

the Nuclear Resister

"A Chronicle of Hope"

No. 143

September 20, 2006

THREE FOUND GUILTY OF DAMAGING NORTH DAKOTA NUCLEAR SILO

By Bill Quigley

[The trial of the Weapon of Mass Destruction Here Plowshares group — Fr. Carl Kabat, 72, Greg Boertje-Obed, 52, and Michael Walli, 57 — took place September 13-14 in the federal court at Bismarck, North Dakota. Supporters from a dozen states were on hand to witness their prosecution for disarming a Minuteman III nuclear missile silo on June 20. Michael Walli's advisory attorney Bill Quigley filed this report.]

In their trial they planned to argue to the jury that because the Minuteman III is a weapon of mass destruction it is illegal under international law. They hoped to share with the jury testimony from the Mayor of Hiroshima about the effects of nuclear weapons. They asked to have Professor Francis Boyle testify about the illegality of nuclear weapons. And they planned to introduce the 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice outlawing nuclear weapons.

They hoped to put on evidence that a nuclear bomb launched from a Minuteman silo produces uncontrollable radiation, massive heat and a blast capable of vaporizing and leveling everything within miles.

But the judge ruled the jury was not permitted to hear this evidence.

The night before the trial, the peace community of North Dakota, along with friends and supporters from across the U.S., shared a Festival of Hope potluck supper, songs, prayers and calls for peace at a local Unitarian church. The North Dakota peace community was very supportive. Even the federal prosecutor and an air force investigator joined the festival after being invited to attend by Carl, Greg and Mike. They too were welcomed by the community. When he visited the three in jail a few weeks earlier, the prosecutor told them that he shared their opposition to nuclear weapons and nuclear war.

On the day of the trial, the judge asked people about their backgrounds and their opinions about nuclear weapons. Those who expressed any skepticism about the use of nuclear weapons were struck from serving on the jury by the government. Likewise, a Baptist missionary with a dove on her collar and all the Catholics were excluded.

Fr. Carl Kabat represented himself in the trial and gave his own opening statement. Dressed in a rumpled Roman collar, black jeans and white tennis shoes, it was apparent he came right out of jail to the courtroom.

For his opening statement, Fr. Kabat told the jury that he had been a priest for 47 years and spent three years in the Philippines and several more in Brazil where he witnessed poverty and hunger on a scale unimaginable to the U.S. After that, he said, he was ruined to life in the United States. He could not allow 40,000 children a day to die from malnourishment while our country built and maintained thousands of nuclear weapons.

Carl admitted that he had spent over sixteen years in prison for protesting against nuclear weapons. He told the jury that he understood that because he was 72 he might die in jail in punishment for this protest. "I don't know if I am doing the right thing or not, I am only doing the best I can. If anyone can think of anything better to do to stop this insanity — then, by all means, do it! It is up to all of us to do something to stop this madness!"

He said they dressed up as clowns as "fools for Christ," and because "court jesters were often the only

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PITSTOP PLOUGHSHARES NOT GUILTY!

On July 25, an Irish jury agreed that the Pitstop Ploughshares disarmament group had a "lawful excuse" to disable U.S. warplanes refueling at the Shannon International Airport, and acquitted the five peace activists on all charges.

Jubilant over the community's affirmation of their action, members of the group demanded that the Irish government stop such cooperation. If not, defendant Ciaron O'Reilly told the press, "We're going to analyze how many people it will take to ... initiate a process of nonviolent direct action and close the airport down until it's demilitarized."

For two weeks, the jury of twelve heard impassioned testimony from the five Catholic Worker activists - Deirdre Clancy, Nuin Dunlop, Karen Fallon, Damien Moran, and O'Reilly - about the events of February 3, 2003, and their motivation for entering a hanger and using hand tools to ground a Navy supply aircraft by causing an estimated US\$2.5 million damage.

The proceedings in Dublin's Four Courts began July 5. Support demonstrations were reported that day at Irish embassies and consulates in the U.S., England, and Australia. A judge was not available until July 10, so court recessed until then.

Two earlier trials had collapsed, each because of reasonable doubt about the judge's impartiality. The defendants were certain that if they ever were to receive a fair trial, a jury would agree that their action was justified.

This time up, the judge allowed the jury to consider evidence that under Irish law, the five each had a "lawful excuse... to damage the property in question... in order to protect himself (sic) or another." In the course of their deliberation, the jury was reminded that a lawful excuse meant that the defendants' "acts were reasonable in the circumstances as [they] believed them to be. It is immaterial whether a belief is justified or not if it is honestly held."

Hiroshima - Nagasaki Never Again

Remembrances of the first and only two detonations of nuclear bombs as acts of war are a regular occurrence in cities around the world each August, and people are regularly arrested at many of the events.

This year in the United States, a coalition of anti-war groups including the War Resister's League, Global Call Iraq, and United for Peace and Justice joined forces to take this remembrance to a new level. The "Stop Bechtel" campaign (www.august6.org) focused on the Bechtel Corporation — the world's #1 nuclear profiteer — because it "connects the dots" between the anti-war, anti-nuclear, environmental, and indigenous rights movements.

Bechtel had a hand in developing the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It has more than a hand in the mess that is behind U.S. interests in the Middle East. Bechtel receives billions of taxpayer dollars to both perpetuate the nuclear agenda through the development of test sites and production plants, and "manage" the radioactive waste its plants are generating. Both stages of this enterprise are taken at the expense and on the backs of the environment and indigenous populations — most notably the proposed disposal facility on Yucca Mountain in Nevada, on land designated to the Western Shoshone Nation by treaty.



photo courtesy indymedia.ie

Acquitted activists (l-r) Ciaron O'Reilly, Damien Moran, Nuin Dunlop, Karen Fallon, and Deirdre Clancy restate their demand with a banner outside Dublin's Four Courts.

For the prosecution, police and military witnesses described the debilitating damage done to the plane. On cross-examination, they acknowledged the peaceful demeanor of the action group, and how they had knelt in prayer when caught in the act, peacefully surrendered their disarmament tools, and invited the police to join them.

There was repeated testimony — and later, many questions for the defendants — about a memorial shrine the five had created outside the hanger that included a Bible, the Koran, candles, Muslim prayer beads and Catholic rosary beads, video documentaries about Iraq under sanctions and bombing that had influenced the defendants, and the pictures of dead and injured Iraqi children.

The tools they used were described, including the slogans inscribed on them, such as "If they come for the innocent without stepping over your body, cursed be your life", "Hammered by the Irish", "Swords into ploughshares", "Put a stop to war" and even "Philip Berrigan, RIP".

O'Reilly was the first of the defendants to testify, and he freely acknowledged their intent to 'disable the

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Nevada Desert Experience hosted the annual Hiroshima Day observance at the gate to the Nevada Test Site, adjacent to Yucca Mountain and also still Western Shoshone treaty land. An early morning liturgy on August 6 reflected on the perversion of a culture that takes refuge in The Bomb as if it were God. Twenty people crossed the line at the conclusion of the service, were briefly detained and cited for trespass.

Eight people were arrested August 5 at the Y-12 atom bomb plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee at the conclusion of the annual Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance's march and rally there. On Nagasaki Day, two dozen people marched from the federal building in Oak Ridge to Bechtel's local headquarters, where they discovered Bechtel officials had barricaded themselves inside and would not receive the demonstrators' message. The group moved to the sidewalk when threatened with arrest.

In San Francisco, 200 people marched on August 9 to the downtown building housing Bechtel's world headquarters. About 20 people split up to "Shut Down Bechtel" at five entrances to the building, discouraging most workers from returning after lunch. Lacy MacAuley slipped past guards into the lobby and was the

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Resistance Reflections

A Letter About a Greensburg Jail

by Fr. Bernard Survil

Soon after I was assigned to provide the Sunday Eucharist at State Correctional Institution (SCI) Greensburg, the Lebanon-Israel crisis broke out and Pope Benedict XVI asked for prayers for peace. With missiles raining on northern Israel and air bombings and artillery devastating southern Lebanon, what better prayer than one already seen by those in the Greensburg Diocese who are regularly blessed with faxes on peacemaking: The Prayer for Peace from Pope John Paul II, issued in March, 2003 at the beginning of the invasion of Iraq, illustrated by a pencil drawing of a mother and small children shown beneath planes dropping bombs in the background and the quote from the Pope: "Today, the scale and horror of modern war, whether nuclear or not, make it totally unacceptable as a means of settling differences." Beneath the drawing is the question posed by Pax Christi Cleveland who issued the drawing: "JUST WAR???" Explain it to them."

It was this visual that provoked the crisis inside SCI Greensburg...

So on July 23rd we prayed together The Prayer at SCI Greensburg. I explained how the following week we would continue the theme of "Our Faith and the Quest for Peace" since the following week, the national Pax Christi USA convention would be held nearby at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh. Furthermore, I reminded them that Pax Christi asks people to be peacemakers "the Catholic way," by first praying for peace, then studying what the obstacles to peacemaking are, and then acting in some way to overcome these obstacles. For those who felt they knew the obstacles and wanted to join in a national campaign, The Declaration of Peace, I

invited them to endorse the statement... Nine of the inmates did so, returning to me their endorsed copy. Other inmates told me after Mass, "Those guys are going to be in trouble for putting their names on that."

The following week I was met at the prison entrance by five correctional officers who went through the unusual procedure of a pat-down search. Then they took everything I had on my person, including altar wine and paperwork. Head Chaplain David Watkins took me aside to explain that "The Pope's Prayer" could not be taken into the prison. When I objected, he asked: "Did the Pope make this illustration?" I replied, "I doubt it, but it perfectly well illustrates what the Pope's words are saying"... After an exchange, he conceded that just the prayer - a single copy, without the illustration - could be taken in. Before my eyes he cut the illustration from the prayer, handing me back the words only.

The following Sunday, August 6, there was no one to meet me as I arrived at the prison. It was Hiroshima Sunday. In 2004 Greensburg's mayor had declared himself - following the invitation of Hiroshima's mayor - a "Mayor for Peace," calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons. My homily on this, Transfiguration Sunday, was to draw out how Jesus, in his material being, was momentarily glorified for the edification of the three who accompanied him. Humanity, in turn, has learned to transmute carbon-matter into fire, which can be used for good or evil, and since 1945, has learned to transmute matter by fission into heat, for good or for evil. I then recalled how Fr. George Zabelka, chaplain of the Enola Gay crew, did not realize at the time that he was a cooperator in the evil use of nuclear energy when he prayed with the crew as they took off to drop their Bomb on the most Catholic Japanese city of Nagasaki, but that, years later, due to God's grace, he confessed his sin and spent

the last years of his life calling for nuclear weapons abolition. Having died in 1995, he has been succeeded by many others such as Father Carl Kabat, OMI and companions, who, at this very moment are imprisoned in North Dakota for attempting to disarm a nuclear missile there...

As we again prayed the prayer for peace, I invited those present to add their names, and only their names, to mine, on the letter of solidarity to Father Carl that I had drafted, with my outside-the-prison Greensburg address. Three of the inmates did so, about 10% of those present. As the Mass ended the C.O.s approached me, and insisted I hand over the letter. They promptly took it to the Commanding Security officer. I was then escorted into the same officer's presence. He told me that the letter would be the cause of his recommending I be banned from SCI Greensburg. He had his officers escort me to the prison door, and once I was in my car, they accompanied me in a prison vehicle to the edge of the prison property on Route 119.

They tell me those three prisoners were put in solitary. If they were in El Salvador or Guatemala in the 1970's they might have been "disappeared." They are the people who embrace the Cross knowingly...

One third of the Mass-attending Catholic SCI Greensburg inmates endorsed the Declaration of Peace. How many parishioners in nearby Greensburg parishes have endorsed it? Those nine inmates, at a clear risk to themselves, probably outnumber those who, and with no reason to fear, freely drive by SCI Greensburg on Route 119 or attend nearby parishes...

The banning letter I received from David Wakefield, superintendent of SCI Greensburg, reads in part:

"On August 6, 2006, without express permission of the Superintendent, during the formal Catholic service you attempted to circulate a petition-like letter and obtain the signatures from inmates to show support for the anti-war/anti-nuclear stand of one Carl Kabat. This individual is currently incarcerated at the Southwest Multi-County Correction Center in Dickenson, North Dakota on federal charges. This is a clear violation of the policies of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. Your actions could have had dire consequences by placing inmates in a compromising position and subjecting them to disciplinary action. You are therefore banned from institutional grounds."

Thanks

Thanks to Joe, Richard, Dalton, Beth, Cindy, Racheli, Pat, Gretchen, David, Paige, and Emma for helping to mail the last issue.

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ones who could tell the truth to the king and not be killed for it!" "We realize most people do not care about nuclear weapons. To them we are nutballs," he said. "We are doing the best we can to stand up against these evils. My feeling is do what you can do about injustice, then sing and dance!"

Fr. Carl pointed out in some detail that nuclear weapons violated international laws. "Now I am not a lawyer," he kept saying, "but I know the International Court of Justice has ruled these are illegal." He asked the jury, "Why do you think it is illegal for North Korea or Iran to have nuclear weapons when we have thousands? I don't want anyone to have them. The weapon at Echo 9 can kill the entire population of New York City — just that one missile, and we have thousands of them! This is insane! Polls say that 87% of the people in the U.S. want us to get rid of nuclear weapons — let's do it! People may think we're nuts for dressing up as clowns and risking jail to get rid of these weapons, but it is these weapons that are actually insane!"

Greg Boertje-Obed spoke briefly to the jury about growing up in the midwest and the south. He was dressed in rumpled pants and a t-shirt decorated with the symbol of a local Native American tribe. He told them that he was married and the father of a young daughter. He admitted he initially did not know anything about nuclear weapons or civil rights. He joined ROTC to be able to attend college and was made an officer. His military group discussed nuclear war and one made a powerful case for first-strike. All the time he was a churchgoer. In graduate school he started awakening to the contrast between the religious values he found in church and the actions and priorities around him. Greg told the jurors of his journey into resistance as he realized that nuclear weapons were both illegal and immoral.

Michael Walli, who lives with Greg and his family as part of the Duluth Catholic Worker community, was described by Greg to the jury as one of 14 children who grew up in the Midwest. He joined the Army and spent two tours in Vietnam. After a religious conversion, he began a life of voluntary poverty and assisting the home-

less and sick.

The prosecutor called an F.B.I. agent who told the jury all about the events of June 20, 2006. He described the defendants as polite at all times. The prosecution projected huge photos on the wall of the courtroom - of the three dressed as clowns, pictures of the Echo 9 launching facility, and pictures of the items left behind.

Fr. Carl asked the F.B.I. agent if he had found a statement that the three left on site. The judge allowed Carl to read the statement into the record. Carl put on his reading glasses and in a loud voice read to the courtroom (see NR #142, p. 6, for their complete statement).

The prosecution then called a succession of young Air Force folks, who served as security for the Minuteman missiles in the silos in this area, to briefly describe the arrest and detention of Carl, Greg and Mike. Each one said the clowns were cooperative, nonviolent and peaceful.

At the conclusion of the first soldier's testimony, Fr. Kabat asked him, "Do you know what was in the ground at Echo-9?" The flustered airman said, "No, sir, I do not." "You don't know what is in the ground there?" Fr. Kabat asked again incredulously. "No sir," repeated the helicopter airman. The courtroom was stunned.

For the next half hour, every one of the rest of the young Air Force people called as witnesses by the government either said they did not know what was in the ground, or refused to answer Fr. Carl, saying "that is not my area of expertise, sir." Not one single soldier acknowledged that they were guarding nuclear weapons!

The final prosecution witness was a Lieutenant Colonel who said the damage to the site was over \$15,000 because a spin dial lock on a hatch was damaged and had to be exchanged for another.

The Lt. Colonel, after initially refusing to do so, admitted that a Minuteman III missile was in the silo but that the Department of Defense would not allow him to say anything more.

After the prosecution rested, the judge ushered the jury out of the room. Then the three were allowed to

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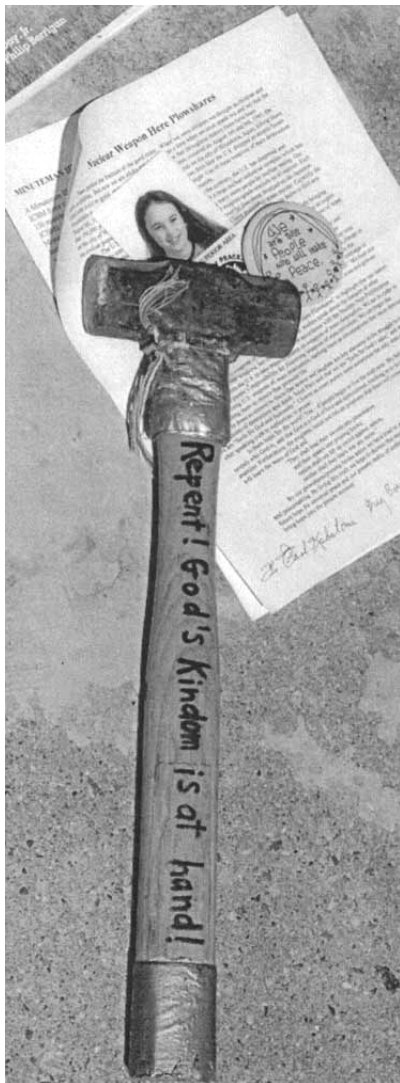


photo via jonathouse.org

Prosecution photo of missile disarmament tool, action statement, and reason given for action, "the children." (photo of Greg Boertje-Obed's daughter, Rachel).

the Nuclear Resister

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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 Coben-Joppa, Editors

Bombardment of Lebanon Meets War Resistance

Following Hezbollah's capture of Israeli combatants and throughout the ensuing war this summer, Israel's massive, reactive assault on Lebanon provoked protest by many anti-war groups, in Israel and elsewhere.

In early August, police arrested a dozen people blocking the entrance to the Ramat David Air Base. "War crimes are being committed at this base: it is where planes depart to drop bombs on civilians. We are obliged by law to cease these war crimes; otherwise, we shall be viewed as partners to this crime," said Yonatan Pollack, one of those detained.

A dramatic nonviolent direct action took place in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, where Raytheon Corporation employs a few score computer programmers, allegedly writing code for radar surveillance and e-commerce for a product line that includes assorted guided missiles and bombs.

When news got out that Israel was probably using plenty of Raytheon's bombs to destroy Lebanon's infrastructure, the Derry Anti-War Coalition had had enough. At a packed meeting on August 7, it was agreed to take action.

Two days later, more than 20 Coalition members were waiting outside when Raytheon opened for business. Some stormed the door at their first opportunity, and nine men succeeded to push their way in and occupy the building.

They barricaded themselves inside, and over the next eight hours, dozens of smashed and burned computers and thousands of documents were thrown from office windows and littered the sidewalk below.

Among the men was Eamonn McCann, a veteran civil rights campaigner and well-known journalist. From inside, McCann told the press, "The people of Derry cannot go on feeling shock and horror as they watch TV screens and do nothing. I certainly would not welcome an arrest and prosecution, who would? But judgment has to be made. People felt they had no option but to take this form of direct action."

In time, a banner was unfurled from inside declaring "Raytheon has been decommissioned."

The Irish Anti-War Movement quickly issued a statement of support that read, in part,

"The Derry anti-war protesters are absolutely right to demand that Raytheon pull out of their city and out of this country. The Irish people have witnessed first-hand the brutality and conflict brought on by colonialism and empire. We should be playing no part in inflicting that suffering on others. Given the carnage we are now witnessing in Lebanon and Gaza there is simply no excuse for such weapons of death being produced in this country."

Police eventually arrested the nine, who were held overnight before arraignment on charges of burglary with intent to cause damage. Eight applied for bail, which was granted with restrictions the next day. The ninth man, a former Republican activist who delayed his bail application so as not to hold the others back, was released a few days later.

On August 29, a large and vocal demonstration escorted the men to a hearing where bail conditions were removed.

Before entering court, McCann read a statement to supporters. An excerpt: "We are a small part of the great movement around the world calling for an end to the malign involvement in the region of the western powers, particularly the U.S. and Britain... We hold that we had a legal right and a political and moral duty to do what we did. We will not face the court as the accused, but as the accusers. We shall endeavor to expose the illegal and immoral record of arms companies like Raytheon in fueling war for the sake of profit."

The next pretrial hearing for the nine will be October 12. For more information, visit blackshamrock.org, or email resistderry@aol.com.

In London, seven anti-war activists from the peace group Justice Not Vengeance (JNV) were arrested August 5 as they held a Downing Street die-in to demand Tony Blair join the call for an unconditional cease fire between Israel and Hezbollah. They were arrested on charges of obstruction of the highway, and later released.

In Scotland, the news that Glasgow's Prestwick International Airport was part of Israel's weapon supply line for some of the Raytheon weapons from the United States sparked a flurry of resistance by Trident

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More GI Refusers Face Court Martial

As we go to press, there are no public U.S. military refusers serving a prison sentence. A number who have gone public with their objection and refused to deploy to Iraq face possible court martial, including a few who are now or had been AWOL. Most are now restricted to their base and limited off-base locations.

Army Private **Neil Quentin Lucas**, who refused to deploy while his conscientious objector application was pending and was court martialled in June, 2005, has completed a 13 month sentence at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Conscientious objector **Kevin Benderman** was released from the military prison at Ft. Lewis, Washington, on August 18, and has returned home. A ten-year Army veteran whose application for C.O. status was denied, Sgt. Benderman was court martialled in July, 2005, and sentenced to 15 months. His case is currently on appeal. Updates will be posted at bendermandefense.com.

In an interview soon after his release from prison with reporter Aaron Glantz (IPS), Benderman was asked:

"While you were over there [in Iraq] you were in a relatively peaceful area and there weren't a lot of attacks on your unit. Given that, what's pushed you to take this decision that caused you to spend this time behind bars?"

"KB: It's war. There were mass graves [from Saddam Hussein's 1988 ethnic cleansing campaign against the Kurds] in that area that I was in. So when you see a mass grave full of bodies of old men and old women and children and then you realize that it was war that put them there -- I'm not saying it's us that put them there, but war put them there, and that's something that I saw that made me think that war is not something we need to be doing in the modern world."

An Article 32 hearing at Fort Lewis, Washington on August 24 heard evidence against Lt. **Ehren Watada**, who could face court martial for refusing what he believes is an illegal order to deploy to Iraq. A general court martial on all charges - missing movement, con-

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Inside & Out



THE WOMEN AND MEN LISTED HERE ARE IN PRISON FOR ANTI-NUCLEAR AND ANTI-WAR ACTIONS .

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:

Greg Boertje-Obed

Michael Walli

Carl Kabat, O.M.I.

Burleigh County Detention Center, POB 1416, Bismarck, ND 58502.

('WMD Here' direct disarmament of nuclear missile silo E-9 in North Dakota, 6/20/06 - awaiting sentencing 12/4/06)

Helen Woodson 03231-045 (106 months - out 9/9/11) FMC Carswell, Max Unit, POB 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127.

(Parole violation with anti-war protest at the federal courthouse, Kansas City, Missouri, 3/11/04)

Leonard Peltier 89637-132 (life)

USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

(Native American political prisoner)

NUCLEAR RESISTERS OVERSEAS:

Federico Bonamici

Casa di Reclusioni, via Nuova Poggioreale 177, 80143 Napoli Poggioreale (NA), Italy.

Giuseppe Bonamici

Nuova Casa Circondariale "San Michele", Strada casale 50/A, 15100 Alessandria, Italy.

Silvia Guerini

Carcere "La Dozza", Via Del Gomito 2, 40127 Bologna, Italy.

Costantino Ragusa

Casa Circondariale, Via Prati Nuovi 7, 27058 Voghera (PV), Italy.

Benedetta Galante

Casa Circondariale, Contrada Capo di Monte, 82100 Benevento (BN), Italy.

Chiara Sacchetti

Casa Circondariale Sollicciano, Via Girolamo Minervini 2/R, 50142 Firenze, Italy (Eco-anarchists on remand, charged with 9/05 sabotage of nuclear electricity pylons)

Igor V. Sutyagin (15 years)

163050, Arkhangelsk; Ul. Pirsovaya, d. 27; FGU IK-1, 5 otryad; Russia. (letters only, no parcels) (Imprisoned since 10/27/1999, now convicted of espionage for researching public nuclear weapons information - sentenced 4/07/04)

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

Kim Ji Tae #201 (in 6/5/06)

Pyeongtaek Gu Chee So, Dong Sak-Dong 245-1, Pyeongtaek, South Korea.

(Resistance to forced relocation for U.S. Army base expansion, awaiting sentencing)

Kevin McKee 40886-050 (24 months - out 11/5/07)

FCI Schuylkill Satellite Camp, POB 670, Minersville, PA 17954.

Joseph Donato 40884-050 (27 months - out 1/31/08)

FCI-Fairton, POB 420, Fairton, NJ 08320.

(Convicted 12/04 of felonies related to religious refusal to pay war taxes)

Brendan Walsh 12473-052 (five years - out 7/15/08)

FCI Elkton, POB 10, Lisbon, OH 44432.

(Arson at military recruiting station, 4/02)

Rafil Dhafir 11921-052 (22 years - out 4/26/22)

FCI-Fairton, POB 420, Fairton, NJ 08320.

Ayman Jarwan 11920-052 (18 months - out 12/25/06)

FCI Allenwood (Low), POB 1500, White Deer, PA 17887.

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

VIEQUES

José Pérez González 21519-069 (5 years - out 1/17/08)

FCI Yazoo City Medium, POB 5888, Yazoo City, MS 39194.

(Conspiracy, damage to federal property, &/or probation violation 5/1/03 - resisting U.S. Navy bombardment of Vieques, Puerto Rico)

SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS WATCH

Elizabeth Ann Lentsch 30147-074 (six months - out 10/28/06)

FMC Lexington, Satellite Camp, POB 14525, Lexington, KY 40512.

Jane Hosking 05331-090 (six months - out 10/8/06)

FCI Pekin, Satellite Camp, POB 5000, Pekin, IL 61555.

John LaForge 03213-090 (six months - out 10/8/06)

FPC Duluth, Federal Prison Camp, POB 1000, Duluth, MN 55814.

Edward Smith 46994-083 (six months - out 10/8/06)

FCI Schuylkill, Satellite Camp, POB 670, Minersville, PA 17954.

(Trespass at the School of the Americas, Ft. Benning, Georgia, 11/05)

Kenneth F. Crowley 90963-020 (six months - out 10/8/06)

FCI Beaumont Low, POB 26020, Beaumont, TX 77720.

(Aiding and abetting trespass at the School of the Americas, Ft. Benning, Georgia, 11/05)

Jonathan Robert 62558-020 (12 months - out 11/06)

FCI Tallahassee, 501 Capital Circle NE, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

(Destruction of government property at the School of the Americas, Ft. Benning, Georgia, 11/05, six months; plus making a threatening communication to G8 Summit in Georgia, 2004, 12 months, concurrent)

WAR - NOTHING TO CELEBRATE

The screaming spectacle of triumphant military power has become the centerpiece of modern aviation shows. For about 14 years, Cleveland Catholic Workers and supporters have been leafletting outside the gates at the Cleveland National Air Show, and handing out "peace planes" for kids attending to fold and fly. The air show is



photo by Piet van Lier

Cleveland National Air Show, September 3

always on Labor Day weekend, and on Labor Day for the last five years the activists have organized an alternative family Peace Show.

This year, five people went inside the air show on Sunday, September 3. Under the wing of an A-10 "Warthog" warplane two of them unfurled a banner proclaiming "War is Not Entertainment, These Planes Kill!" Two lay down on the tarmac, symbolizing victims, while another knelt in prayer beside them. Police eventually moved in and arrested Megan Wilson, Chris Knestrick, Fr. Ben Jimenez, Tim Musser and Jim Schlect. The five were jailed until arraignment two days later, when they entered pleas of not guilty to trespass and were released pending trial.

On the following weekend, in Virginia, about 25 people from five different Virginia, North Carolina, and Washington, D.C. Catholic Worker communities vigiled with signs outside the annual Naval Air Station Oceana air show in Virginia Beach. In the afternoon, Steve Baggaly, Bill Frankel-Streit and Brian Buckley climbed on top of an F-22 Raptor on display and held a banner reading "Weapons of Mass Destruction--Nothing to Celebrate."

They were arrested and indefinitely banned from the base. They have yet to be charged but an investigation is underway.

For more information, contact the Cleveland



photo by Scott Langley

Naval Air Station - Oceana Air Show, September 9

Catholic Worker, 3601 Whitman Ave., Cleveland, OH 44113, 216-631-3059; and Norfolk Catholic Worker, 1321 W. 38th St., Norfolk, VA 23508, 757-423-5420.

THREE FOUND GUILTY, CONT.

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introduce into the record the evidence of the International Court of Justice decision about the illegality of nuclear weapons, the testimony of the mayor of Hiroshima, and two statements by Professor Boyle about international law and its condemnation of nuclear weapons. The judge was asked to dismiss the case because of this evidence. When the judge declined, Greg told the judge that he was making a mistake. The judge responded that in light of all the other federal cases he had reviewed he was not making a mistake. "But in the judgment of history, you are," Greg responded. The judge noted Greg's objection for the record and brought the jury back to resume the trial.

With all the rest of their evidence excluded, the three defendants tried in their own words to tell the jury about how international law condemned nuclear weapons, what kind of damage the weapons caused, and how the very existence of nuclear weapons was robbing the poor of the world of much needed resources. Fr. Carl choked up several times talking to the jury when he described the extent of hunger and starvation he had witnessed. "Nuclear weapons," he said softly, "and hungry children, are the two greatest evils in our world."

Michael told the jury how he joined the army at the suggestion of a family member and ended up spending years in Vietnam. While there he heard about the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., described on the base as "an agitator." He described his later work with the poor and how it was consistent with his peace work. He concluded by correcting the record. "These young military people testified that after we arrived at Echo 9 it became a crime scene. But in truth, Echo 9 was a crime scene long before we ever got there. Nuclear weapons are war crimes that are designed to kill innocent civilians. They are outlawed by international law and by God's law. This was a crime scene long before we got there, and is still a crime scene today."

Greg showed the jury the picture of his daughter. "I brought this to Echo 9 as a symbol of why we again and again try to disarm nuclear weapons. We do this for the children."

With the evidence finished, it was time for the jury to decide. The judge would give instructions to the jury about how to decide the case. The defense asked for two instructions about justice — one from the preamble to the U.S. Constitution and another from Judge Learned Hand — both were denied by the judge. Defendants asked that the jury be read the First Amendment — denied. International law? Denied. Nuremberg Principles? Denied. The U.S. statute defining war crimes? Denied. The U.S. statute defining genocide? Denied.

The judge then went forward and instructed the jury to disregard anything about nuclear weapons, international law, and the good motives of the defendants. The effect of these instructions was to treat the actions of the defendants the same as if they had poured blood and hammered on a Volkswagen — pure property damage.

Limited like this, the jury came back with felony guilty verdicts for all three defendants. As they filed out, Fr. Carl called out, "Thank you, brothers and sisters!"

One of the jurors told people afterwards that many on the jury learned a lot in the trial and were sympathetic to the defense, but "the judge's instructions left us no

option but to find them guilty." As she walked away, the juror waved to supporters and yelled "Peace!"

The local paper reported one lawyer concluding that, despite their convictions, "History will have different judgment on their actions."

The three remain in jail. They are in good spirits and at peace in the justice of their convictions. Greg pointed out that juries in Europe were allowed to learn about international law when evaluating the actions of peace protesters. "Why do English, Scottish, and Irish juries get to know about international law, but not U.S. juries? Why do our judges keep our juries deaf and blind to the law of the world?"

Mike noted, "The ungodly will always say 'Let our might be our norm of justice.'"

Fr. Carl, who feels "fantastic — as usual," said, "One with God is a majority, and some day the will of the majority will triumph!"

For their convictions, they face sentences of up to 10 years in prison and fines of up to \$250,000 each. They will remain in jail in North Dakota until their sentencing date of December 4, 2006.

For more information, contact Michele Naar-Obed at 218-728-0629, or Nukewatch at 715-472-4185.

Summer Peace Campaigns in D.C.

A succession of citizen action initiatives challenging the so-called War on Terror have assembled in Washington, D.C. this summer, spawning a number of creative nonviolent direct actions, many resulting in arrests.

CODEPink's Troops Home Fast is concluding as this issue goes to press, with momentum building for the Declaration of Peace nonviolent direct actions beginning September 26-27 in Washington, D.C. and many other communities across the U.S. On July 26, her 24th day of fasting, CODEPink co-founder Medea Benjamin was arrested for disrupting Congress while Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki addressed a joint session. The next day, CODEPinksters Gael Murphy and Eve Tetaz were ejected after disrupting a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the nomination of John Bolton as U.N. Ambassador. Recalling Acting Ambassador Bolton's comments about Israel's then-on-going bombardment of Lebanon, Murphy said, "This is a man who says a cease-fire is unnecessary while civilians are being bombed and ambulances and hospitals are being hit."

On July 28, five fasters were arrested when they planted their prayer vigil in front of an entrance to the White House. Eve Tetaz, Diane Wilson (another co-founder of CODEPink), retired army Colonel and outspoken former diplomat Ann Wright, Martha Odum, and Fr. Louis Vitale were cited and released.

At the end of August, the anti-war Camp Casey left Crawford, Texas and joined others opposed to the broader Bush agenda to create Camp Democracy on the National Mall. The camp became the launching point for many initiatives to speak truth to power. While attending an open house September 9 at the Pentagon chapel, located on the site of the 9/11 plane impact, five men were cited for posting unlawful materials and disobeying

Correction: Greg Boertje-Obed writes that he "noticed you wrote that our action happened on land belonging to the Cheyenne Nation. You may have seen that in *Nuclear Heartland* [We did. Subtitled 'A guide to the 1,000 missile silos of the United States', *Nuclear Heartland* was published by Nukewatch/the Progressive Foundation in 1988 - eds.] However, the reservation land belongs to the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikana Nations, sometimes referred to as the Three Affiliated Tribes. We learned of the book's error when preparing for the action."



Individually addressed letters of support should be sent to Greg Boertje-Obed, Michael Walli, and Carl Kabat, O.M.I., at Burleigh County Detention Center, POB 1416, Bismarck, ND 58502. Jail officials, overwhelmed by the volume of support mail received, wanted to return it all to the senders. The judge refused, and federal marshals have now assumed responsibility for screening all mail that the three men receive.

a lawful order. One of them had left flyers on a literature stand that explained the health effects of depleted uranium (DU) munitions. They were confronted by two dozen Pentagon police as they departed, who noticed four of them still had some of the pamphlets in hand. The real culprit had no more flyers, but told police he'd done it, and was also arrested. Four of the men are veterans of the current war in Iraq; at least one is confirmed to have excess DU in his body.

Mobile CODEPink Action in K.C.

CODEPink Kansas City organized a mobile action July 21 - half on bikes, half on foot - that temporarily blocked gas pumps at three dealers along Westport Road. The cyclists circled around at each station until they could reach the pumps and hang pink 'Out of Order' signs on them. Meanwhile, demonstrators on feet held signs and passed out flyers explaining the connection between oil consumption and the neo-cons neo-imperialism in Iraq.

An agitated motorist assaulted one activist, ripping her megaphone away and then going after another woman who was photographing his outraged actions. He smashed her camera to the ground and then brought arriving police to the scene and demanded she be arrested for assault - which she was! She was cited and released a few hours later.

RECRUITING STATION ACTIONS

Five people were cited for trespass at a military recruiting office in Spokane, Washington last March 20. They had refused to leave until recruiters called the governor or adjutant general to ask that all Washington National Guard personnel and equipment in Iraq be returned immediately and kept out of any further involvement in illegal wars and overseas adventures. A pretrial hearing is set for September 22 before a visiting judge. All of the judges in Spokane Municipal Court recused themselves because of their connections with defendant Jim Sheehan, a long time public defender who founded a nonprofit law firm that assists people who cannot afford typical fees nor qualify for a public defender.

A handful of Grandmothers Against the War tried to enlist in the Marine Corps at a Pleasant Hill, California recruiting office on July 24. Police were called, and five women were eventually cited for trespass.

Try Rove for Treason

Participants at this summer's Camp Casey, the anti-war gathering outside President Bush's Crawford, Texas ranchette named for the slain soldier son of Cindy Sheehan, drove into Austin on August 20 to crash a Republican fundraising bash. Top political advisor Karl Rove, who was speaking at a meeting of the Associated Republicans of Texas, was greeted with protest signs and a banner unfurled from the hotel balcony that read "Rove v. Truth: No Contest. Pink Slip Rove."

Sheehan and a group of supporters tried to push their way into the dinner as Sheehan demanded, "I want him arrested. He planned the war that killed my son!" Sheehan's spokeswoman Tiffany Burns was arrested during the ensuing scuffle and held overnight on charges of trespass and creating a disturbance. Another woman gained entry only to be escorted from the dinner after interrupting it by shouting anti-war comments.

Hiroshima-Nagasaki, cont.

continued from page 1

first to be arrested after a sit-in by the elevators. Six more people were arrested when police cleared one entrance. All seven were taken in, cited for interfering with a business and released pending court dates September 21 and 28.

The Brandywine Peace community and friends returned on Nagasaki Day to the Valley Forge, Pennsylvania corporate war campus of the world's largest weapons corporation, number one nuclear weapons contractor, and the Iraq War's chief profiteer, Lockheed-Martin. Following a recollection of August 6, 1945 by hibakusha Yashio Sato and die-in, ten people were arrested for disorderly conduct when they walked onto the manicured lawn, spreading ashes and sunflower seeds. "Today, we recall the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with ashes, and with sunflower seeds, we plant our hopes here at Lockheed Martin for peace and for justice."

At 5 a.m. Monday, August 7, people walked from the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action in Washington state to demonstrate at the main gate of the adjacent Bangor submarine base, home port to the majority of U.S. Trident ballistic missile submarines. Six people entered the highway and briefly blocked the sailors and workers arriving at the base. After their arrest by Kitsap County sheriffs, four more people walked into federal property before blocking the same road. They were arrested by Navy security. Three of the county arrestees - Brian Watson, Carol Ann Barrows and Shirley Morrison - were held overnight on \$5000 bond, owing to their similar arrests last May 15. They were arraigned August 8 on two counts of disorderly conduct, one for each demonstration, then released on their own recognizance.

About 20 members of the Atlantic Life Community held a nonviolent witness at the Pentagon on August 9, Nagasaki Day. They held photos of burnt bodies and the destruction caused by the plutonium bomb dropped on Nagasaki while the Sermon on the Mount was read and prayers were offered remembering the victims of U.S. war making, past and present. Five people were arrested on the southwest pedestrian bridge entrance to the Pentagon. Four are charged with failure to obey a lawful order and one with disorderly conduct. Arraignments are set for September 22 and November 3 in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Virginia.

HARTLEPOOL BLOCKADE

Climate change activists in Britain blocked the main and rear entrance to the Hartlepool nuclear power plant on August 22, and unfurled a large banner with the words "No More!"



"Nuclear power is not a solution to climate change," said a spokesman for the Reclaim Power action group. "Whilst it may be true that nuclear power results in fewer greenhouse gas emissions than burning fossil fuels, nuclear power produces deadly waste which remains radioactive for thousands of years... We do have another option: to reduce our energy consumption and to get the power we need from clean, safe, renewable sources like wind and solar."

Police eventually cut through arm tubes and locks to break the blockades, and arrested the group's entire support team, media liaison and a freelance journalist on suspicion of aggravated trespass. Those arrested were held up to 11 hours before being released with an order to stay away from Hartlepool and other nukes, and report back to the police in one month.

For more information, contact www.reclaimpower.org.uk, reclaimpower101@yahoo.com

GI Refusers, cont.

continued from page 3

tempt against officials, specifically the President, and three counts of conduct unbecoming of an officer - was recommended to the base commander, Lt. Gen. James Dubik. He will make the final decision whether to proceed with trial or discharge Watada.

Lt. Watada has been outspoken about the illegitimacy of the Iraq War, notoriously in a compelling keynote address at the National Convention of the Veterans for Peace, held in Seattle in August. Backed up by nearly 50 Iraq War veterans, he said "to stop an illegal and unjust war, soldiers can choose to stop fighting it." For elaborating on stage this simple observation, an additional charge of conduct unbecoming of an officer was filed on September 15, bringing his possible sentence to more than eight years. The presiding judge at the hearing had already said that "Lt. Watada's contempt for the President and suggestion that U.S. soldiers can stop the war by simply refusing to fight, borders on a violation of Article 94 [mutiny and sedition]."

Watada's keynote speech also addressed what we must do to "support the troops":

"Many soldiers don't refuse this war en masse because, like all of us, they value their families over their own lives and perhaps their conscience. Who would willingly spend years in prison for principle and morality while denying their family sustenance?"

"I tell this to you because you must know that to stop this war, for the soldiers to stop fighting it, they must have the unconditional support of the people. I have seen this support with my own eyes. For me it was a leap of faith. For other soldiers, they do not have that luxury. They must know it and you must show it to them. Convince them that no matter how long they sit in prison, no matter how long this country takes to right itself, their families will have a roof over their heads, food in their stomachs, opportunities and education. This is a daunting task. It requires the sacrifice of all of us. Why must Canadians feed and house our fellow Americans who have chosen to do the right thing? We should be the ones taking care of our own. Are we that powerless - are we that unwilling to risk something for those who can truly end this war? How do you support the troops but not the war? By supporting those who can truly stop it; let them know that resistance to participate in an illegal war is not futile and not without a future."

For more information, visit thankyoult.org

In Germany, Army Spc. **Agustin Aguayo** kept two sergeants waiting in his family living room September 2, while he slipped out the back window to avoid imminent forced redeployment to Iraq. He went AWOL only after a 2-1/2 year struggle to be recognized as a conscientious objector, and while an appeal was still pending. Although scheduled for discharge in January, stop-loss orders had extended his obligation through at least September, 2007.

His wife, Helga Aguayo, has returned with their children to the United States, and Aguayo plans to turn himself in for court martial as soon as he is assured he

will not be forced to deploy to Iraq.

Helga Aguayo, who witnessed the attempted forced deployment, declared, "When the unit tried to take him by force to Iraq, what was he to do? If he is truly a conscientious objector, then the only thing he could do was resist. He is a conscientious objector, but the Army forced him to become a war resister."

American Voices Abroad (AVA) Military Project and the Military Counseling Network in Germany are supporting Aguayo. For more information, go to www.aguayodefense.org.

Darrell Anderson, a wounded Iraq army deserter and one of many military refusers who sought refugee status in Canada, has recently decided to return home and face possible court martial, because he feels he has to speak out against President Bush in the United States. He plans to cross the border on September 30, and a vigil is planned for October 2 outside Ft. Knox, Kentucky. For more information, email resistwithdarrell@insighybb.com

Among formerly AWOL military refusers, **Mark Wilkerson**, 20 months AWOL after one tour of duty in Iraq, surrendered at Fort Hood, Texas on August 31. As he prepared to turn himself in, Wilkerson sought out Gold Star mom Cindy Sheehan and members of Iraq Veterans Against the War at Camp Casey, near President Bush's Crawford ranchette. In solidarity, they accompanied Wilkerson to Fort Hood, where he's "reuniting with old friends, meeting new soldiers, getting acquainted with my chain-of-command, and, in general, refamiliarizing myself with the military," according to his blog at markwilkerson.wordpress.com.

Sgt. **Ricky Clousing** served one tour in Iraq as an interrogator before going AWOL with a troubled conscience in June, 2005. He recently wrote:

"After I returned from Iraq, I struggled with my objections concerning what I had seen and experienced in Iraq. Ultimately, I decided that staying in the military was a contradiction to my personal, moral and spiritual beliefs. I left the military without official authorization in June of 2005. In the following months I deeply considered my moral obligation to speak publicly about what I saw while in Iraq. After holding a press conference [coinciding with the Veterans for Peace national convention in Seattle] I returned to military custody on Friday, August 11. On August 31, I was charged with desertion, which carries a maximum sentence of two years in jail." The Seattle Draft & Military Counseling Center is supporting Clousing, info at www.sdmcc.org.

The official investigation into Army Spc. **Suzanne Swift's** allegations of "command rape" in Iraq has been completed, such as it is, but no further action yet taken. Following the Veterans for Peace convention, "Camp Suzanne" was established outside Fort Lewis to provide the safety of a spotlight for the formerly AWOL soldier and help raise awareness of the issue of sexual harassment on the base. Swift is permitted to travel home weekly for counseling, while otherwise restricted to Fort Lewis. For more information, visit Suzanneswift.org

Eviction Threat for Embattled Korean Farmers

Korean riot police and contracted construction workers and thugs have again attacked a Korean farming community to clear land for the expansion of a U.S. Army base. After failing last winter and spring to crush the organized nonviolent resistance of the communities of Daechuri and Doduri, 22,000 troops reportedly took part in the invasion and occupation of the villages on September 13. Full eviction of the remaining 200 villagers by October 31 is threatened by a military order.

Many outside supporters were kept from entering the village over the previous days by tight police checkpoints, and 21 were arrested trying to enter to defend the village on the morning of the invasion. Yet despite their overwhelming numerical disadvantage and several arrests in Daechuri, villagers and supporters struggled all day to defend the village.

Police demolished 68 of the 90 houses that the Korean Ministry of Defense (MoD) had threatened to destroy, but villagers successfully defended some houses. The MoD had promised to only destroy empty houses. But several squatted and renovated houses, as well as one long-term resident's house, and a farming warehouse with expensive farming equipment inside, were destroyed.

The first target of police was the Human Rights House in Daechuri. Several human rights activists had tied themselves to the lookout tower built by residents on the roof of the building, and residents barricaded the building to keep the cops from coming up. But the police eventually managed to enter, and dragged out and arrested the activists before smashing up the house and all of the beautiful murals that it contained.

About forty other people who tied themselves onto the roofs of other buildings kept the police from destroying 13 houses in Daechuri.

At the entrance to town, two people sitting on the crest of the home's sloping roof held police off for hours. Elderly villagers hurried to surround the house, and one villager climbed onto the roof with the activists. After several failed attempts to force the two activists down, police promised to let them go free (and then destroy the house) if they came down on their own. But villagers had already learned during previous attacks what a cop's promise is worth, so they stood their ground and insisted that the police leave. Eventually the police were forced to give up and leave the house standing and activists free.

Although the attack was a heavy blow, especially the overwhelming destruction of houses in the village of Doduri, the villagers have taken their successful defense of some of the houses as a victory. Residents played traditional Korean drum music in the streets after the police finally left, and villagers have reaffirmed their resistance to the base at the continuing nightly candlelight vigils. They continue to work in their gardens, organize the defense of their land, and prepare for a major solidarity demonstration in Seoul on September 24. They are asking for international solidarity actions in the next few weeks as the October 31 deadline approaches.

For more information, visit www.saveptfarmers.org and antigizi.or.kr/english, or contact the KAWAN-Pyeongtaek U.S. Committee, Kisuk Yom, U.S. Coordinator at yomkisuk@yahoo.com; Jamie Kim (Los Angeles) kawanla@yahoo.com, 213-249-0836; Jae Soo Lee (Washington, D.C.) jsleackr@yahoo.co.kr.

Last May, the government deployed over 15,000 military and riot police to the villages, in yet another unsuccessful attempt to rout the resident farmers. Serious injuries resulted for more than 500 local farmers and activists, 524 arrests were reported, and a barbed wire fence was placed all around the farmland. Daechuri village headman Kim Ji Tae was wanted for questioning about organizing illegal activities during the resistance. He agreed to surrender for questioning June 5, as a condition for re-opening talks with the MoD about the future of the community. Once in custody, police refused to release Kim. He was convicted and due to be sentenced September 22, but with a major demonstration in support of the farmers planned for Seoul on September 24, the prosecutor moved to re-open oral proceedings, delaying any sentencing.



Letters of support should be sent to Kim Ji Tae #201, Pyeongtaek Gu Chee So, Dong Sak-Dong 245-1, Pyeongtaek, South Korea.

Lebanon War Resistance, cont.

continued from page 3

Ploughshares activists. Four people were arrested early August 6 when they broke through the security fence and got out onto the main runway. Four more resisters were apprehended at the airport in the wee hours of August 7. They were there in cahoots with three others who managed to board a U.S. plane and were searching it for evidence of weapons. They in turn were confronted by police who revealed a confusion about who was the criminal and what was the crime by arresting the three inspectors.

The following evening, August 8, a five-member team of citizen weapons inspectors got on board another U.S. military plane before they were arrested. With the additional arrest of the driver who dropped off one of the groups, 17 people were jailed until a bail hearing August

9. Two were remanded to custody - Sylvia Boyes was released a few days later and Staven Van Elesen pled guilty and was to be sentenced August 29.

Also, on August 9, six protesters were arrested red-handed in Wales, after marking the outside of the Cardiff Museum with fake blood handprints. The action was aimed at highlighting the involvement of the British and U.S. governments in the bombing of innocent civilians in Lebanon.

In Washington, D.C., four people were arrested on July 31 in front of the entrance to the State Department. They were holding large photos of civilian victims of the Israeli bombing of Qana, Lebanon as they were taken into custody for refusing to disperse.

Russian Ecologists Protest N-Waste Imports in Closed City

The importation of depleted uranium hexafluoride wastes ("uranium tails") from fuel enrichment plants in France and Germany has become a lucrative business for some Russian industrialists. It is estimated that 100,000 tons of additional nuclear waste has been generated in Russia in the last decade as a result of this traffic, and that the practice has held down the cost of nuclear fuel to a fraction of what it would be if the enrichment companies had to dispose of the waste in the country where it was generated.

A meeting of the G8 nations in mid-July in St. Petersburg was expected to produce agreement on a scheme to import U.S. nuclear waste, as well. Environmentalists from the Norwegian group Bellona and the Russian group Ecodefense! demonstrated July 11 in Senatskaya Square. They attempted to unfurl a banner against the imports in front of the square's massive monument to Peter the Great. Police were waiting and roughly rounded up 13 people who took part. The activists were held and interrogated for several hours, photographed and fingerprinted, but not charged.

On July 3, compressed depleted uranium shavings had caught fire at a factory in Lesnoy, and officials had refused to allow Ecodefense! to take environmental samples in the closed town.

The campaign against nuclear waste imports continued with the 7th national anti-nuclear camp, established July 26-August 3 by Ecodefense! and Tomsk Ecological Student Inspection. Activists from ten Russian cities gathered near the Siberian Chemical Combine and the closed city of Seversk in the Tomsk region.

Some staged a demonstration in the center of Tomsk on August 1, raising 40-foot banners reading "Must Russia Grow Tails?" and "Stop Nuclear Waste Import!" in front of the regional administration building, an area off-limits to such activity. Some passers-by joined the demonstration for half an hour before Tomsk police began tearing down the banners, arresting 12 people. When police tried to arrest an anti-nuclear activist who was only observing the protest with her 5-year old son, reporters and passers-by intervened to prevent them.

For more information, visit www.bellona.org

INTERNATIONAL NOTES



ploughshares ACQUITTED, CONT.

continued from page 1

plane', 'disrupt deployment' and to 'save lives in Iraq'. But he placed their action in the context of what the members of the group had learned about the impact of more than a decade of war and sanctions on the people of Iraq, and what could be expected if the arsenal moving through Shannon were put to use. He testified about four days of retreat at Glenstal Abbey, their discernment and self-examination there, and the decision they made as a community of shared faith to take nonviolent direct action to save lives.

In his testimony, defendant Damien Moran indirectly revealed how thorough their preparation for the action and its legal consequences had been. He affirmed a statement he had made to the first detective to interview him after his arrest, a statement as good as tailor-made for their defense: "I honestly believe I have a lawful excuse to protect the property and lives of myself and others."

The prosecution also asked Moran if the shrine and the photos of dead and dying children had been an act to influence the court. After chiding the prosecution for such a crass suggestion, he said he was the one who proposed including the photos, holy books, and beads. He hoped it would reach into the heart of the police who would undoubtedly see it while investigating the damage to the plane.

Karen Fallon was next in the dock, and underwent a similar examination of her background and the events leading up to the action. On cross-examination, she was asked whether she achieved her objective. "For however long this plane was not doing its duty, this was a time of life for those whom it would otherwise have killed," she declared. "I believe that what we did was the only thing I could do to stop people dying... If you disable a plane, you can tell by that, that it will not kill people."

In Deirdre Clancy's testimony, she spoke of some of the options for action the group had discussed while on retreat at the Abbey. If she'd had the language or medical qualifications, she would have liked to go to Iraq. But lacking either of these essentials, she decided to resist the war in her own country.

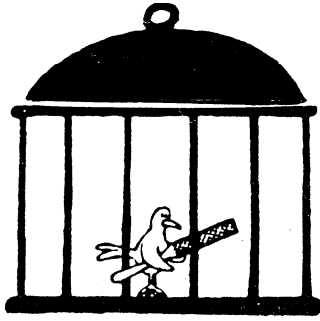
On cross-examination, she was predictably grilled about the audacity of taking the law into her own hands. "The law had been breached, the Geneva Conventions had been breached," she said, and repeated earlier testimony that this breach had been brought to the attention of the Shannon police, to no avail. "We were upholding the law."

Nuin Dunlop, like her co-defendants, had come to the conclusion that the use of Shannon Airport to refuel war planes had led directly to the deaths of Iraqi civilians. Her participation in the action was not a political statement, she testified, because she was not a political person. Rather, she took part in solidarity with Iraqi civilians, expressing through action that "You are seen. You are heard. You are not alone."

Critical testimony for the defendants was given by Kathy Kelly, co-founder of Voices in the Wilderness. A few days before their action, Kelly spoke to a Dublin audience that included the five about the suffering she has witnessed in bombed and blockaded Iraq during the course of more than 20 visits to that country since 1991, and of the Iraqi people she knew who dreaded the consequences of the war being threatened in February, 2003. She remembered speaking with three of the defendants at that time, particularly about the responsibility to find nonviolent means to raise public awareness at a grave moment. Each defendant had testified that her call to conscience and action had galvanized their commitment to disrupt the war effort where they could, which they later determined to be at the Shannon Airport.

Please see Future Actions, page 7, for more information about the new campaign to demilitarize Shannon Airport.

Update Files



ST. PATRICK'S

FOUR: Peter DeMott was released from a Binghamton, New York halfway house on September 17, the last of the Catholic Worker activists to complete a federal prison sentence for a March 17, 2003 protest at a military recruiting office in Ithaca. Their federal prosecution followed a hung jury that leaned towards acquittal in county court...

BRONX RECRUITING STATION: David Segal was released from federal prison on September 9. He served six months for attempted arson. "With a few lighter fluid soaked rags, I hoped to put some small dent in the huge military machine. I failed pretty miserably"...

VINE & FIG TREE PLANTING: Lizzie Jones was jailed September 19 by Reading Magistrates' Court. She refused in principle to pay £201 compensation to the Ministry of Defence for criminal damage to the wire fence at Aldermston nuclear weapons establishment, during the symbolic peace planting inside the grounds in August, 2005. Customarily, she will be released after serving half of her seven-day sentence. Jones had offered her artistic services in lieu of payment by painting a mural or decorating a room at the Establishment but the MoD had not replied.

FERNDALE, MICHIGAN: Victor Kittila, charged last July for an anti-war vigil sign that encouraged audible support from passing autos has been joined in the dock by Nancy Goedert, a Raging Granny activist cited at the August vigil for the same honk hustling offense. Sounding off to the solicitation, Joe Plambeck was also cited as the drive-by honker. All three will be represented by National Lawyers Guild attorney Deborah Choly at their next court hearing, September 26...

PORT OF OLYMPIA: City of Olympia prosecutors have chosen not to prosecute charges of pedestrian interference against 14 people arrested on the streets in May as they blocked convoys of military vehicles en route to war via the local port. Two people have agreed to deferred prosecution, with dismissal possible after one year of lawful conduct. State charges of criminal trespass (20 people) and rioting (2 people) resulting from a blockade of the port on May 30 are being pursued, however, and a trial is set for October 9. City police have reportedly destroyed their videos of the May 30 protest, where law enforcers used pepper gas with enthusiasm...

REP. CHARLIE DENT: Nine people arrested last January during a sit-in at the Pennsylvania congressman's Bethlehem office were denied a jury trial when charges were reduced. A judge heard the case and declared them all guilty on August 22. They were all fined \$300 fine or equivalent community service, plus \$366 in costs...

DETROIT FEDERAL COURTHOUSE: Pursuant to a plea agreement for failure to obey the directions of an officer, John Zettner was fined \$280 in federal court August 28. He was arrested in March during a dramatic tableau protest of human rights violations by U.S. forces in Iraq...

LOS ANGELES: Charges have been dismissed for two CODEPINK women who locked down to an oil barrel in front of a Ford dealership last April, a protest over the automaker's contributions to global warming and oil wars...

CHICAGO: Ceylon Mooney, Mike Ferner and Jeff Leys, arrested at the Military Entrance Processing Command July 5, have pled not guilty and have a pretrial October 11. Diana Hughes stipulated to the facts and was found guilty, fined \$100 and ordered to do 30 hours of community service...

MORDECHAI VANUNU: At a September 6 hearing on his appeal against renewing the restrictions imposed upon his freedom by the state of Israel, the state's attorney again insisted that the evidence it has cannot be presented in open court. The court asked the state to obtain a certificate of secrecy before it could proceed, and adjourned for several more weeks. On another matter, the state is due to state its evidence against Vanunu for violating some of these restrictions at a hearing September 21. Meanwhile, the nuclear whistleblower has left the room at St. George's Cathedral where he has lived since his April, 2004 release from prison, and taken other lodging in East Jerusalem. His new address is P.O. Box 66478, Herodian Post Office, East Jerusalem, 91384, Israel...

FUTURE ACTIONS

declaration of peace

The Declaration of Peace campaign has just kicked off with nonviolent direct actions in Washington, D.C., and many other locations around the country. Action reports will be featured in the next issue of *the Nuclear Resister*. Now is the time to help build this campaign to get Congress behind the campaign demands for a prompt timetable for withdrawal of troops and closure of bases; a peace process for security, reconstruction, and reconciliation; and the shift of funding for war to meeting human needs.

For more information and to get involved, visit www.declarationofpeace.org, email info@declarationofpeace.org, or contact Declaration of Peace, 2501 Harrison St., Oakland, CA 94612, 773-777-7858.

ft. benning

The annual vigil and nonviolent direct action to close the School of the Americas/WHINSEC will take place Friday through Sunday, November 17-19. For hotels, travel information, and more, call 202-234-3440 or visit www.soaw.org. If you are considering joining in the nonviolent direct action, please email Eric at elecompte@soaw.org. Inspired by the Holly Near song "A Thousand Grandmothers", a Chico, California organizer is seeking a thousand grandmothers (and grandfathers), or at least a group of grandparents from each state, to join together for crossing the line at this fall's vigil. For more information, contact Cathy Webster at athousandgrandmothers@yahoo.com, or visit 1000grandmothers.net.

STRATCOM: Frank Cordaro left Yankton Federal Prison on August 23, after serving his seventh six-month prison sentence for trespass at the nuclear command center at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska...

OHIO GRAFFITI: Mike Ferner was convicted in July on two felony graffiti charges in Sylvania Township, where he and his brother had painted "TROOPS OUT NOW" on a highway bridge last winter. He was sentenced August 4 to pay restitution, court costs, and the cost of two months of electronically monitored house arrest, plus 8 months probation...

L-3 WESCAM: Nine members of the Mother's Day Coalition for Peace, charged in May with trespass at Canada's largest weapons manufacturer, were convicted in Burlington, Ontario provincial court on July 27. During a trial that ran all day, the activists defended themselves and challenged the court to join them in giving priority to promoting peace over the private property rights of arms dealers. While serving the law and property first, the judge showed some sympathy by suspending their sentence...

PENTAGON: The last trials for 52 people arrested last March 20 took place on August 4. One person was acquitted, and six convicted and fined \$86. Betsy Lamb, arrested at the Pentagon on Holy Thursday, April 13, was convicted on September 8 and sentenced to 20 days in jail. She was given permission to serve the sentence on weekends, because she is holding down SOA prisoner of conscience Ken Crowley's job at the human rights group Witness for Peace while he serves a six month sentence. She'll begin doing her time when the prison's necessary paperwork is completed. Susan Crane was released in late August after serving 30 days behind bars for the same action as Betsy...

NAVAL SUB BASE/GROTON: Three people charged with disorderly conduct during a Good Friday protest had their cases nollied (effectively dismissed)...

ITALY: One of the "Il Silvestre" activists who was under house arrest since being charged last May with conspiring to use explosives to destroy electricity pylons transporting nuclear energy, has been remanded into custody. Chiara Sacchetti had unavoidably breached the terms of her house arrest which forbid her to meet with any of her co-defendants, some of whom shared her house. Write to her at the prison address listed with her five jailed co-defendants on page 3...

RAF FAIRFORD: Following a series of disarmament actions in March, 2003, five people who sought to disrupt and delay the flights of American B-52 bombers out of the British base faced criminal charges. Margaret Jones and Paul Milling stood for trial September 4 in Bristol Crown Court. The two had entered the base and were able to disable about two dozen vehicles that provide critical ground support for the bombers. Following a two week trial, the jury could not reach a verdict and a mistrial was declared. While the crown plans to re-try the two, the next case up in Bristol is that of Toby Olditch and Phil Pritchard, who were apprehended inside the base while "going equipped" with disarmament tools. Their trial begins Monday, October 2. For more information, visit bristol.indymedia.org.

vermont yankee

Join with the Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance (VYDA) as "We the People" revoke the operating license of the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor. at noon, October 16, 2006 at Entergy Headquarters, Brattleboro, Vermont. All are welcome! Those wishing to join the civil disobedience action must receive non-violent CD training and join an affinity group. For information, contact the VYDA at P.O. Box 1316, Montpelier, VT 05601, Central VT, 802-476-3154. Northern VT, 802-533-2296. Western MA, 413-339-5781.

shannon

To demilitarise Shannon International Airport, a new campaign initially seeks 100 people who are committed to nonviolently resist and shut Shannon down until arrested. If one is arrested, all will continue to regroup and resist warmaking business as usual at the airport until all are arrested.

Shannon has made Ireland complicit in the deaths of 2,500 U.S. military personnel who have been killed and the 150,000 Iraqis who have been slain. It has ratcheted up the scale of likely terrorist payback target since the withdrawal of Spain & Italy from the UK/US war effort.

If you are interested in joining a nonviolent resistance affinity group for the purpose of shutting Shannon Airport down if the government fails to demilitarise the airport in the next few months, write a letter to Ploughshares, 134 Phibsborough Rd., Phibsborough, Dublin 7 Ireland, for more information. As much as possible they will organise off the phone & internet and on a need to know basis.

faslane 365

Faslane 365 will be starting a year-long peaceful blockade of the Faslane nuclear submarine base on the Clyde in Scotland on October 1, 2006. The civil resistance initiative was officially launched at a civic reception hosted by the leader of Edinburgh City Council on September 9. Fifty autonomous groups have now signed up to take part. The groups will work to bring around 100 people to blockade and demonstrate at the Faslane nuclear base for up to two days at a time. In preventing nuclear "business as usual" these groups will also be making connections with issues such as climate change, poverty and resource allocation, to highlight the real, human security priorities. These groups will conduct their two days of blockading as they see fit, though all are committed to the nonviolent ethos of the campaign and its common demand - that Trident be de-commissioned and not replaced. For more information, contact Faslane 365, info@faslane365.org Tel: 07733360955 or visit www.faslane365.org

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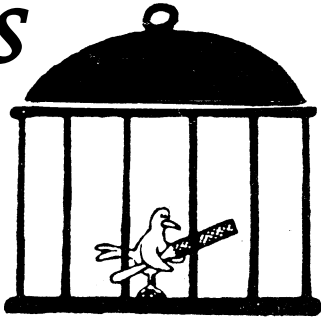
More Update Files

SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS: Jonathan Robert, jailed since his arrest last November at the annual Fort Benning vigil, has been sentenced. Robert was busted when he cut a view hole in the canvas that covered the temporary fence on the day of the mass line-crossing, and was sentenced last spring to six months for destruction of property. But he had also been held since his arrest on charges from an unrelated, evidently not anonymous, protest against global capital at the 2004 G-8 summit in Sea Island, Georgia. This summer a plea agreement resulted in a 12-month sentence for making a threatening communication, with credit for time served concurrent with his SOA sentence. He expects to be released in late November. Robert has been moved to the federal prison in Tallahassee, Florida, address on page 3.

Fr. Jerry Zawada was released from federal prison August 2, after serving six months for trespass at Ft. Benning last November. Zawada was soon on his way to the Nevada Test Site, where he facilitated a multifaith memorial service on the anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing (see page 1)...

RAFIL DHAFIR: The court has agreed to provide trial transcripts free of charge to attorneys preparing the appeal of the Syracuse oncologist serving 22 years for white-collar charges piled onto the political charge of violating the Iraq sanctions with his charitable activities. An article about the case of Dr. Dhafir by court watcher and now active supporter Katherine Hughes (www.dhafirtrial.net) will be featured in the Fall, 2006 issue of Fellowship, quarterly journal of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (POB 271, Nyack, NY 10960). Hughes sets Dr. Dhafir's case in the context of how the government has targeted other Muslim charities since 9/11. Letters of support should be sent to Rafil Dhafir at the address on page 3...

LAKEWOOD, COLORADO: Following their conviction in June on charges of trespassing at a military recruiting station last November, twelve people were



sentenced July 26 in Jefferson County Court. Five chose to go to jail for 10 days rather than report for 24 hours of court-ordered community service. Carolyn Bninski, Richard Drew Edmondson and Ellen Stark were led off to jail. The women fasted during their sentence in solidarity with the CODEPINK fasters in Washington, D.C. Edmondson, a disabled Vietnam-era vet, wrote that he would fast "for those in the military whose conscience has placed them or will place them in a brig, or has forced them AWOL underground. I am just a regular person. Like anyone, I am capable of doing something difficult. What I am doing... anyone can." He was released after six days of fasting. Bonnie McCormick, 75, asked the judge for a few days to arrange a cat-sitter, and DeAnn Major asked to serve her time in late August, when she could arrange child care for 10 days. Both requests were granted...

SENATOR DIANE FEINSTEIN: Jeff Dietrich was initially sentenced on August 18 to ten days in jail for a March anti-war sit-in at the Senator's Los Angeles office. But after a quick review of Dietrich's record, the judge upped it to 30 days. Nonetheless, the Los Angeles Catholic Worker was released after spending only 36 hours in lock-up. "I was freed by grace," he said, "the same grace that prevents all of our homeless friends from doing punitive jail time for insignificant 'quality of life crimes'. The jails are over-crowded and the sheriff is forced to release all 'nonviolent' offenders after they have served a mere one-tenth of their sentence. Thank God for ACLU law suits that prevent the authorities from packing the already over-crowded jails and making an unbearable situation even worse..."

SUSAN LINDAUER: Confined by court order for nearly one year pending trial, the Maryland woman was released from federal custody on September 8. Manhattan Federal Judge Michael Mukasey, in his last ruling before retiring, said that the government cannot force Lindauer to be medicated for delusions of grandiosity and paranoia in order to stand trial. Lindauer still faces prosecution for accepting money from men identified by the government as Iraqi agents during the lead-up to the March, 2003 invasion of Iraq by the United States and Great Britain. Lindauer's undisputed interest in peaceful solutions to Middle East conflicts had led her to initiate many contacts among Muslim diplomats, and she claims to have been an intelligence "asset" working diplomatic back channels for a peaceful solution and end to the Iraq sanctions. Lindauer admits to receiving the money, but that she passed it along as directed by her agency handlers. Prosecutors say they will ask the next judge to "order Lindauer to voluntarily take anti-psychotic drugs" or face contempt charges. She remains free on \$500,000 bail and must meet regularly with a psychologist. Her attorney told reporters, "She's not a danger to herself or others or property. That's clearly established by all the psychologists"...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

...*just a stone's throw* is Johnny Baranski's latest haiku series, dedicated for *political prisoners everywhere*. Ten haiku on a 4-panel pullout, 4x4.5 letterpress, hand-bound, outside wrapping. \$5 postpaid, to Johnny Baranski, 3308 N. Terry St., Portland, OR 97217.

...*Nuclear Power is Not the Answer* by Helen Caldicott (©2006 New Press, 128 pp. \$23.95, ISBN 1-59558067-0) is the anti-nuclear activist and writer's timely response to those promoting nuclear power as an answer to global warming. For a thorough technical analysis of the question, also read *Insurmountable Risks: The Dangers of Using Nuclear Power to Combat Global Climate Change* by Brice Smith (©2006 IEER Press, 448 pp. Paperback, \$19.95 postpaid from eggheadbooks.org)

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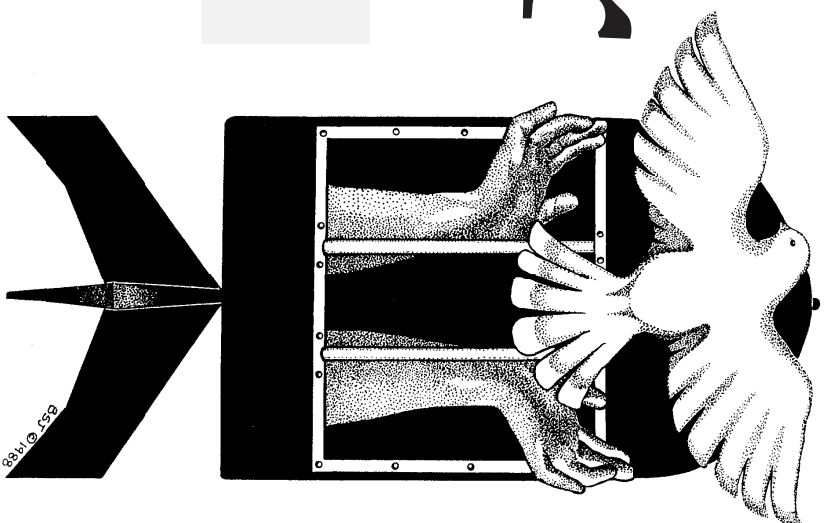
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