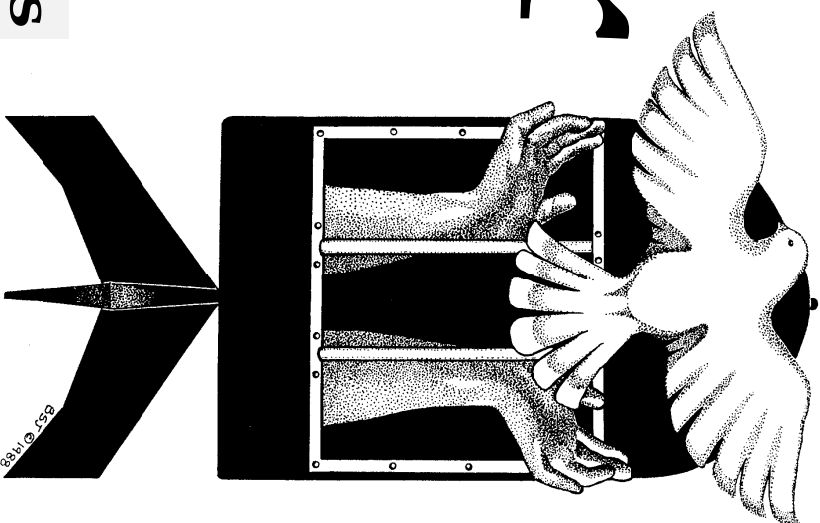
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