

the Nuclear Resister

"A Chronicle of Hope"

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November 14, 2007

Five Months for Ft. Huachuca Torture Protest

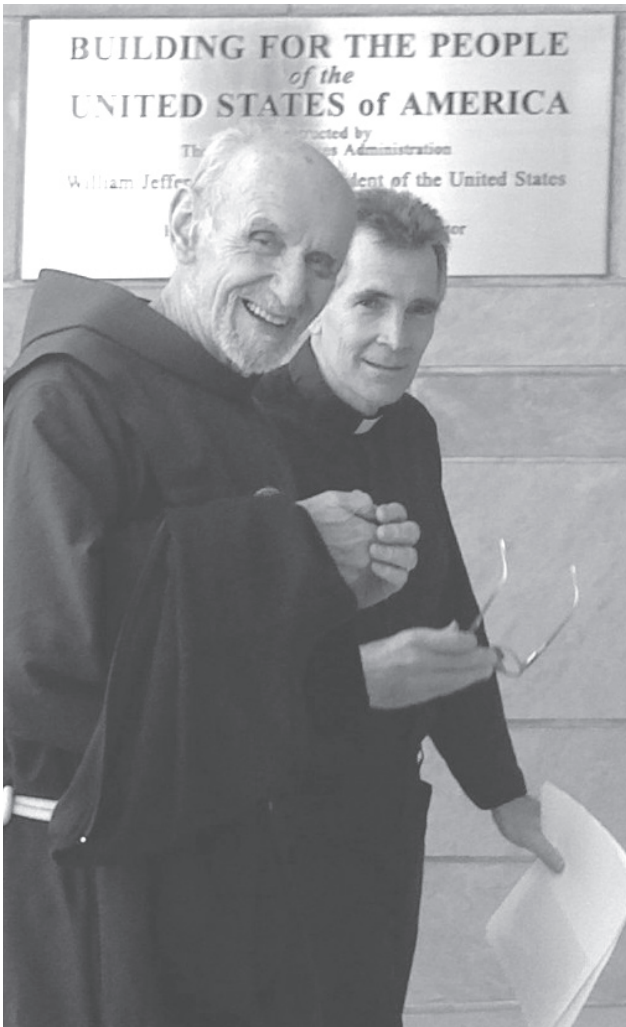


photo by Lee Stanley

Louis Vitale OFM (left) and Steve Kelly SJ enter the federal courthouse in Tucson on the day of their sentencing, October 17.

In federal court in Tucson, two Roman Catholic priests were sentenced on October 17 to five months in prison. Franciscan Fr. Louis Vitale and Jesuit Fr. Stephen Kelly were arrested in November, 2006, while attempting to deliver a letter to then-commander Major General Barbara Fast at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona, denouncing torture and the Military Commissions Act of 2006.

Their sentencing came on the first anniversary of the signing of the Military Commissions Act, which sanctions evidence obtained through interrogation by torture. Ft. Huachuca is the headquarters for U.S. Army intelligence and the training base for all military interrogators.

Instead of their scheduled trial, Kelly and Vitale changed their pleas to no contest and asked to be sentenced immediately. Their change of plea came after Magistrate Hector Estrada had rejected their intended defense of necessity and granted a government motion forbidding any reference to the military use of torture.

Based on their plea, Magistrate Estrada found them guilty as charged of one federal count of trespass and one state charge of failure to obey an officer. The court acknowledged that both Vitale and Kelly have a long record of arrests and imprisonment for nonviolent resistance to nuclear weapons and war, and that a prison sentence would not deter them from future actions.

Military prosecutor Capt. Evan Simone recommended five months in prison for Kelly, who had already indicated his unwillingness to accept any supervised probation or pay fines. For Vitale, he suggested one day a week in jail during the first year of probation, during which time Vitale might consider if he could do more good being

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An Occupation Project Recap Constituents Demand:

Not One More Death, Not One More Dollar

The demand of the campaign is simple. Representatives and Senators: Publicly commit to vote against any money for the Iraq war or we will nonviolently occupy your office.

From the kickoff on February 5 and through the passage of the two supplemental appropriations to pay for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Occupation Project has been adapted to many local conditions at the grassroots.

At least 440 arrests were reported as a result of more than 90 occupations in or near 61 different offices of 29 Representatives and 22 Senators. Many score more also held anti-war sit-ins at dozens of congressional offices, but left at closing time and were not arrested. For some lawmakers, more than one office was occupied, in different towns back home or also in Washington, D.C.

As a consequence, only a handful of people have been jailed beyond an initial overnight stay. The longest sentence, 35 days, was served last summer by Carolyn Brniski, coordinator of the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, who got to keep organizing while on work release. This fall, Frank Cordaro served 30 days in county jails in Iowa and Missouri when his refusal to pay fines imposed after earlier Occupation Project sit-ins caught up with him. Convicted activists have mostly been fined, placed on probation, and/or ordered to perform community service. One judge would not impose any sentence. At least 18 people have been acquitted by a judge or a jury, and at least 75 charges have so far been dismissed somewhere along the way.

After the appropriations bill passed Congress in May, Jeff Leys of Voices for Creative Nonviolence suggested that the Occupation Project contributed to a political shift in the 39 districts where arrests had occurred by that time. "Fifteen of the 39 voted against the final Iraq war supplemental spending bill that Congress passed in May. Fourteen of the 15 who voted against the final bill had voted in favor of the Iraq war spending bill last year."

The most common element of these actions is for the office occupiers, while waiting for the public peace promise, to solemnly read aloud the names of the dead, soldiers and civilians, in the presence of each other and the office staff.

Many of the public servants' offices became inaccessible as a result of the public challenge. When the office was accessible, not all occupations lead to arrests. Sustained campaigns of office occupations that did not result in arrests took place in such diverse locations as Nashville, Huntsville, Seattle, San Francisco, and across the state of Minnesota. Sometimes, arrests occurred only after repeated visits and occupations, for as many as 52 consecutive days in Sacramento.

Often, a vital role to support and sustain local campaigns has been played by many who were willing to sit-in just until ordered to leave, while others in the group are then arrested.

In some cases, a local group has had little or no contact with any of the national campaigns - Declaration of Peace, CODEPINK, or Voices for Creative Nonviolence - whose efforts have brought most of these civil disobedience actions under the Occupation Project banner.

These stories and many more are told in the following chronology of Occupation Project arrests and the consequences. Please send us information about arrests we've missed, or updates we haven't reported.

February 16

Six students from the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill were arrested just 30 minutes after sitting-in at the local office of **Rep. David Price (D-NC)**. On that day Price voted in favor of a resolution opposing the troop surge in Iraq, and he had voted against the Iraq attack in 2002. Since then, however, he has regularly

approved funding for the costly escapade. In court May 7, the charges against Laura Bickford, Ben Carroll, Alisan Fathalizadeh, Sara Joseph, Dante Strobino & Tamara Tal were dismissed at Price's request, over the prosecutor's objection.

February 20

Nine Alaskans occupied the Fairbanks office of **Sen. Ted Stevens (R-AK)** all afternoon, reading the names of the war dead. They hadn't finished by 4 p.m. when the office closed, and police arrested three men who refused to leave. Seth Warncke walked out with police, was cited and released, and the charge eventually dismissed. Don Muller and Rob Mulford had to be carried out, and were jailed overnight. When the arresting officer dropped them off at the jail, he told the men he was honored to take part in their act of conscience. Later, a woman jailer called through their cell window, "You guys are my heroes!" The next morning they pled not guilty to trespass. Don Muller defended himself before a jury on April 18-19. The jury was not persuaded by his defense of necessity, and he was convicted. Muller refused a fine and community service, opting for a 15 day jail sentence. He served eight, considering time served after arrest and "good time." Rob Mulford was denied the use of a necessity defense, then showed up for trial September 11, only to find the courtroom locked. Upon inquiry, he then learned the case had been vacated by the prosecution.

Four women reciting a litany in remembrance of war dead were arrested in the lobby of Chicago's Kluczynski Federal Building at the conclusion of a four-pronged action. Ten "Well Behaved Women" had just met with **Sen. Dick Durbin's (D-IL)** chief of staff while others picketed outside or jammed his office phone lines from home. At their trial in April, a police officer testified that the women slowed down business with their lobby sit-in. Judge Nolan declared that people exercising their First Amendment rights sometimes do slow down business as usual, and acquitted Marjorie Fujara, Katie Jean Dahlaw and Laura Bernstein of failure to comply with signs at the federal building. The fourth defendant, Rosalie Riegle, was out of the country.

February 21

Suzanne Renard and Jean Durel never got past the guards at the St. Louis Federal Building, despite assurance from **Sen. Claire McCaskill's (D-MO)** Washington office that the local outpost upstairs was open and ready to receive them. The women persisted until being cited for failure to comply and detained for 45 minutes. They were among about a dozen people cited at the Senator's office who have refused to pay a fine, and have ignored letters urging them to call a number to pay up or request a court date. No further action has been taken. Another six people who refused to be escorted out were taken to the police station and then released without charge.

Seventeen members of the Northwest Ohio Peace Coalition filed **Rep. Marcy Kaptur's (D-OH)** Toledo office, met with her staff, and vowed to stay until she pledged to vote against funding the war in Iraq. Kaptur refused to make that pledge and the protesters began reading the names of war dead. The cooperative staff tried to explain that Kaptur is on their side about the war, despite voting to fund it. "How can she be on a side when she's sitting on the fence?" asked their attorney. After waiting 15 hours for an answer, Jeff Klein, Trudy Bond, Steven Miller, and Laurence Coleman were arrested for trespass shortly after midnight, and released a few hours later. In municipal court in May, their "no contest" pleas were accepted by a Republican judge who imposed no fine, and assessed court costs for only one of the four.

William Watts, Merrill "Arnie" Carter, Nelson Bock, Sue Gomez, Claire Ryder, John Scott Foreman, and Ra-

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Post Prison Reflection

by Vera Leone

At the annual CITCA Retreat in North Carolina in 2002, SINALTRAINAL union organizer William Mendoza called out for solidarity with the Colombian peoples' struggle for justice, for life, against the state/paramilitary power structure that was so strongly supported by the United States and the School of the Americas. I decided two things that weekend: (1) that I didn't have to have the grand plan for global peace and justice all understood all by myself, and (2) that change definitely won't come if we don't believe it will. If we do believe it will? Anything can happen. That fall, I crossed the line at the School of the Americas.

What I love most about my subsequent prison experience is that it had the exact opposite effect I suppose Judge Mallon Faircloth had intended when he handed down the six-month sentence. Before, I knew little of U.S. state-sponsored terror within the country. I had, of course, spent a few years already learning about the SOA, but I was still naïve enough to believe that the U.S. government was good for its own people.

I learned – or started learning – about the effects of racism within the United States, and another face of the struggle for justice began to take shape for me. The same government that sponsors death squads around the world uses similar means to dismantle communities in our own country. The women I served prison time with were poor women, they were women of color, and they were kind women, mothers and sisters and aunts, in prison because of drug conspiracy laws, by and large. These laws target poor communities, and communities of color, locking up anyone who knows, or lives with, folks involved in the drug trade. For this, families are ripped apart for years, children grow up without their mothers, and the US military receives exercise gear and outerwear (including mittens shaped with a distinct first finger to allow the pulling of a trigger in the cold) from the slave labor the women at FPC Alderson perform in the sewing factory.

I had never been so welcomed and supported by a community. When I first arrived to prison, after being strip searched and photographed and dressed in a set of stylish prison clothes, it was late in the day and I had missed dinner. My fellow SOA Watch activist prison buddy Caitlin Harwood and I shared a meal of ramen noodles (a delicacy we were to enjoy in many, varied, creative meals throughout our stay) – we'd started using the only utensils we had, which were pencils we tried to use as chopsticks, when a woman we hadn't even met yet brought us her own plasticware for us to use. Our Native American sisters had a weekly time to gather together in community and to smudge, and we were invited. As time went on, and as our group of SOA Watch activists celebrated the upcoming release of our compañera Marie, other women joined us in learning and singing a going-home song.

Throughout my incarceration, the privilege I entered with, as a white woman, as one with access to higher education, as a middle-class woman, made me uncomfortable. I had never consciously experienced myself as having more because of my skin color or class of origin, and this was the start of a very important process for me to learn about institutional racism, class privilege, and how the United States leads a political-economic system that depends upon the subjugation of many to support the wealth of a few. But it is this very same privilege that I can use to stand in solidarity with the union struggles in Colombia, and against the oppressive power structure led by the United States and represented by the SOA. It is time for the people of the United States to stand up to our fascist government, in a country founded on racism and genocide, to break its laws when the laws are unjust, and to join our voices with those across the hemisphere and around the world calling for justice and peace.

[Vera Leone (Brown) served a six-month prison sentence at FPC Alderson in 2003 for "criminal re-entry on a military installation" at Fort Benning, during the annual SOA Watch vigil in November, 2002.]

In Memory

We mourn the passing this summer of two good and gentle men - who both were an integral part of the anti-nuclear struggle for many years.

Corbin Harney

We saw Corbin Harney regularly at Nevada Test Site protests over the past 20 years. Always welcoming us, he conducted sunrise ceremonies and led processions of protesters to the cattle-guard, where he reminded us that it was not us/we who were trespassing when we stepped "across the line" or through the fence, but it was the U.S. government that was trespassing on Western Shoshone land.

As spiritual leader of the Western Shoshone, Corbin Harney traveled around the world as a speaker, healer and spiritual leader with a profound spiritual and environmental message for all. He received numerous national and international awards and authored two books: *The Way It Is: One Water, One Air, One Earth* (Blue Dolphin Publishing, 1995) and a forthcoming book, *The Nature Way*. In 1994, Corbin founded the Shundahai Network to work with people and organizations to respond to spiritual and environmental concerns on nuclear issues. He also established Poo Ha Bah, a native healing center located in Tecopa Springs, California. He died of cancer on July 10 at the age of 87.

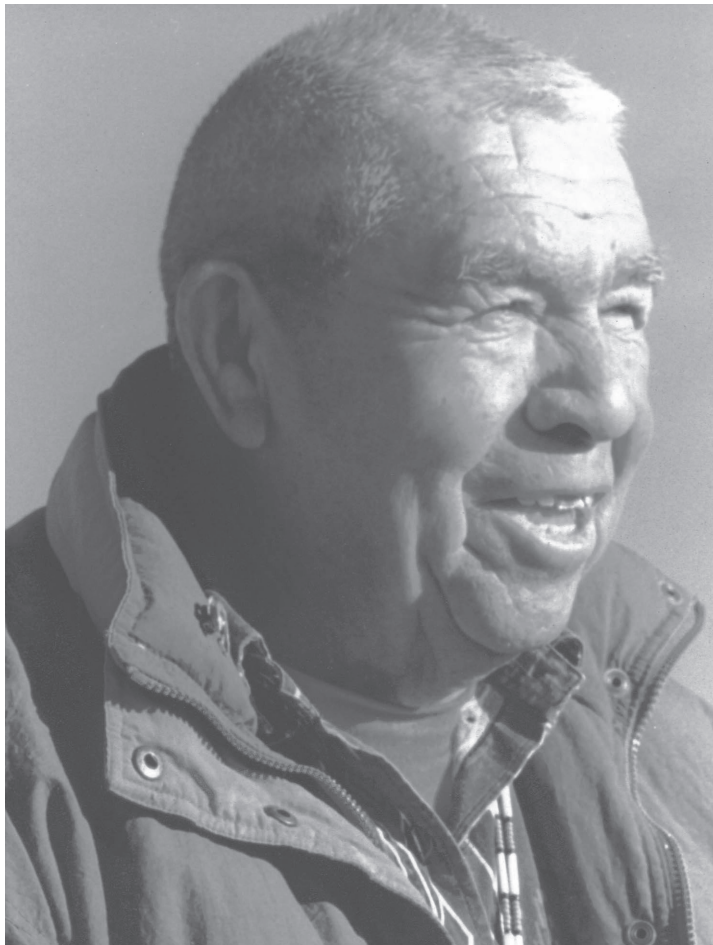


Photo courtesy Gregor Gable/Shundahai Network

Hal Carlstadt

Felice was in Israel with Hal Carlstadt several times as part of the U.S. Campaign to Free Mordechai Vanunu, where they were arrested with others as part of a Citizen's Weapons Inspection at the Dimona nuclear weapons facility, and years later as part of an international delegation to greet Vanunu on the day of his release.

A peace, anti-nuclear and human rights activist for decades in the Bay Area and beyond, and enthusiastic practitioner and advocate of civil disobedience, Hal Carlstadt calculated that he was arrested at protests at least 200 times. A science teacher, beekeeper and winemaker, Hal was a longtime member of the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists and first recipient of the annual Bill O'Donnell Social Justice Award. Friend Susan Crane wrote, "Hal, a friend of felons, a supporter of disarmament actions, curious and interested, full of ideas, always ready to get on with the next exciting action..." He died on June 12 after a long illness at the age of 82.

Where We're At

Thanks for your patience in waiting these extra months for this double issue of the Nuclear Resister. We were well into an issue in July when Jack's bicycle accident and hospitalization threw us off schedule. We are grateful for all the prayers and cards and well wishes you sent for Jack's healing, and are glad to be able to let you know that after 8 weeks with his arm in a cast, followed by regular occupational therapy appointments and daily exercises at home, he is thankfully making a lot of progress. One thing we've learned during these years of activism and publishing the Nuclear Resister is to take good care of ourselves so we can stick with it for the long haul.

Because it's been so long since the February issue, we were not able to fit all of the actions that have occurred since then in this issue. Among them are scores of arrests resulting from demonstrations on the streets of Washington, D.C. and in the halls of Congress, and reports from many international actions and trials. Never before in 27 years of publishing have we observed so many tangential arrests: arrests related to anti-war activity, but entirely unintended, or in the act of upholding Constitutional and human rights affronted during anti-war protest. We will catch up on all of these and more in the next issue. If you know of or were part of an action resulting in arrests, and don't see mention of it in this issue, please email the news to us at nukeresister@igc.org or mail to The Nuclear Resister, PO Box 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733. We would rather receive the information twice than not at all!

Subscriptions are calculated at six issues per year, so subscribers will still receive six issues, albeit over a bit more than a year. Subscription renewals and donations are welcome at any time!

Are there people who you would like to receive a free sample copy of this issue? Please send their names and addresses. We need help getting the word out about all of the anti-war resistance happening. It is inspiring to learn about the many people throughout the world saying no to war, no to torture, no to nukes.

Thanks

We are very grateful for the donations that enabled us to buy a new computer last spring, with special thanks for money raised at a benefit here in Tucson. The benefit featured a talk by Ann Wright, Ret. U.S. Army Colonel and diplomat who resigned her post in March 2003, in protest of Bush administration policies and the coming invasion of Iraq.

Thanks to Paige, Steve, Carter, Lil, Jerry, Lois, Roger, Nancy, Cindy, Cathy, Charlotte, David and Kathleen for helping to mail the last issue.

Jack & Felice Cohen-Joppa, editors

2nd edition

the Nuclear Resister

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YOU CAN HELP!

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

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

THE NUCLEAR RESISTER ON MICROFILM

The Nuclear Resister is available on microfilm as part of the Alternative Press 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 activists are essential to the movement for a peaceful, nuclear-free future.

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

Jack and Felice Cohen-Joppa, Editors

Jail Time for Oak Ridge Nuclear Resisters

Oak Ridge

Trials in August resulted in jail time for five people arrested on two different occasions at the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The first trial, on August 7, involved five people arrested on August 4 at the annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemoration. Mary Ellen Gondeck had been released on her own recognizance, but the other four were jailed until their court appearance. First-timers Gondeck, Bill Hickey and Billie Hickey pled guilty and were fined \$25 and sentenced to 30 days in jail, suspended. Beth Brockman pled guilty and, due to a similar prior conviction, was sentenced to five days in jail. Sr. Mary Dennis Lentsch was convicted in a brief bench trial and sentenced to 20 days in jail due to two prior federal

protest convictions for which she went to prison.

The next day, three people who had been arrested at Y-12 in August, 2006, were convicted in county court of blocking a roadway. Rev. Tom Lumpkin, Rev. Erik Johnson and Sr. Pamela Beziat returned to court on October 5 for sentencing. Because each has a long record of civil disobedience arrests, including at Oak Ridge, they were each sentenced to 30 days in jail. State law provides for release upon completion of 75% of such a sentence, and the three completed their sentences on October 22.

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

Alliant Tech

Forty people gathered at the headquarters of Alliant Techsystems (ATK) in Edina, Minnesota, on August 6 to commemorate not only those who died in the bombings 62 years ago, but also to offer prayers for those who have suffered the effects of depleted uranium poisoning, from bullets and shells produced by ATK. Eight of them, dressed in black and carrying white roses, approached the door, hoping to deliver a message of peace to the executives inside. When stopped, the eight, all training for participation in Christian Peacemaker Teams, knelt in prayer and were arrested for trespass.

The case of the eight has been joined with that of nine dissident ATK shareholders, who were arrested July 31 in Edina after being refused entry to the annual meeting. Trial for all 17 is set for December 10, which is also the date for the arraignment of fourteen more ATK resisters, who were arrested on October 2, the U.N. International Day of Nonviolence in honor of Mohandas Gandhi on his birthday. Two more people arrested at ATK on June 20 have a second court appearance December 5.

For more information, visit www.alliantaction.org

Bangor

The Bangor Trident Submarine Base, just 20 miles from Seattle, has become home to an estimated 2,364 nuclear warheads, or 24% of the U.S. arsenal and the largest single stockpile. As the last active nuclear weapons depot on the West Coast, it was recently rebuilt for deployment of the larger and more accurate Trident D-5 missile system. Each of the 24 D-5 missiles on a Trident submarine is capable of carrying eight of the 455-kiloton W-88 warheads (each warhead possessing 30 times the explosive force of the Hiroshima bomb.)

On the morning of August 6, the 62nd anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing, 60 people were present to demonstrate against nuclear weapons at the base. Peace activists at the main gate to the base held a large banner proclaiming "Hiroshima and Nagasaki - Never Again." Other activists carried posters showing the destruction of Japanese cities caused by the atomic bombs.

For the first time in several years, Navy and support personnel arriving for work were briefly blocked at both base entrances during the demonstration.

Around 6 a.m., five more activists blocked the entrance at NW Trigger Avenue, and were arrested by Kitsap County sheriffs. Shortly after, four others separately walked onto federal property at the Trigger entrance and were arrested by base security.

Meanwhile, two activists separately entered federal property at the main gate on Highway 308, and were arrested by base security. Three more activists then walked

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SOA-Watch Prisoners Serve 1-6 Month Sentences

After their conviction and sentencing in late January for unlawful entry, fourteen people arrested last year at Ft. Benning, Georgia turned themselves in to federal custody during March and April and served sentences of one to six months. As reported in the previous issue of *the Nuclear Resister*, they were among sixteen people arrested last November at the annual vigil and demonstration to close the School of the Americas (aka WHINSEC).

To date, 226 SOA Watch activists have collectively spent over 95 years in prison. Over 50 people have served probation sentences. Their actions have given tremendous momentum to the effort to change oppressive U.S. foreign policy and to close the SOA/WHINSEC.

SOAW Organizer Arrested and Threatened With Deportation

Hendrik Voss, a German national who volunteers for SOA Watch at their office in Washington, D.C., was stopped by Capitol police on March 23 for allegedly putting a "Close the SOA" sticker on a parking meter on Capitol Hill. Several officers of the Intelligence Unit were called to the scene. After Voss retained his right to refuse a search of his belongings, he was arrested and held overnight.

Appearing in court the next morning, Voss was told that the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement had placed a hold, preventing his release.

Compared to thousands of immigration detainees, Voss was lucky that he had an advocacy network outside of prison that alerted the German embassy, and made contact

with immigration lawyers and Congressional offices. No immigration related charges were filed, and an agreement was reached to defer prosecution for six months, and then dismiss after Voss completes 40 hours of community service with an organization other than SOA Watch.

On June 14, Voss returned from a vacation to visit family in Germany and was denied entry into the U.S. and told he held the wrong type of visa for his volunteer service at SOA Watch. After 30 hours in detention, he was escorted by two Homeland Security agents back to Hamburg, Germany, and directed to apply at the embassy in Berlin for a new visa.

Former SOA Prisoner Charged in Spain

Peter Gelderloos, who served six months in prison after crossing the line at Ft. Benning in 2001, was arrested April 23 during a demonstration in Barcelona. While he observed the arrest of a Spanish activist, Gelderloos was detained by police under suspicion of setting off a petardo - a firecracker device used to scatter flyers into the air. Police accused Gelderloos of being a "terrorist" and the two are charged with illegal demonstration and public disorder, the latter carrying a prison sentence of between three and six years because it was allegedly committed with explosives. He was jailed for a few days before being released on bond, and is compelled to remain in Spain and report to police biweekly, pending trial. Supporters are asked to contact the Spanish Embassy in Washington, D.C., (Tel: 202-452-0100; Fax: 202-833-5670; Email: embespus@mail.mae.es) and ask that the charges against Gelderloos be dropped.

Inside & Out

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

NUCLEAR RESISTERS, USA:

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:

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)

Costantino Ragusa (serving sentence on another charge)
Casa Circondariale, Via Prati Nuovi 7, 27058 Voghera (PV), Italy.

Benedetta Galante (serving sentence on



another charge)
Casa Circondariale, Via E. Novelli 1, 82100 Benevento, Italy.
(Eco-anarchists on remand, charged with 9/05 sabotage of nuclear electricity pylons)

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

Louis Vitale (five months - out 3/16/08)
R.A.D.F., Booking #879645, ID#292487, Imperial County Jail, POB 679, El Centro, CA 92244.

Stephen Kelly 00816-111 (five months - out 3/16/08)
CCA, POB 6300, Florence, AZ 85232.
(Trespass and failure to obey an officer during torture policy protest at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona, 11/06)

Rafil Dhafir 11921-052 (22 years - out 4/26/22)
FCI Terre Haute, POB 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808.
(Convictions resulting from providing humanitarian and financial aid to Iraqis in violation of U.S. sanctions, 2/05)

Joseph Donato 40884-050 (27 months - out 1/31/08)
c/o RIOY, POB 801, Mays Landing, NJ 08330.
(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)

VIEQUES

José Pérez González 21519-069 (5 years - out 1/17/08)
Address unavailable at halfway house in Puerto Rico.
(Conspiracy, damage to federal property, &/or probation violation 5/1/03 - celebrating U.S. Navy departure from Vieques, Puerto Rico)

PREVIOUSLY LISTED, RECENTLY RELEASED:
Kevin McKee, Agustin Aguayo, Greg Boertje-Obed, Carl Kabat, Mark Wilkerson, Federico Bonamici (to house arrest), Silvia Guerini (to house arrest)

MILITARY RECRUITING BRINGS CONFLICTS HOME

TUCSON, ARIZONA

Since the winter of 2003, the Army/Marine recruiting center in midtown Tucson, Arizona has been the site of a weekly anti-war picket visible to thousands of morning commuters along Speedway Boulevard.

Aggressive counter-demonstrators, led by the families of two local servicemen killed in Iraq, launched a parallel picket replete with Marine Corps banners, Old Glory, and the occasional Israeli flag. They arrive early to hold territory in front of the small office building. Members of this group - including several men in black t-shirts declaring themselves "INFIDEL" in large white letters - physically intimidate and verbally harass the peace pickets as they arrive.

Attempts at mediation were understandably futile. "We cover their signs up with our flags," one Marine's father told the *Tucson Citizen*. "We don't think people should have to be subjected to their opinions." Police and city council have been minimally responsive.

As Gretchen Nielsen crossed Speedway to take up her post on March 7, a woman from the pro-war crowd came into the street and tried to grab away Nielsen's sign. Nielsen held on and crossed the street safely.

Nielsen went into the recruiting office and asked them to call the police for her own protection. Then she returned to her usual post, and soon the woman followed to harass her. To avoid the bad-mannered pickets and so her simple No War sign could be seen, Nielsen carefully stepped into the bicycle lane. Police saw the infraction and ticketed her for obstruction.

After Nielsen's arraignment, the prosecutor spoke with her as he prepared for trial. She explained the situation and two days later the charge was dismissed.

And the story continues. No police were in sight on June 20 when the same woman and another hounded Nielsen. Pacing back and forth along the sidewalk, Nielsen would bring her sign into view only to have it quickly obstructed. She finally moved sideways, safely into the bike lane. Her stalkers called police and Nielsen was again arrested for obstructing the street.

Nielsen represented herself before a judge on August 13, and was found guilty. The city court judge suspended a \$500 fine and gave Nielsen 12 months unsupervised probation, plus an order not to step onto Speedway while demonstrating there.

STOW, OHIO

Tim Coil, a veteran of the first U.S. war on Iraq, and his wife Yvette, were visiting the Stow Monroe Falls (Ohio) Public Library on March 12. Soon after they arrived, two uniformed military recruiters walked in, entering a study room and settling down to their jobs.

Yvette Coil complained to the librarian, and told her she planned to write comments on index cards and place them along the study room window frame. The librarian said she didn't mind, but after Yvette placed two cards that stated, "There is no honor in fighting for a lying President" and "Don't do it! Recruiters lie!", one of the recruiters angrily removed the cards, confronted the Coils, and took the cards to the library director.

The Coils placed four more cards in the window before the director accosted them, demanding they stop. A discussion ensued about free speech and public property, and concluded with the director asking that no more cards be placed. The couple complied, but 20 minutes later the director returned with the police for more discussion. The Coils were formally asked to leave, which they started to do.

As he exited, Tim Coil called out, "Don't recruit in the library!" and was promptly arrested for disorderly conduct.

Following a bench trial June 5 in Cuyahoga Falls Municipal Court, Coil was convicted and sentenced June 27. He is banned from the library for 2 years, and was fined \$100 plus court costs. Coil is appealing.

For more information, contact Yvette Coil at coilptsd@gmail.com

NEW YORK CITY

Also on March 12, about 100 students with the revitalized Students for a Democratic Society marched from Pace College and the New School in lower Manhattan to the military recruiting center on West Chambers Street. While the students filled a central hallway and rallied outside, the recruiters locked themselves in, effectively shutting down for the day.

Police responded and after about two hours, arrested 20 students for trespass. All were held overnight, and released after arraignment the next day. Some cases were adjourned contemplating dismissal, and others resolved with no jail time.

In September, the War Resisters League recruited about a dozen New York City activist groups to carry out Operation No Recruits, a week-long series of pickets and blockades of the Times Square recruiting station. On Saturday the 8th, pickets arrived before the two recruiters on duty, and three men blocked the door to prevent them from going to work. All three were arrested, charged with disorderly conduct, and released a few hours later. Their cases were later filed for adjournment pending dismissal, and the men had to participate in a 45-minute "quality of life" lecture about not urinating in public, not littering and the like, the more common alleged "crimes" in Times Square. Later in the morning, four women also stood and blocked the doors. They were threatened with arrest, but instead the recruiters soon departed and the station remained closed for the rest of the day.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Scores of demonstrators marked the March 19 Iraq invasion anniversary with a march and evening rally outside a closed Army recruiting station near the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. When a handful, some with masks covering their faces, threw paint and broke windows at the office, police overreacted. They swept through the crowd and rounded up 21 people, seven aged 13-17, and none older than 24. Police videotaped the booking procedure, where shoes, cell phones, cameras and even one person's pants were confiscated. Some were held overnight before being released.

A handful pled no contest or guilty, and in July, the city attorney dismissed the remaining charges, citing a lack of evidence. An organizer for Peace Action Wisconsin was quoted in the Milwaukee press observing that, "We do not use those tactics ourselves, but the movement is very broad, and as this war continues, the anti-war movement is going to take many forms - not all of which everyone feels comfortable with."

AUSTIN, TEXAS

In Austin, the University of Texas' Campus Anti-war Movement to End the Occupation organized "10 Days of Defiance" in April that included an occupation of the Army recruiting station at Dobie Mall on the 24th. When twenty people arrived with signs and slogans, police were already blocking the locked entry and ordered the demonstrators to leave.

Several returned later, without fanfare, and found the door unlocked. Student Spencer Crawl and CodePink member Sylvia Benini continued to engage the recruiters after police returned and again ordered the counter-recruiters to leave the station. Both were arrested for a misdemeanor violation and released in the middle of the night. They were later sentenced to community service. Crawl was also fined \$200 and Benini is barred for one year from within 1000' of the recruiting station.

PORTLAND, OREGON

More rocking-chair sit-ins led to arrests at a Portland Army recruiting station. Some "Seriously Pissed-off Grannies" are at the core of an ad hoc protest group that formed in January, calling itself the Surge Protection Brigade. On March 23, four grannies and one grandpa were arrested after refusing to move their blocking rockers away from both front and back doors. One week later, three grannies and two grandpas were taken into custody



photo by Ed Hedemann

War resisters offer career advice in Times Square.

for the same crime, cited and released. Sentences of 8-16 hours of community service were served following plea agreements.

The following week was Good Friday, April 6. The Brigade returned with no intent to risk arrest, but to bring a sense of grief and mourning to the building. The scene for a silent vigil was set with fake blood poured on the sidewalk and windows, and flowers laid on the sidewalk. Police added to the drama, arresting six mourners for criminal mischief and a graffiti offense. Trial for the six is tentatively set for September 28.

About 40 Brigade bicyclists, mostly seniors and young adults, converged at the Army recruiting center on April 20. The "No Blood for Oil" picket resulted in the arrest of two women and their bikes for blocking the door. The women served eight hours of community service. The tank rolling along in the Portland Rose Parade on June 10 seriously pissed off Bonnie Tinker and Sara Graham. The grannies stepped in front of the tank, with police hot on their heels. They were quickly carried away and handcuffed for the brief trip to the pokey. The women will be arraigned later this summer.

Update: The five Surge Protection Brigadiers arrested January 11 at the federal building negotiated with the federal prosecutor to plead guilty and serve 16 hours community service. The five plus a sixth Brigadier were arrested February 2 at the Portland Army recruiting center, and sentenced in city court to 8 and 16 hours community service.

For more information, contact friendbonnie@gmail.com.

DAYTON, OHIO

Two Antioch University students were charged April 20 with criminal damage, after entering a Dayton, Ohio military recruiting center where they reportedly tore down banners and "tossed brochures."

SALINAS, CALIFORNIA

Police confronted recent college graduate Alberto Tovar in front of the Marine recruiting booth at the Dia de la Familia festival June 24 and demanded that he leave. Tovar argued fruitlessly that he had as much right as the recruiters to express an opinion about military service.

Tovar had just graduated from California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) with a degree in human communications. His last paper was a 30-page study of how military recruiters manipulate poor, nonwhite kids into enlisting.

Attending the community event with his girlfriend's young son, he saw the recruiters giving away trinkets and booklets to a group of boys who looked to be under ten years old. A discussion ensued, and police quickly intervened to silence Tovar at the request of the recruiters. He was charged with disturbing the peace, trespass, and possession of a dangerous weapon - his Goth-style studded leather wristband. A week later a new charge was added, public intoxication, although Tovar had not been drinking and was not tested for intoxication before being released during his eight hours in custody. He's retained an attorney, and a pre-trial conference is scheduled for September 21.

CAPITOLA, CALIFORNIA

Sixteen-year-old Trevor Hofvendahl got a glossy flyer in the mail. "Put your 2,346 hours of video games to good use" read the caption for a photo of four real men in the real cannon crosshairs of a real Army tank. So Trevor and his dad trekked off to the Capitola Army recruiting office on June 26 to ask about the alleged opportunity. They were accompanied by plenty of community supporters who shared their interest.

A chorus of Raging Grannies and others joined father and son in discussion with the recruiters, even serenading them, but to no immediate avail. After an hour of conversation, Trevor's dad David Hofvendahl set the record straight as he appealed to recruiters.

"'Good use'? That's a lie. I'm asking for your help. Search your own heart. Do what you can to stop the killing; you know what is going down. Let's end it."

When they persisted in disrupting recruiting, the Hofvendahls plus seven women and one other man, ages 60-90, were arrested and released later at the police station. All charges were eventually dropped.

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

A federal grand jury in May indicted Spokane, Washington activist Travis Riehl for throwing rocks through the windows of both an Army and an Air National Guard recruiting station on October 16, 2005. Graffiti left at the National Guard office also demanded "Leave Us Alone" and included a circle-A anarchy symbol. Police claim Riehl's fingerprints were identified on a paint can found at the scene. An outspoken advocate for anarchy, Riehl faces two counts of destruction of government property.

His arrest came after investigators identified the camera that took photos of the property damage that were posted on the Spokane Lack of Action Collective's myspace.com page soon after the event. Nearly a score of agents from the Joint Terrorism Task Force raided the home of the parents of a friend of Riehl's, where he was staying temporarily. After typically ransacking the premises, they allegedly uncovered the same model camera. The FBI also was reported to have secretly taped Riehl admitting he had posted the photos on-line. Trial is set to begin in December.

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The most active campaign of the Pittsburgh Organizing Group (POG) has been to confront military recruiting in Pittsburgh. On April 3 about 25 people picketed a newly opened Marine Corps officer recruiting office in Shadyside. After an hour or so, a police officer was heard making degrading comments about women supporting the demonstration. When a protester attempted to photograph him, he became belligerent and violent, physically forcing the photographer away from the protest, then hitting, choking, and arresting two observing protesters.

A peaceful vigil against police violence outside the officer's home was the object of intense surveillance, and later, police reportedly visited the homes where vehicles present at the vigil are registered.

In late April, an activist pled guilty to disorderly conduct for graffiti at a military recruiting station last January 13, and was sentenced to community service.

Their permit had just been cut to only 24 hours, but on September 4, the Pittsburgh Organizing Group kicked off a month-long fast and encampment in front of the armed forces recruiting center near the University of Pittsburgh. While only a handful fasted, many others attended related rallies and teach-ins, or came by regularly to sustain the sidewalk vigil in the face of regular police harassment. Michael Butler, who initiated the fast, was cited for obstruction on September 7 and two subsequent occasions; De'Anna Caligiuri on the 8th, and Patrick Young on the 17th. On September 18, POG filed suit, seeking an injunction against the City of Pittsburgh for violating their rights to free speech and assembly. Before the court heard the matter two days later, police, the city, and POG had reached a compromise to clearly mark areas of the sidewalk that will not be blocked, for the benefit of all users.

POG also reported that one person was arrested in January for allegedly vandalizing a recruiting station door.

For more information, visit organizepittsburgh.org or e-mail pog@mutualaid.org.

SILVERDALE, WASHINGTON

Across the state in Silverdale, near the Trident nuclear submarine base on the Puget Sound, Jason Chavez was arrested just after midnight on July 29. Police responding to a call allege they found Chavez slashing tires on military vehicles parked outside the Army recruiting office. The 19-year-old Bremerton man first ran, then stopped and dropped his knife. After reportedly asking police, "Is this the time where I can confess?" Chavez then launched into a rant about how he "hated the military and the government and the war we are in." A roadside breathalyzer test registered 0.168, about twice the legal driving limit. Chavez was charged with first-degree malicious mischief for slashing 42 tires on 13 vehicles, and jailed in Kitsap County Jail on \$10,000 bail. He was eventually released pending trial October 22. Chavez instead entered a plea agreement in September, admitting guilt and agreeing to pay \$4,200 restitution while the prosecutor will ask for a sentence of 42 days in jail.

"On July 29... I stabbed numerous tires belonging to the U.S. government," Chavez wrote, "... I had been drinking a lot but I knew what I was doing. I was doing so to protest the war in Iraq. I would not choose today the same action, and feel the alcohol contributed greatly to the lack of inhibition." Chavez will be sentenced on December 10.

TACTICAL. ENGAGEMENT

Discussions of tactical diversity and what's nonviolent and what isn't are common. In some communities, a clash of protest cultures and tactics has worked against movement building. The Pittsburgh Organizing Group sought constructive engagement on the issue with this response to the Thomas Merton Center's Anti-War Committee's call for a March 24 anniversary march and rally against the war.

...Members of POG will be marching together and we invite you to join us. We will be carrying anarchist flags and radical messages. We will not, however, be engaging in direct action or confrontation because we respect the spaces that others have organized and the tactics they wish to utilize. Because we recognize that the tactics being used in this Saturday's march are not those that many in POG see as most effective in and of themselves (nor is any tactic effective alone or in a vacuum), we organized a separate action on the day of the anniversary of the war in order to create the space for more confrontational types of tactics. As we say in our statement of solidarity towards other groups:

"We try as much as is possible and practical to respect other groups' rights to do a certain type of protest at certain times and places. If we choose to participate as a group, we try to do so within the tone and tactics they set. If we do not agree with the tone and tactics, we do not, as a group, participate in that protest or bring a differently oriented protest into that time and space without extensive explanation of the reasons why. We ask the same of other individuals and groups who participate in our events."

We have always believed that a diversity of tactics is necessary to build movements capable of challenging the state and institutions of injustice. The concept of diversity of tactics is a two-way street, and it's important to us that we respect other groups' wishes for events even if we disagree with the efficacy of the approach. We continue to believe that simply repeating the same types of permitted events does not have the potential to build our movements or stop this war. That is why we shut down NREC on March 2, and why we held a rowdy march* against the war on its anniversary this past Tuesday. We respect the Anti-War Committee's choice of protest and we will attend in a respectful manner. We look forward to seeing you all this Saturday and at our upcoming events.

For peace with justice, through resistance and struggle, POG.

* That "rowdy march" followed picketing on March 19 at Pittsburgh's main recruiting station, and was described later in the same e-mail:

"After arriving at CMU [Carnegie Mellon University] with chants of 'no killer robots in our town, shut CMU down' the march made its way towards an area of campus related to robotics research. Fifty people walking through CMU's buildings chanting against the war is not a usual sight and the University police seemed to be caught quite off guard by the move. Once inside, some participants graffiti'd antimilitarism messages, threw filing cabinets and bins, and smashed lights and windows. Eventually the group exited and returned to the recruiting station to disperse, with some participants briefly walking in the street. No one was arrested..."

City police reported only one related arrest just before the start of the March 24 rally.

Who Would Jesus Train to Kill?

The fifth annual Midwest Catholic Worker Resistance Retreat took place March 25-26 in South Bend, Indiana, home to Notre Dame. The nation's best-known Catholic university, Notre Dame also proudly hosts a military Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program.

To dramatize the irony, about 20 Catholic Workers staged a reenactment of the trial of St. Marcellus the Centurion on the grand steps of the Main Building. Marcellus was a Roman warrior who converted to Christianity and was then beheaded, after declaring that it is "not right for a Christian man, who serves the Lord Christ, to serve in the armies of the world." A relic at Notre Dame's Basilica is revered as a fragment of the pacifist's bone.

The brief drama was heightened by the walk-on cameo of campus cops. By the time Marcellus was sentenced, police had exited the stage with eight of the players in

custody. A ninth was arrested when he tried to bring one of the coffin props into the building of the University president's office.

The nine were released shortly, after a trespass warning and summons to "appear when notified."

Around campus, other peace banners were hung, and a sign declaring "Blessed are the Peacemakers" was placed on the central campus war memorial. Joe Mueller and George Artiaga were arrested for this act. Mueller was released with a warning and Artiaga spent the night in jail before trespass and disorderly conduct charges were dropped. Two activists caught leafletting were given trespass warnings and escorted from campus.

For more information, contact the South Bend Catholic Worker, POB 4232, South Bend, IN 46634, 574-232-2811.

Oregon Pays Up Over Trooper's Bad Faith Bust

The state of Oregon has paid \$25,000 to have a civil rights suit against a state trooper withdrawn. The money went to plaintiffs David and Suzanne Brownlow, who filed suit after an incident on an interstate highway overpass near Clackamas, Oregon, last December 9. Together with their 12-year-old daughter Sierra, the couple, who also have a son stationed in Iraq, were holding a banner that read "Support Our Troops - Bring Them Home." A state police officer pulled over and told them to leave immediately because they were breaking the law. They resisted, were threatened with arrest, had their banner confiscated, and were ordered to a nearby parking lot where they were detained for 30 minutes while the officer tried to determine what crime had been committed.

The Occupation Project, 2007

continued from page 1

phael Egger were arrested when they refused to leave the Denver office of **Sen. Ken Salazar (D-CO)** at the end of a day-long occupation. One had been told not to display pictures of injured Iraqi children because it disturbed the office staff. They were fined \$40 or community service, or time served for the overnight stay after their arrest.

For four weeks, weekly after-hours sit-ins in the Charlottesville office of **Rep. Virgil Goode (R-VA)** resulted in eleven people being arrested for trespass. On February 21, Jeff Winder, Shell Stern, and Sue Frankel-Streit were the first three cuffed.

Jennifer Connor writes in *Joyful Dissent*: “The eleven persons arrested for sitting in at Rep. Virgil Goode’s C-ville office to oppose the war budget [pled no contest or] were tried and convicted on April 6th, ‘Goode Friday’ in C’ville District Court. Judge Downer initially tried to instruct the defendants that he would “not have politics in this courtroom” but as each of the eleven gave their heartfelt pleas for an end to the bloodshed of Iraq, the testimony for peace wore down and then broke open any pretense that this trial was about trespass or private property. [Even the prosecutor sympathetically prompted the pro-se defendants on how to proceed.]

“‘I am wearing my defense, your honor’ Robert Shaw announced to the court, referring to his homemade ‘God bless the world’ t-shirt. Brian Buckley pled with Judge Downer to consider the true crime at hand, the continued occupation of Iraq, bringing the entire courtroom to pause. The final three defendants introduced their indictment of Virgil Goode into the trial...”

All eleven were nonetheless sentenced to a 30-day jail sentence, suspended on condition of two years good behavior and fifteen hours of community service.

The Defund the War campaign continued with the arrest of Dot Lukin and Kathleen Bushman in **Sen. Gordon Smith’s (R-OR)** Portland office. Even Smith’s aides would not hear them out, and they refused to leave when a meeting with the Senator could not be promised. The women were held five hours, and later sentenced to community service.

Maine **Rep. Tom Allen (D-ME)** is also under constituent pressure to oppose any war funding. As Congress began considering the issue, thirteen sat-in at his Portland, Maine office, seeking such a commitment. Staff tried to be accommodating, but complained that confidentiality for other constituents calling in was being jeopardized. When the 13 insisted on remaining in the office long after closing time, they were arrested for criminal threatening. Forty dollars bail was posted by Susan Anderson, Stephen Carroll, Kathe Chipman, Christine DeTroy, Mair Honan, Karen Wainberg, Natacha Mayers, Whonda Wilson, and Dexter Kamilewicz, who ran against Allen as an anti-war independent in 2006. Bruce Gagnon, Mary Beth Sullivan, Carolyn Coe and Mary Donnelly refused to post bail and were jailed two days before pleading not guilty. All charges were later dismissed at Allen’s request.

February 22

Veteran for Peace Tom Palumbo was simply trying to deliver anti-war petitions to the Virginia Beach office of **Rep. Thelma Drake (R-VA)**, but when he arrived with a small crowd of supporters, staff locked the door and called the landlord. Palumbo sat waiting at the door when the landlord arrived and told him to leave. When the peaceful messenger didn’t depart, police were called to arrest him. Police reported that staff were frightened by the protesters’ “demeanor, their vocalizations.” When Palumbo came to court a month later, the landlord failed to show and the charge was dropped. Even the *Norfolk Virginian-Pilot* editorially castigated police, the landlord, the Congresswoman and her staff, reminding them that “democracy is a messy thing,” and that “unpleasant demeanors and vocalizations” are “just one part of that pageant.”

February 26

Susanna Gilk, Roberta Thurstin and Don Timmerman were arrested for disorderly conduct when they remained in **Rep. David Obey’s (D-WI)** Wausau office, respectfully reading the names of war dead while waiting for his commitment to defund the war in Iraq. They were cited and released a few hours later. Gilk accepted community service; Thurstin and Timmerman have had their trial postponed three times and are awaiting a new date.

Sen. Chuck Grassley’s (R-IA) Des Moines and Cedar Rapids offices were occupied on the same day, and the occupiers probably would have left if the Senator had reversed himself. But since this was unlikely, Frank Cordaro, sitting in at the Cedar Rapids office, acknowledged “we are really here to stop business as usual in the Senator’s office.”

In Des Moines, seven people were removed and arrested before Grassley’s office closed for the day. The originally faced both state and federal charges, but a week

before their appearance date, the magistrate granted dismissal “in the best interest of the public.” In July, a Polk County jury heard five of the activists argue that they had a First Amendment right to have their grievance heard by the Senator, and were justified to stay put until the Senator and his staff would hear them. After a three day trial, the six jurors agreed, and acquitted Elton Davis, Chester Guinn, Kathleen McQuillen, Brian Terrell, and Dixie Webb. Defendants Ed Bloomer and Christine Gaunt had previously pled guilty and were fined.

In Cedar Rapids, the group wanted the Senator to at least call and discuss war funding with them. He never did, and 11 people were arrested at closing time, cited for trespass, and held overnight in the Linn County Jail. At their April bench trial, defendant Joshua Casteel testified that he truly believed Grassley would meet with the group, based on his own long association with the Senator. Grassley was Casteel’s sponsor for appointment to the U.S. military academy at West Point, and Casteel then told the court of his own experience as an interrogator at Abu Ghraib, and the trauma of seeing torture inflicted during interrogations. He thought Grassley would want to know. Three weeks after the trial, the judge ruled that the “completely speculative nature of the outcome” of the action was insufficient justification for the crime of trespass. At sentencing on July 6, Frank Cordaro, Joshua Casteel, John Paul Hornbeck, David Goodner, Timothy Gauger, Megan Felt, Conor Murphy, Ryan Merz, Justin Riley, Rosemary Persaud, and Andrew Alemao were fined the minimum \$65 plus \$125 “mandatory law enforcement surcharge.”

After the sentencing, both Senator Grassley’s and Harkin’s offices were again occupied - see July 6, following.

February 27

The series of sit-ins at the St. Louis office of **Rep. Russ Carnahan (D-MO)** continued with the arrest of Veterans for Peace Jim Allen and Michael McPhearson, the group’s executive director.

About 20 people joined a sit-in and read the names of war dead for three hours in the Capitol Hill office of **Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)**. Pete Perry, Jean Athey, Kristin Sundell and Steve Lane refused to leave at closing time, and were charged with unlawful entry. Perry pled no contest and was sentenced to six months supervised probation including urine tests, 40 hours community service and a \$50 fine. The other three pled guilty to a sentence of three months unsupervised probation and a \$50 fine.

February 28

Jennifer Connor, Mary Grace and Priscilla Sonne were arrested at the office of **Rep. Virgil Goode**, see February 21.

After calling on Rep. Kaptur the week before, members of the Northwest Ohio Peace Coalition went to the Ohio Building in Toledo, where the office of **Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH)** is located. The Senator would not sign the pledge, so a protest sit-in was held in the lobby. Chester Chambers, Marilyn Bernstein and Anne Abowd stayed put in front of an elevator until police arrested them for trespass and disorderly conduct. They later pled no contest and were given a suspended sentence (\$250 fine and 15 days in jail) plus court costs.

March 2

Valerie Kelley and Tom Hastings were stopped before they passed through the second doors into the lobby of the privately owned Portland World Trade Center, where **Sen. Gordon Smith’s** office is. Security guards saw Hastings coming, and wouldn’t even let him enter the building, nor Kelley, “since you’re associating yourself with Tom and this gathering today.” Both were repeatedly asked to leave, then arrested for trespass and held for six hours before being released. They were later sentenced to community service.

March 5

Four people were arrested when they stayed past closing time in the Wausau office of **Rep. David Obey**, still reading the names of war dead. They began the grim litany two hours earlier, after meeting with an aide to Obey. Joy First, Erin Cox, Ron Durham and Jeff Leys were charged with disorderly conduct and released later that night. First paid a \$5 fine plus about \$95 court costs, while the others await a trial date.

Several Grinnell College students and college library assistant Chris Gaunt took an anti-war petition with 350 Grinnellians’ signatures to **Sen. Chuck Grassley’s** Des Moines office. After presenting the petition, Gaunt, Brian Perbix (‘09) and Lindsay Ayling (‘10) began reading the names of war dead. They were asked to leave but continued the litany instead, until police arrived to arrest them for trespass and disrupting government employees, and lock them up overnight. The three pled guilty to both charges and were fined.

Rep. Mark Udall (D-CO) responded to the Occupation Project by decreeing that ten minutes each was sufficient time for war opponents to make their grievance known at his Westminster office. Ellen Stark, Sue Mitrovic, Janet Roberts and Jourdan Hill went together and stayed, demanding that Udall back his anti-war rhetoric with a pledge not to fund the Iraq war, and work to prevent an attack on Iran. They were asked to leave after ten minutes, and when they did not, were arrested for trespass. Stark and Hill spent the night in jail, and at arraignment the next day were told they would not be released on their own recognizance. Tired and hungry from a sleepless night, and misinformed by the prosecutor about the consequences, the two initially pled guilty in an agreement to serve 30 and 18 days in jail, respectively, based on their prior records. A motion to withdraw the guilty plea is now under consideration. Mitrovic accepted an offer of 18 hours community service. Roberts was first offered an agreement to serve 30 days in jail in return for her plea, and at a later hearing she accepted one year unsupervised probation and a \$100 fine. Udall’s office was asked to request that the judge not impose jail sentences, but it stonewalled, claiming to do so would be unethical. With approval from the House Ethics Committee, Udall’s D.C. office finally issued such a letter in Roberts’ case, but the new plea offer made the issue moot.

Pam Garrison and Rich Klopfer were arrested at the Eugene office of **Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR)**. They agreed to one year deferred adjudication and 20 hours community service.

March 7

Bobby Shaw, Pat Lloyd, Brian Buckley were arrested at the office of **Rep. Virgil Goode**, see February 21.

Five arrests were reported at the Northbrook office of **Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL)**.

After first visiting **Rep. Mike Michaud’s (D-ME)** Portland office to thank him for his previous votes against war funding and encourage more of the same, some three dozen people - the Penobscot Occupation Project - rallied outside the federal building office of **Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)**. Then they went inside, occupying the office until shortly after 5 p.m., when police arrested 12 who refused to leave: Maureen Block, Henry Braun, Diane Fitzgerald, Jim Freeman, Dud Hendrick, Nancy Hill, Jon Kreps, Doug Rawlings, Judy Robbins, Peter Robbins, Rob Shetterly and Pat Wheeler. Six pled no contest and paid a fine, and six await trial, possibly in January.

March 8

Following the arrests on March 5, five more people - David Krest, Duke Austin, Eric Bonds, Rob Ketterhagen, and Carolyn Bninski - were also arrested soon after stating they would occupy **Rep. Mark Udall’s** office until he agreed to their demand to back his anti-war rhetoric with a pledge not to fund it. They were charged with trespassing and unlawful assembly and released on bond. Bninski, the only member of the group with prior protest convictions, refused an offer of 60 days in jail in return for her plea. She was convicted on July 27, and sentenced to 365 days in jail and a \$1000 fine, with 330 days and \$500 suspended. On August 10 she began serving a 35-day sentence, including work release to continue her job as coordinator of the Rocky Mountain Center for Peace and Justice in Boulder. Three others agreed to give 18 hours community service.

March 9

Two arrests were reported in the Chicago office of **Rep. Rahm Emanuel (D-IL)**.

March 11

Alexa Barnett and Terry Lilley were arrested at the office of **Rep. Virgil Goode (R-VA)**, see February 21.

After meeting with an aide to **Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY)**, sixteen Albany area activists began a peaceful sit-in, reading the names of war dead. Four who did not depart her capital city office at closing time were arrested, but when they got to court, the federal prosecutor was granted his motion to dismiss charges against Pete Looker, Linda Letendre, Elliot Adams and Jeffrey Halpern.

Peg Morton and Trudy Malony were arrested sitting in for peace at the Eugene office of **Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR)**. Both agreed to one year deferred adjudication and 20 hours community service.

March 13

John Heid, Bonnie Urfer and 2006 Green Party challenger Mike Miles were jailed overnight after refusing to leave the Superior office of **Rep. David Obey** until he agreed to vote against funding the Iraq war. “I’m the author of the bill. Of course I’m going to vote for it,”

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PORT BLOCKADES PROLIFERATE

PORT OF OLYMPIA

Last year, the shipment of Stryker armored vehicles and other supplies for infantry deployed to Iraq from Fort Lewis, Washington, led to days of protest and dozens of arrests at the Port of Olympia (see update on recent mistrial in this case, below). Olympia Port Militarization Resistance (PMR) vowed to repeat their mobilization when the next battalion shipped. In response, the army moved operations for the latest deployment to the nearby Port of Tacoma. The resistance followed.

Convoys were observed headed from Fort Lewis to Tacoma every night during the first week of March. Impromptu rallies in opposition were held day and night at locations around the city. At the Port, police threatened to arrest anyone crossing the fog line as demonstrators gathered along the road near the gate. When each convoy would arrive, a squad of police equipped for a riot came storming out of the gate while more than 200 stood on alert just inside, sometimes outnumbering protesters.

Sunday night, March 4, police assaulted and arrested three people, claiming they had pushed through the police line or struck officers. Veteran Wally Cuddeford was tasered three times while police sat on him and demanded he show his hands, which were pinned beneath his body. An hour later, Jeff Berryhill was shot at point-blank range with a rubber bullet. Along with organizer Caitlin Esworthy, they were charged with assaulting police. Supporters posted \$3,000 in bonds, and the charges were later dismissed in the face of video recording of an unprovoked police attack. The next night, copwatching videographer Karen Weil was arrested for crossing the fog line.

On March 6, a videographer was confronted by police, who first threatened to break his camera, then handcuffed him when he refused to turn off his camera. He was released without charges. That evening in the Tacoma City Council chambers, Wally Cuddeford rose during public comment time to condemn police actions, only to be handcuffed and dragged out when he continued to speak past the time limit. He goes on trial January 23.

Police on Wednesday ordered that no backpacks would be allowed near the police line. PMR organizer Tom McCarthy was arrested on March 9 when he challenged the no backpack rule. His pack full of food and medical supplies was confiscated. That night, soldiers began loading Stryker vehicles onto the USNS Soderman, working in view of the growing protest crowd. When some in the crowd began to shake a chain link fence, police inside the base responded with a volley of rubber bullets and pepper spray.

Two hundred demonstrators then marched around the Port towards another entrance, where some crossed a police line and sat in the street, chanting "Give Peace a Chance". Dozens of police responded with a vague order to disperse, then quickly escalated force, swinging clubs, shooting rubber bullets and firing tear gas canisters at scattering activists. Two people were arrested, one for obstruction and another for assault. The next night, on March 10, a woman was arrested as she drove through Port of Tacoma property and refused to consent to a vehicle search without a warrant.

On Sunday, March 11, a daytime blockade took place at the Tacoma intersection closest to the supply ship, involving coordination with police. Eight protesters were arrested as they brought backpacks into the area. One carried the U.S. Constitution, others held first aid supplies and food, and another religious items. An additional 15 people, including Olympia City Councilman T.J. Johnson, climbed over police barriers. Charges of failure to obey against 12 of the 15 were later dropped, but continue against the other three and the eight backpackers.

About 100 people protested on Monday night, March 12. A march and rally near police lines proceeded without incident. The crowd dispersed, then reassembled for

a second rally where the march had begun. About 20 minutes later, police again surrounded the group, began firing tear gas and started herding demonstrators down the street. Five people were overtaken by police and arrested for obstruction, but these charges were also later dropped.

On July 18, a Tacoma judge dismissed thirteen cases resulting from the March arrests because the statute under which defendants were charged applies only to vehicles, not pedestrians. The prosecutor is appealing the dismissal.

Ten cases remain, some have trial dates. Peter Ryan, Sky Ogawa Cohen, Jesus Lopez, Jesse Schultz III, and Fiona Thompson were all charged with failure to disperse and are joined for trial on February 11. Esworthy, Berryhill, and Cuddeford have a joined trial starting January 14, for resisting arrest. Berryhill and Cuddeford are also charged with assaulting police.



A November 9 shipment of Stryker assault vehicles bound for Iraq is blocked by war opponents at the Port of Olympia, Washington.

photo by Rob Whitlock

MISTRIAL IN OLYMPIA

Back in Olympia, trial began March 26 for the remaining 15 PMR defendants arrested in May, 2006. Three days later, the case collapsed in a mistrial, with the jury leaning seven to one for acquittal.

Mere minutes into her opening statement, the lead prosecutor violated a pretrial agreement about what could be said, prejudicing the defendants. Two days later she suffered an emotional breakdown and had to leave the case to an assistant after presenting unreliable witnesses and taking yet more actions prejudicial to the defendants.

Their case in shambles, the prosecution then revealed that police surveillance of the activists included not only monitoring their e-mail, but also a detective or an informant who exploited a software configuration error and joined the defendants' e-mail list. Confidential attorney-client discussion from the list about prospective jurors was then leaked to the prosecution, who used evidence of the leak to maneuver for a mistrial.

After a string of new pretrial hearings, the judge finally dismissed the case entirely on the eve of a June 13 deadline for a speedy retrial. He blamed prosecutors' "gross negligence" for repeatedly failing to share evidence required by the defense under discovery.

War equipment was on the move through Olympia again during the first week of November, and hundreds of people mobilized for nonviolent direct action to stop it. Police repeatedly forced people out of the roadway on Wednesday, November 7, late into the night, letting loose with batons and pepperspray at times. Only two people were arrested. The Olympian newspaper reported that "Protesters halted shipments of some military equipment from the Port of Olympia to Fort Lewis on Friday, the result of the Olympia Police Department's lack of available manpower to move the 40 or so people who blocked the path of two trucks..." Over the weekend, pepperspray mist competed with coastal fog as resistance moved into downtown Olympia. On November 10, two streets were blocked to keep truck transports from reaching the I-5 freeway. PVC-arm locks reinforced one blockade, and police used electric saws to cut the tubes and locks. At least 12 people were arrested and released at the jail the same afternoon, but police said no citations were issued.

PORT HADLOCK

On April 21, the arrival of the USS Ohio to the Naval Magazine Indian Island (NMII), at Port Hadlock, Washington, was met with a quickly arranged protest. The nuclear-powered, now conventionally armed submarine arrived with little advance public notice. It's the first this year to visit Indian Island, which recently added nuclear submarine maintenance to its mission.

Sixteen people rallied near the gate, and then moved in front of the gate. One man poured the blood-colored contents of a jar of organic marinara sauce in the shape of a dollar sign on the pavement. Police soon arrived to order the group out of the road, but Liz Rivera Goldstein and Bethel Alice Prescott stayed put. The women were arrested for disorderly conduct. Prescott posted bail, and Goldstein was jailed until her arraignment two days later. She was released on condition she not return near the shipyard nor contact Prescott.

In court on June 6, the prosecutor moved to reduce the charge. The women objected, preferring to face a jury as warranted by the original charge. Goldstein's restrictions were lifted, and the women now face trial sometime in the spring. The judge has agreed to hear their defense of necessity at trial before ruling on whether to let the jury consider it.

On May 29, the same court had dismissed all charges remaining against 37 people arrested during a September, 2006 PMR blockade at NMII. Since downgrading the charges to infractions in February and complaining of the cost of prosecution, the county attorney had stopped participating in the case, forcing the dismissal. Apparently, the office can afford to continue prosecuting only Goldstein and Prescott.

PORT OF GRAYS HARBOR

The Army moved operations again in May, this time to the Port of Grays Harbor, near Aberdeen, Washington. There were no arrests reported among the 80 or so people who marched through town, but police stopped a car headed for Aberdeen because they believed it contained protesters, and then arrested the driver, activist Phil Chinn, for DUI although he passed sobriety tests. The charge was dismissed in July.

For more information on Port Militarization Resistance, visit omjp.org/Port2007 and olywip.org.

The Occupation Project, cont.

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the exasperated Democrat told the three over the phone from Washington. In video court, Urfer pled no contest and was fined \$185.50, which she refused to pay. Heid pleaded not guilty, and Miles pleaded to "Put an end to war before war puts an end to us." This was accepted as "not guilty" by the judge. Both men were convicted in a bench trial and also fined \$185.50, which they refused to pay.

Rob Mulford was trying to get to Rep. Don Young's (R-AK) office but was arrested for trespass just inside the Fairbanks federal building. On September 5, the second day of this trial, the prosecution successfully moved to dismiss because they mistakenly thought they were prosecuting the case of Mulford's February 20 arrest at Sen. Ted Stevens' office, which was set for trial the following week, September 11. That case, which was weaker from the start, was then vacated (see February 20).

Robert Braam brought the Occupation Project to Rep. Jerry Weller's (R-IL) Joliet office, and was arrested for trespass. \$100 bond was posted but then returned when he came to court to find no complaint had been filed.

March 15

Seven people arrested during a dual action at the downtown Chicago offices of Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) (three at the former, four at the latter) were convicted June 11 on a federal charge of failure to obey, but the judge declined to impose any sentence.

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NO TO TORTURE

German prosecutors have indicted 13 people for their part in the “extraordinary rendition” and subsequent torture of a German citizen by U.S. agents and contractors. Three of the indictments are for pilots employed by Aero Contractors, a Smithfield, North Carolina company already notorious for its clandestine role in the global lawlessness of state-sponsored kidnappings.

At the behest of North Carolina Stop Torture Now and others, the state Attorney General asked the FBI to investigate the alleged crimes. But with no FBI action likely, on April 9 the human rights group led about 40 people on a march to Aero’s headquarters at a local airport. Nine people were arrested for trespass when they carried citizen’s arrest warrants onto company property, calling on the indicted pilots to surrender to the FBI.

Among those taken into custody were Patrick O’Neill and his 12-year-old daughter Moira. O’Neill was hit with an additional charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. After Moira met with a juvenile court counselor and answered his questions about “extraordinary rendition” and her reasons for joining the protest, he closed her case and her father’s additional charge was dropped. The trespass charge against 16-year-old Ellen Biesack was also dropped.

Before a packed courtroom a month later, Johnston County District Court Judge O. Henry Willis heard testimony about Aero’s involvement in the international kidnappings and subsequent torture of the captive suspects. Three of the seven remaining defendants were found guilty. A sheriff’s deputy could not identify the other four, whose charges were dismissed. Barbara Zelter was given a suspended sentence of one day in jail. Steve Woolford and Francis Coyle were each fined \$50 and given 14-day suspended sentences. An appeal is pending, which will bring their case before a jury.

D.C. ARRESTS

In Washington, D.C., federal charges were dismissed for 89 anti-torture activists arrested January 11 in the atrium of the U.S. District Courthouse. Dressed in orange jump suits and black hoods, most of those arrested carried

no identification, and had given their names as those of Guantanamo prisoners. Court officials were surprised when more than half of the Jane and John Doe defendants appeared at the same building on the morning of April 18 for their assigned trial date.

The government was unprepared for trial, and while the court considered the matter, most of the defendants left the court to march through the imperial city and call for the closure of the detention center at Guantanamo Bay. Once outside, they donned the jump suits and black hoods for a march to the Rayburn House Office Building, the Supreme Court, the Department of Justice and finally the White House. Along the way, they learned from defendants who waited behind that the court had dismissed the charges.

At each site, the advocates demanded justice and due process for the detainees. At the White House, to emphasize the dire conditions faced by the detainees, fourteen of

the demonstrators locked themselves to the White House fence on Pennsylvania Avenue. One told police, “We are connected to the White House, to the prisoners of Guantanamo.”

A large number of tourists and students on spring break trips witnessed the demonstration. Coincidentally, Code Pink women came to the White House to chant anti-war slogans as the President had a high-profile meeting with congressional leaders about funding the war in Iraq. After about an hour, the U.S. Park Police brought out bolt cutters to sever the locks and took the resisters into custody. They were released later from the Park Police Jail in Anacostia.

In court July 18, Peter DeMott, Steve Baggarly, Bill Pickard, Nancy Gowen, Mike Walli, Tom Lewis, Mike Foley, Bill Streit, Tom Feagley, Emmett Jarrett, Susan Crane, Lindsay Hagerman and Eve Tetaz were each found guilty of making a “stationary demonstration in a restricted zone” and sentenced to time served plus a mandatory \$25 fee.

In June, the demand for an end to state-sanctioned torture returned to the White House in the form of the 10th annual anniversary fast and vigil in observance of the United Nations’ International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (June 26). The annual vigil is sponsored by the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition, as part of Torture Awareness Month. This year, a series of related events were sponsored by many human rights and civil liberties organizations, all demanding repeal of the Military Commissions Act of 2006, which suspends habeas corpus and endorses torturous interrogation techniques for selected prisoners of the so-called “war on terror.”

A high point of the vigil was the arrest on Saturday, June 23, of 16 people who stood in silent protest in front of the White House. They were charged with failure to obey a lawful order and released a few hours later.

Most of those arrested forfeited bond. One woman did two days community service, and Susan Crane, who pled not guilty, was in court for trial November 1. The prosecution asked for a postponement, but Crane told the judge why she was there, protesting war and torture, and asked for the charges to be dismissed. The judge agreed.

For more information, visit tassc.org.



Ft. Huachuca, cont.

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outside and helping people. Also, Simone recommended that Vitale be barred from associating with organizations that practice civil disobedience, specifically mentioning the Nevada Desert Experience (NDE) and School of the Americas Watch.

Vitale responded that Simone had trivialized his concerns and the concerns of those supporters who filled the courtroom behind him. He noted that NDE, an organization he co-founded in the late 1970s, is recognized to have played a significant role in the movement to stop nuclear weapons testing. Vitale spoke of having met Archbishop Romero before he was assassinated in El Salvador, and of visiting the site where six Salvadoran Jesuits, their housekeeper and her daughter were brutally murdered by soldiers trained at the School of the Americas (SOA). It is on the anniversary of those murders that thousands gather each year at Fort Benning, Georgia, to protest the SOA, and now also at Fort Huachuca to protest the use of torture in military interrogations.

“To say I cannot associate with my NDE and SOA Watch colleagues - it’s like saying I couldn’t associate with Paul and the other apostles.”

Bill Quigley, attorney for the priests, told of their recent meeting with retired General Anthony Taguba, author of one of the many official reports condemning the involvement of military personnel in the torture of Iraqi prisoners. Quigley had submitted the report as evidence at an August 13 pretrial hearing. He also said that General Taguba had telephoned Vitale the night before, and told the priests that regardless of the outcome in court, history will honor their actions.

In addressing the court regarding sentencing, Quigley urged Estrada to send a message to our children and grandchildren, and set a standard, by giving his clients time served for the 2 hours they spent in custody following their arrest. Quigley stated, “The real crime here has always been torture.”

Magistrate Estrada trivialized the psychological impact of imprisonment and prepared himself to mete out the punishment with the flippant remark, “You could do the time standing on your heads.” He sentenced both men to three months in prison for trespass, and two months for failure to obey, to be served consecutively. The priests were taken into custody immediately after sentencing. After two weeks together at a privately owned prison in Florence, Arizona, Vitale was moved to the Imperial County Jail in El Centro, California.

For more information, including updates during Kelly and Vitale’s imprisonment, visit www.tortureontrial.org



Letters of support should be sent to Louis Vitale, R.A.D.F., Booking #879645, ID#292487, Imperial County Jail, POB 679, El Centro, CA 92244 and to Stephen Kelly, 00816-111, CCA, POB 6300, Florence, AZ 85232. Letters returned by either prison can be sent c/o the Nuclear Resister, POB 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733 for forwarding.

Statement by Fr. Steve Kelly and Fr. Louie Vitale before court, October 17, 2007

The real crime here has always been the teaching of torture at Fort Huachuca and the practice of torture around the world. We sought to deliver a letter asking that the teaching of torture be stopped and were arrested. We tried to put the evidence of torture on full and honest display in the courthouse and were denied. We were prepared to put on evidence about the widespread use of torture and human rights abuses committed during interrogations at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo in Iraq and Afghanistan. This evidence was gathered by the military itself and by governmental and human rights investigations. Because the court will not allow the truth of torture to be a part of our trial, we plead no contest. We are uninterested in a court hearing limited to who was walking where and how many steps it was to the gate. History will judge whether silencing the facts of torture is just or not. Far too many people have died because of our national silence about torture. Far too many of our young people in the military have been permanently damaged after following orders to torture and violate the human rights of other humans. We will keep trying to stop the teaching and practice of torture whether we are sent to jail or not. We have done our part. Now it is up to every woman and man of conscience to do their part to stop the injustice of torture.

The Occupation Project, cont.

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March 15

Repeat occupiers Dianne Lee, Marty King, and J'Ann Allen were arrested inside the Brentwood office of **Rep. Russ Carnahan**. Bill Ramsey, in the building lobby providing support for the women, was told to leave and then arrested for loitering as he made his way out the door. Most of at least 22 people charged with trespass or other misdemeanors during this and earlier occupations of the Missouri congressman's office accepted plea bargains that included a \$125 fine and community service. Ramsey was convicted of loitering in a bench trial, but his sentence was suspended. Eight who are seeking a jury trial have just been offered a sweeter plea agreement, with no fine.

March 16

Peter Bergel, Bob Projansky and Michael Glaze were stopped at the door of the World Trade Center in Portland, just as two other constituents of **Sen. Gordon Smith** were on March 2. They also refused to leave and were arrested for trespass.

On trial in June, Bergel fumed, "It's outrageous that a security guard refused us permission to visit our senator's office. It was an unlawful order to leave and that's why we didn't obey it." The Oregon Constitution (article 26) guarantees that "instructing their Representatives" is a protected right. "That's exactly what we intended to do," Projansky said. "Senator Smith needs a lot of instructing." At issue is whether a citizen's Constitutional right trumps a property owner's property right, or the other way around. Five months later, the judge hasn't decided.

Judith Pedersen-Benn stayed put when it came time to close the office of **Rep. David Loeb sack (D-IA)**, the man she voted for to help end the war. He still had not promised to sign the Declaration of Peace, so she was willing to wait, and was subsequently arrested. "I've been protesting for four years," she told the Cedar Rapids Gazette. "This is really a matter of principle. If you're really going to end the war, you can't compromise it, and you certainly can't surge more troops in." Pedersen-Benn pled guilty and was fined \$288 including court costs.

The No War 12 occupied the Rochester offices of New York **Senators Hillary Clinton (D-NY)** and **Charles Schumer (D-NY)** all afternoon. Mary Lou Lovette was ticketed about 5 p.m. when she left Clinton's office for the lavatory, and Tom Malthaner and Trish were ticketed about the same time when Schumer's office was closed. At 7 p.m., police persuaded the handful remaining in Clinton's office to leave by promising to tear up the earlier tickets.

March 19

Five arrests were reported during a Christian Peace-maker Team action at the Chicago office of **Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)**.

Three arrests were reported during a Christian Peace-maker Team action at the Chicago office of **Rep. Rahm Emanuel (D-IL)**.

Seven people spent an hour with the LaCrosse staff of **Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI)**, seeking in vain the congressman's commitment to vote against funding the war. Dave Wennlund, KattiJo Fetting, Gail Vaughn, Anita Zibton, Matt Sawyer, Xong Xiong and Christy Hope were arrested after telling police that short of Kind's promise, only a citation would compel them to leave. They want to bring Kind into court over his failure to follow the voters' mandate to end the war. A trial is expected early next year.

Traprock Peace Center director Sunny Miller met with **Rep. John Olver (D-MA)** in his Washington, D.C. office to urge his vote against war funding. After the meeting, Miller continued to sit in and was arrested. The government later dismissed the charge, after Olver voted against the funding bill and wrote a letter saying Miller was welcome in his office.

March 20

The Rural Organizing Project and Code Pink led an eight month campaign to set a meeting with war critics on **Rep. Greg Walden's (R-OR)** agenda, even organizing a set of town halls during the February congressional recess. Walden was a no show, but a resolution calling on Congress to cut off war funds was produced, and seven women, representing local human dignity groups from central Oregon, brought it with them to his office in Bend. They were prepared to wait for a meeting, but instead were arrested at 10 p.m. They were released two hours later on the condition that they not return to Walden's office for one year, or face prosecution. Two weeks later, a sit-in at Walden's Medford office got a more experienced response - a teleconference with the solon from Washington.

March 21

Six men, ages 27 to 87, were arrested in the Burlington office of **Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT)**, after the congressman failed to persuade them that his possible vote to fund the war could be a vote against it. The five hour sit-in ended with trespass citations against Patrick Kearney, Michael Colby, Boots Wardinski, Bob Nichols, Palmer Legare and Will Allen, but a Welch spokesman said later the congressman would rather the charges be dropped, which they were.

March 22

For 52 consecutive days, **Rep. Doris Matsui's (D-CA)** constituents sustained a 9-5 "peace-in" occupation of the Sacramento office of another confused Democrat, trying to influence the Congresswoman's war funding vote. With a vote imminent, vigilers filled her office for the entire day, reading aloud the names of war dead. At closing time, seven people were arrested when they failed to depart. With the arrests, the longest running anti-war sit-in also came to a close. The arrests were not prosecuted.

As the House began debate on the \$100 billion Iraq war appropriations bill, CODEPINK occupied the office of **Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)**, holding banners encouraging "Pelosi, Be a Leader for Peace" and "Don't Buy Bush's War". Another banner depicted "Pin the War on the Donkey" with multiple tails reading "War" "Torture" "War Profiteering" and more. Photos of Iraq war dead were also held aloft before police cleared the office and arrested Eve Tetaz, Desiree Fairouz, Janine Bonaparte and David Barrows, who refused to leave.

March 23

While about two dozen people demonstrated outside, five others entered the Staten Island office of **Rep. Vito Fossella (R-NY)** to demand a meeting about the Iraq war, and then began reading aloud the names of war dead. Three hours later, Elaine Brower, Tom Good, Sally Jones, Ben Maurer and Barbara Walker refused to stop and leave, so they were arrested for disorderly conduct and criminal trespass. The charges were dismissed later because Fossella did not want to be the complainant.

March 26

Northern California peace activists held a die-in at **Rep. Mike Thompson's (D-CA)** Eureka office for ten consecutive weeks. Thompson had previously voted against supplemental spending bills for the Iraq war, but had just voted for the latest \$100 billion, prompting a die-in and overnight occupation. Paul Encimer and Robin Donald were arrested in the morning, but their case was tagged for "informal diversion" and then vanished from the court records.

March 27

Eight people, including a nursing mother and 9-month-old daughter and 82-year-old Marmete Hayes, were arrested after they refused to leave the Burlington office of war funder **Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT)**. Three of them had been cited the week before at the office of Rep. Peter Welch. After the arrests, the state's attorney declined to prosecute.

After delivering the no-money-for-war challenge the week before to the Newark offices of **Senators Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)** and **Robert Menendez (D-NJ)**, the New Jersey Occupation Project returned to the Gateway office center. The Senators' staff refused to invite them up to the offices, so five people were arrested when they tried to hold their sit-in in the lobby. They were cited for defiant trespass and obstruction of justice.

March 28

Two people were arrested at the Springfield office of Illinois **Sen. Dick Durbin**.

March 29

Marci Dennison and Alexandra Ryan brought a 40-foot-long scroll with thousands of anti-war petition signatures to **Sen. Gordon Smith's** Portland World Trade Center office building. Security guards saw them coming and stopped the women outside the door. The Senator's aide came out to receive the petition, but when the women still tried to enter the building and visit the Senator's office, they were arrested, handcuffed, and marched by police to the Justice Center, two blocks away. Eight hours later, they were charged with trespass and released. The women were sentenced to community service.

Farther up the Willamette River, **Senator Smith's Eugene** office was more accessible to Carol Melia, Karla Cohen and Michael Williams. But when they began quietly sounding a pitch pipe and clapping two sticks

together every four minutes to mark another death in Iraq, staff called the cops and had them arrested. The three later agreed to one year deferred adjudication and 20 hours community service.

Eight more participants in the New Jersey Occupation Project were arrested at the Gateway Center, where **Senators Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez** have their Newark offices but anti-war constituents can't get past the lobby. They sought to deliver anti-war petitions and Certificates of Ownership for a war funded by the Senators' votes. In July, the eight were found not guilty on charges of failure to disperse and interference.

Three people were arrested at the Ft. Wayne office of **Sen. Richard Lugar (R-IN)**.

April 3

Ten people were cited for trespass and released when they continued to sit in after hours of spirited conversation with staff in the Burlington office of **Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT)**. They were demanding the Democratic leader support immediate troop withdrawal, rather than the uncertain timeline that eventually passed. Three of the ten had been arrested recently in one or another Burlington anti-war sit-ins, testing the patience of the local prosecutor. Still, the charges were all dismissed.

April 4

The Anti-War Committee and Twin Cities Peace Campaign teamed up for a spirited rush-hour action on University Avenue in front of the St. Paul office of **Sen. Norm Coleman (R-MN)**. A dozen activists used orange cones, barrels and barricades to shut down traffic in both directions. One banner declared "The United States: A Roadblock to Peace", and facing the other direction, a second suggested to motorists "This Is What Occupation Looks Like." Inside, another dozen activists took over the Senator's office to honor the dead with a recitation of their names. As the spring snow swirled, supporters on the sidewalks handed out flyers explaining the action. It took more than an hour before police had arrested 24 people. Charges against those arrested inside the office were dismissed.

April 10

While dozens of supporters rallied out front, six more Oregonians were arrested at the entrance of the World Trade Center in Portland, trying to visit **Sen. Gordon Smith's** office and lobby for peace. Once again, community service sentences resolved the legal case.

April 16

Marine mom Tina Richards was arrested out in the hallway after she and more than a dozen others were forced to leave **Speaker Nancy Pelosi's** Capitol Hill office. Rebuffed, they demonstrated outside her door, and Richards was the only person arrested as they all were chanting "Stop funding the war!" Richards has been hounding Congress for months, drawing inspiration from Rep. John Lewis of Georgia, who "told me that the only way they were able to win on civil rights issues was because they were in D.C. throwing sand into the gears of government," Richards told OneWorld.net. "They just kept getting in the way and getting in the way until they finally got done what had to be done and so that's what we're doing."

In observance of Tax Day, the Ft. Bragg, California office of **Rep. Mike Thompson** was occupied while many more Mendocino coast activists rallied outside. Six people were arrested. At least four more arrests were reported at Thompson's Ft. Bragg office during months of weekly vigils and occasional occupations.

April 19

The Campus Anti-war Network in Madison marched on the office of **Sen. Herb Kohl (D-WI)**, demanding a meeting. About 25 stayed in the office overnight. Early Thursday, police forced them out after other nearby business tenants complained about the noise. One man refused and was arrested for disorderly conduct. Students followed him to the jail, where they picketed until he was released, holding a sign, "Herb Kohl would rather have his constituents arrested than meet with us."

May 5

For two years, peace groups in Indiana have sought to meet with **Senator Evan Bayh (D-IN)**. When renewed efforts this winter were unsuccessful, Northwest Indiana CodePink called a demonstration outside the Hammond Federal Courthouse, where the Senator has an office. Sue Eleuterio left the rally just before the building was due to close, and knelt just outside the Senator's locked office door. Tears streaming down her face, she read the names of recent Iraq war dead until federal security guards

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escorted her away and charged her with failing to follow directions. Trial was set for late August, but in the meantime, Sen. Bayh finally met with anti-war constituents on August 21 and the government dropped the case against Eleuterio.

May 9

After occupying the Manchester office of **Sen. John Sununu (R-NH)** for nine hours, Karen Barker, Tom Barker, Jordan Butterfield, Nellie Grant, Christine Hobby, Jon Hutchinson, Anne Miller, Mary Lee Sargent and Pat Wilczynski were arrested for trespass. One posted bond, the other eight were jailed overnight before being released on their own recognizance over the objection of the prosecutor, who declared their commitment to civil disobedience a “threat to the public at large”.

May 15

“For over five years we have spoken and written a torrent of words against the U.S. war on Iraq... We have phoned, we have emailed, we have petitioned, we have written letters, we have written op-eds, we have held signs and we have marched with banners. We also, not incidentally, have met with congressional aides and have voted...”

All these words have aimed at ending the dismemberment of our Constitution — at ending this heinous war.



And all to little avail. Words directed to **Rep. James Walsh (R-NY)**, **Hillary Clinton** and **Charles Schumer**, it seems, are simply not enough...”

With this written statement, eight people silently blocked the employee entrance of the Syracuse, New York federal building, holding signs that stated simply “Not One More Day, Not One More Dollar, Not One More Death.” A couple of dozen supporters vigiled nearby for nearly four hours, until five of the group were arrested for failure to comply with a lawful order to stop the blockade. In August, the federal case against the five longtime Syracuse Peace Council activists, ages 38 to 94, was dismissed due to the “Interest of Justice and Lack of Prosecutorial Interest.”

May 30

Gail Vaughn, Anita Zibton, and two girls, Zoe Zibton, 13, and Katie Lamb, 12, again visited **Rep. Ron Kind's** LaCrosse office to press the issue of war funding. Police were waiting and arrested them all. They were convicted of trespass on November 1, and only the adults were fined \$96. After the bench trial, the courtroom full of supporters walked back to Kind's office and again occupied it. This time, staff quickly agreed to arrange a face-to-face meeting between Kind and war opponents on November 11. Vaughn writes, “Face-to-face meetings never meant much to me anyway; I just want him to change his VOTE.”

July 6

After the sentencing of the February 26 occupiers in Cedar Rapids, the Iowa Occupation Project sent one group to **Sen. Chuck Grassley's** office in the Federal Building, and another to sit in at **Sen. Tom Harkin's (D-IA)** office, two blocks away.

Federal officers blocked their doors for over an hour, and David Goodner was charged with trespass and interference when he tried to go in a side door. After an hour-long standoff, the occupiers were allowed inside. At closing time, Mona Shaw, Lou Hellwig, Ajax Robert Ehl, Kathy Hall, Megan Felt, Lee Mickey, Nyssa Koons, Brian Shearer, Gloria Williams, Brian Terrell and Renee Espeland were removed and cited for trespass. Goodner pled guilty and was fined the minimum on both counts.

At Harkin's office, the occupiers were also removed at closing time and cited for trespass. Charged were Michael Rack, Lara Elborno, Kerry Hofferber, Chris Gaunt, Rose Persaud, Jamie Fredericksen, Daisy Espino, and John Paul Hornbeck. Gaunt and Espino later pled guilty and were fined the minimum.

The remaining 17 pled not guilty. The Harkin defendants are scheduled for trial November 26, and those arrested at Grassley's office have a December 17 trial date.

July 10

One person was arrested at the Washington, D.C. office of **Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT)**.

July 23

Christian Peacemaker Team trainees enacted a mock trial of **Sen. Dick Durbin** inside his Chicago office. They demanded a final piece of evidence that would acquit or convict the Senator: Would he approve funds for life, or for more war in Iraq and Afghanistan? Police arrested the eight actors when they refused to leave without an answer from Durbin's staff. Sr. Paulette Schroeder, Martin Smedjeback, Joshua Hough, Jessica Frederick, Sr. Jean Fallon, Charletta Erb, Rachel Cloud and Denis Murphy were released from the city jail with trespass citations.

peaceful protest, and later approvingly told the defendants that the anti-war movement was making a difference.

August 21

Three people were arrested after refusing to leave **Sen. Dick Durbin's** Chicago office, where they sought not only his signature on a declaration of peace, but also staff member's support for the pledge to end war funding.

September 7

Seven people were arrested for obstructing a sidewalk, after they taped off a crime scene in front of **Sen. Herb Kohl's** downtown Madison office and began reading the names of war dead. Arraignment is pending.

September 14

The day after Bush told the nation we had to soldier on in Iraq, a midday anti-war rally outside the Bend office of **Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR)** ended with both lanes of Northwest Hawthorne Avenue blockaded. Police responded, and ordered protesters to leave the street. Two who did not were escorted to the curb and warned not to reenter the street. Betsy Lamb did just that, and she was arrested for disorderly conduct and released later on her own recognizance.

September 17

Constituents again gathered at her Sacramento office to implore **Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA)** to sign a Declaration of Peace. Less than an hour into their occupation of her office, ten people, including four military veterans and the mother of a soldier in Iraq, were arrested for creating a disturbance. All pled not guilty in November, and will face trial in federal court sometime in 2008.

September 19

Genny Kortez, Troy Horton, Reverend Lynn Smouse-Lopez and Tom Hastings were arrested for again trying to enter the Portland office building of **Sen. Gordon Smith** and deliver their message to stop funding the war. Before their arrest, demonstrators testified from the sidewalk to “Gordon Smith” (a cardboard cutout) and his “convincingly officious, unctuous, dissembling and euphemistic” “staff,” played by Peter Bergel. The four were later sentenced to community service.

September 20

In March, the San Diego Civil Disobedients (SDCD) were persuaded to leave the district office of **Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA)** when Rep. Davis phoned from Washington to tell them she would take their anti-war concerns to heart. Nonetheless, her political head voted to fund the war, so this time, the SDCDs stayed put to make the point. In the early evening, five were evicted and charged with trespass, and one left willingly. They'll be in court December 12.

September 21

High school students organized an anti-war occupation of **Sen. Grassley's** Des Moines office, and were joined by local Occupation Project activists Frank Cordaro, 56, and Renee Espland, 46. The occupation ended with the arrest of Cordaro, Espland and four students. Three minor students were referred to juvenile authorities. In court October 5, 18-year-old senior Aaron Glynn and the two adults pled guilty to trespass. Glynn and Espland were fined, but Cordaro's extensive resistance record and recent nonpayment of fines for other protest convictions led Judge Cynthia Moisan to sentence him to 30 days in jail. Before being taken into custody, Cordaro told the court, “I want you to know it was a great privilege to act with these young people to stand up against this immoral, illegal and unjust war. Any time I serve in jail will only add to that honor and privilege.” Cordaro served most of his sentence at a jail in Missouri.

September 25

War crimes warrant impeachment in the minds of many Yankee patriots. Following a rally in downtown Portland where 250 Maine residents signed letters supporting the impeachment of President Bush, most of them proceeded up three flights of stairs to the office of their congressman, **Rep. Tom Allen (D-ME)**, to hand deliver the missives. To emphasize their demand that Allen back impeachment, about 20 remained all afternoon, reading aloud from the founding documents of the republic and a litany of the impeachable offenses committed by the President. At closing time, eight were arrested. Seven posted bond of \$40 and the eighth spent a night in jail before her release.

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Lax Medical Care at CMU

The situation at the new Communications Management Unit (CMU) of the federal prison at Terre Haute, Indiana, remains unsettled as it grows worse for the men held there. Despite the relatively small number of prisoners (41 in early September), inadequate health care and delayed response to medical need have already led to the death of one prisoner in the isolated population and the hospitalization of another for a burst appendix.

It was also reported that where previously the call to prayer, or Adhan, was made five times daily, now it is prohibited in the unit, and formal prayer is permitted only once per day.

The Bureau of Prisons says that the CMU holds prisoners in terrorism related cases whose communication must be severely restricted and intensively monitored. In practice, the prisoners are nearly all simply Arab and/or Muslim, rather than convicts on terrorism charges.

Dr. Rafil Dhafir, an inaugural prisoner in the CMU, was held without bail for 22 months after his arrest in February 2003 for violating the Iraq sanctions through a charity he founded a decade earlier. Prosecutors and politicians bragged they'd nabbed a bankroller of terrorists. After his office records were seized, Dhafir's conviction and 22-year sentence were boosted by a book full of pica-yune Medicare billing disputes, portrayed as white-collar crimes, yet, in total, a small fraction of his acknowledged charity.

The upstate New York oncologist is considered an anti-war prisoner because he countered the 1991-2003 "siege" phase of the war against Iraq, (the land of his birth) in public speech and action, and for this was targeted in the lead up to the invasion of Iraq.

The prosecution hinted throughout the trial at more serious charges, yet his defense was prohibited from even mentioning the scurrilous innuendo of funding terrorism that still characterizes government accounts of his conviction. (The judge told the jury, "The defendants are precluded from arguing at trial or offering any evidence concerning the following: The Government's alleged motives in investigating and prosecuting defendants, the integrity and/or credibility of the Government's investigation and prosecution of defendants, the fact that defendant Dhafir was not charged with other crimes and related crimes.")

Dr. Dhafir's conviction is under appeal.

For more information, visit www.dhafirtrial.net.



Letters of support should be sent to Rafil Dhafir, 11921-052, FCI Terre Haute, POB 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808.

Oakies Not OK with Cheney or War

When Vice President Cheney came to Tulsa on April 27 to campaign for conservative Sen. Jim Imhofe, more than fifty people protested across the street from the downtown hotel where he spoke. Ten people were cited for refusing a police order after they laid down in the street, some holding large letters to spell IMPEACH. Tulsa resident and novelist Billie Letts was also arrested for obstruction and resisting a police office when she carried her protest sign - Four Hundred Billion - 3,320 Dead - Had Enough? - beyond the police barricade. The charges against Letts were dismissed in June after witnesses for the city failed to appear in court. Two of the other ten pled no contest, and then charges against the other eight were also dismissed when the arresting officers failed to appear in court June 21.

A CHERNOBYL DAY NUCLEAR BLOCKADE

A recent study by the Citizens Awareness Network shows that Vermont leads the nation in per capita production and storage of high-level nuclear waste, thanks to the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. If that weren't enough, the 36-year old reactor now has a 20-year license extension and permit to generate at 20% higher capacity.

The license extension is also generating a higher capacity of opposition, including ongoing civil disobedience to shut down the nuke.

On March 5, Jane Newton, Daniel Sicken, John Ward and Elizabeth Wood climbed to a second story roof and unfurled a 16' by 20' "SHUT VY" banner over the front entrance of the Brattleboro office of Entergy, owner of Vermont Yankee. The action was also a call to the Vermont legislature to go on record against re-licensing the aging nuclear waste factory.

The four were cited and released.

On April 25, to mark the 21st anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe, seven women chained themselves together at the entrance of the plant, near Vernon, Vermont. They held a banner declaring "Stop tax subsidies for Vermont Yankee". Local media were threatened with

arrest when they came onto the property to report on the action.

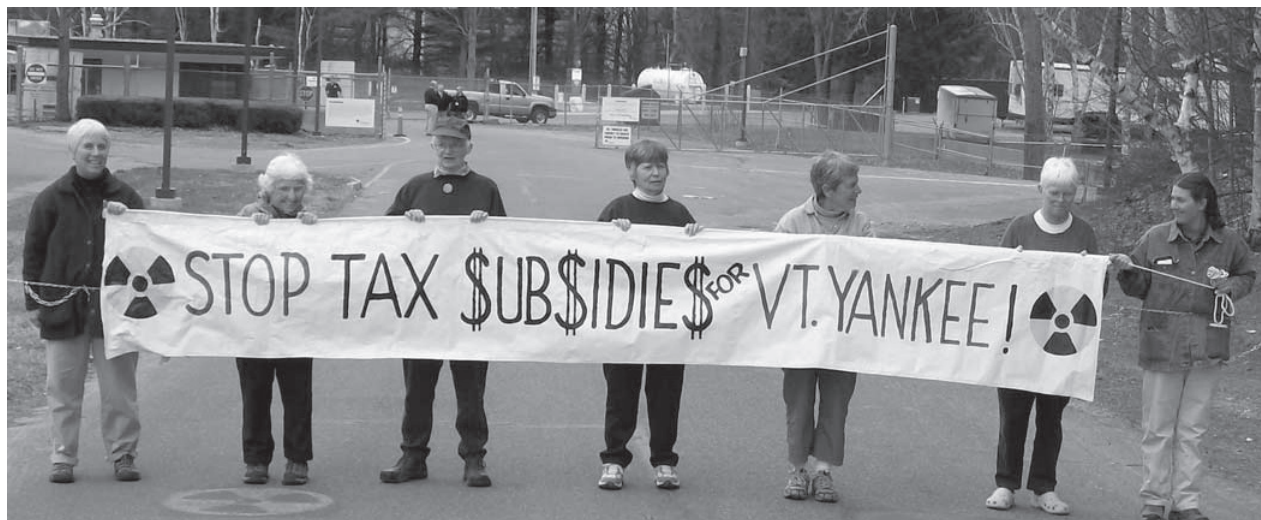
The women - Julia Bonafine, Claire Chang, Frances Crowe, Dorthie (her full name), Marcia Gagliardi, Ellen Graves, and Hattie Nestel - are all part of a slightly larger group, mostly Raging Grannies, who have been arrested five other times since 2005 while trying to shut down operations at the reactor.

This time, the seven were cut loose by the police but again cited for trespass and disorderly conduct.

On July 22, six more people were arrested at the main gate to the plant, while dozens of supporters gathered nearby behind a banner sensibly stating "No New Atomic Waste Without A Plan for Old Atomic Waste."

The local prosecutor keeps dismissing the charges, determined not to give the nuclear resisters a political soapbox in court.

For more information, contact the Citizens Awareness Network (chapters in five New England states) at nukebusters.org or CAN, P.O. Box 83, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370.



Hiroshima/Nagasaki, cont.

continued from page 3

onto the highway there to block traffic and were arrested by Kitsap County sheriffs.

All were processed and released, but none have yet been prosecuted.

For thirty years, the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action has nurtured the community of resistance to the Bangor Trident base from an adjacent property. In the spring of 2005, the house/community building on that property was consumed in a devastating fire. The Center is now in the midst of a major capital campaign to build a new space for the work of nonviolence, disarmament, peace and justice on the property. While some materials and labor have been donated, Ground Zero needs to raise at least \$100,000 to complete the new house, complete with a great room and large kitchen for meetings and retreats, plus a one bedroom apartment for a resident caretaker.

For more information about contributing to the building fund or resisting Trident, contact Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Road NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370, info@gzcenter.org

Livermore

On the morning of August 6, more than 150 people gathered at the west gate of Livermore Laboratory in California, which is currently designing the first in a series of new U.S. nuclear weapons.

The annual commemoration opened with a poem by a survivor of the Hiroshima bombing, Sachiko Kondoh, entitled "Nuclear Winter." The haunting power of words honestly written hung in the unseasonably cold air for the rest of the ceremony, serving as a reminder of the destruction wrought by the bomb.

The moment of the bombing, 8:15 a.m., was marked with the screaming sound of an air raid siren - followed by a time of silence to honor the memory of the dead and to reflect on the place of nuclear weapons in today's world.

The microphone was then opened to all who wished to share their thoughts and feelings about Hiroshima and nuclear weapons. Against that backdrop, others lay down on the asphalt in front of the gate and had their bodies outlined in chalk to symbolize the ashen "shadows" left behind by those incinerated in Hiroshima. The 4-lane roadway was soon covered with the outlines of scores of dead bodies -- men, women and children. Thirty participants stepped beyond the chalk outlines to peaceably

block the gate. They were arrested, cited and released. For more information, visit www.trivalleycares.org

Lockheed/Martin

At 8:15 a.m., August 6, a siren blast signaled the 62nd anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and the start of a vigil of remembrance in front of the Valley Forge, Pennsylvania weapons complex of Lockheed Martin. The siren blast was followed by the tolling of a bell sixty-two times, once for each of the past sixty-two years of war, war economy, and the terror posed by the existence and threatened use of nuclear weapons. The hourly siren blasts and bell tolling continued through noon, when Ms. Yuko Nakamura, a Hiroshima survivor, shared her story. Eleven people were arrested for disorderly conduct and released after participating in a die-in and then walking onto the corporate lawn, scattering sunflower seeds, symbolic of nuclear disarmament. For more information, visit BrandywinePeace.com.

Washington, D.C.

The Atlantic Life Community's August Faith and Resistance Retreat in D.C. learned about and created actions to confront the global war and the assault on the environment at the Pentagon, the Department of Energy (DOE), Bechtel and the White House.

The first action, August 6, was at the Pentagon. The community walked onto the Pentagon reservation holding banners, and after a prayer service, Eda Uca, Mike Dorn, Sr. Margaret McKenna, Eve Tetaz and Bill Frankel-Streit planted three tomato plants on the Pentagon grounds. After the plants were in the soil, the five were arrested. Jay McGinley was also arrested for leafleting.

The next day, street theater involved a corporate octopus at the DOE and Bechtel.

On Wednesday, forty people visited the Archdiocese for Military Services. They spoke with the Monsignor, and read sections from the Gospels, while displaying banners that said, "Jesus would never join the military", "Love your Enemies" and "You can't serve God and Empire."

On Thursday, August 9, the dead of Nagasaki and the life of newly beatified Nazi resister Franz Jaegerstatter were remembered with a vigil at the White House. Steve Miller, Keeley Coleville and Jay McGinley were arrested, and Miller and McGinley jailed overnight.

For more information, visit jonahhouse.org.

Military Refusers Reap 1, 7, & 8 Months in the Brig

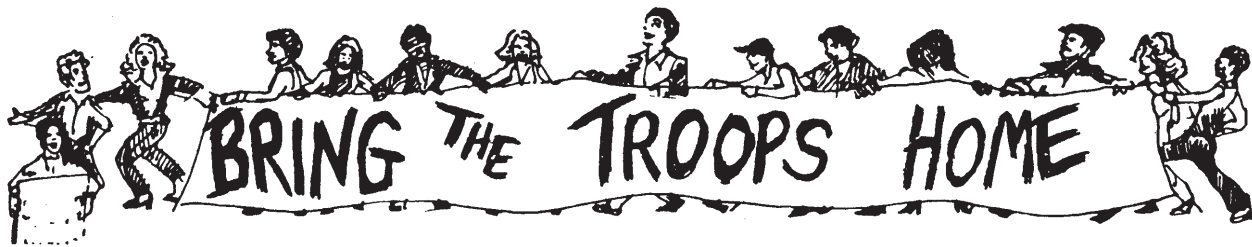
With every passing month, more U.S. soldiers are resisting the war. More than 10,000 are reported to have deserted since 2003. While not all deserters have left as war resisters, the growing experience of counselors working the G.I. Rights Hotline and elsewhere is that many have left precisely because they object to the war in Iraq, if not to all war.

Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) is now engaged not only in supporting war resisters, but actively encouraging U.S. troops to refuse to fight in Iraq. For more information, contact IVAW, P.O. Box 8296, Philadelphia, PA 19101, 215-241-7123, ivaw@ivaw.org

This year, at least three public refusers have been sentenced to the brig. All have completed their sentences.

On February 22, Army Spc. **Mark Wilkerson** was sentenced to seven months in prison with a bad conduct discharge. Wilkerson agreed to plead guilty to desertion and missing movement after failing to return from leave on January 3, 2005.

In August, 2006 Wilkerson turned himself in after 19 months of being absent without leave. In December, he signed a plea bargain admitting to his guilt, which reduced his sentence from six years max to no more than ten months.



Family, friends, and supporters filled the courtroom to capacity, including IVAW members and more than a dozen active duty soldiers. Four of the soldiers, including his brother, testified to Wilkerson's "outstanding" performance in the army, and the fact that he did not maliciously abandon his fellow soldiers and had made every attempt to be discharged from the military as a conscientious objector; and when denied, he sought reassignment to a non-combat rear detachment.

Sarah Wilkerson, Mark's wife, described in great detail the letters she received and phone conversations she had with her husband while he was in Iraq from March 2003 until March 2004. She described how his initial honor to serve turned into concern and finally disgust. How he witnessed the changing perception by Iraqis of American soldiers from liberators to occupiers. How when an RPG was fired at a police station he was guarding he could not fire back although the person who launched the RPG was in clear sight. And finally, how he had not been the same person after returning, and how the flashbacks and nightmares take a toll on him.

Wilkerson decided to plead guilty because to claim innocence would require an argument against the legality and justness of the war in Iraq. That process would be lengthy, costly, and practically impossible to defend in a court martial and could incur a punishment upwards of six years.

Mark Wilkerson was released from the brig in late July, and is now working with IVAW.

Army medic **Agustín Aguayo**, who refused to carry a loaded weapon during his first deployment and was later denied status as a conscientious objector, was convicted on March 6 of desertion and missing movement. Dozens of supporters attended his court martial in Würzburg, Germany, overflowing the courtroom and vigiling outside the barracks. Aguayo was sentenced to eight months in prison.

Aguayo had been held in army custody in Germany since last September, pending court martial. With credit for time served, he was released from the military brig at Mannheim on April 18.

Lori Hurlebaus of Courage to Resist (couragetoresist.org) accompanied Aguayo's mother, his wife Helga, and their two daughters to Germany for the court martial. Hurlebaus writes of the Aguayos' appreciation for the public support campaign that focused attention on Agustín's case. Her report quotes Helga Aguayo after the court martial:

"It's absolutely unacceptable to me, and I'm sure to Agustín, that after him serving in Iraq for a year, being stop-lossed and having a good record in the military up until he was forced to go AWOL, that he has a bad conduct discharge and has been convicted as a deserter. The only thing we can do is continue to fight.

"He needs to be recognized by the military courts, and by the federal courts, as a conscientious objector. We have decided as a family to pursue it as much as we can

until we get the resolution that is just. We need to fight this not just for us, but for any future soldier that finds themselves in this position. We will continue to fight for other soldiers.

"When we started this it was just about Augie, but now it's much bigger than that. It means a great deal to our family that this is something that has become bigger than us. I want the girls to see that there are things worth fighting for. I want our lives to have some meaning. I want, as a family, to work toward making the world better. As a family it has empowered us."

Courage to Resist also stepped up to support Army National Guard Spc. **Eleonai "Eli" Israel** when his resistance in Iraq became known last summer. With only three weeks of combat duty left in his year-long deployment as a sniper and VIP bodyguard, Israel found that "Moral conviction has no timing." A former Marine who reenlisted in the Guard in 2004, Israel's epiphany came when he realized that occupying Iraq leads to the fundamental denial of the Iraqi people's dignity, sovereignty, and humanity. "The day I saw myself in the hateful eyes of a young Iraqi boy who stared at me was the day I realized I could no longer justify my role in the occupation."

While not a pacifist, Israel told his commanders he would no longer participate because he believes that the U.S. presence in Iraq is unlawful.

Israel writes:

".. I was illegally confined to a cot in an operations room, placed under 24 hour guard, and escorted to the bathroom before I was formally charged with refusal to follow an order two weeks later. I remained confined until I pled guilty (with little choice) less than a week after that. I was immediately sent to Camp Arifjan in Kuwait to serve 30 days in a military prison."

Eli Israel's discharge, issued when he was released from prison on August 17, reads "other than honorable." He is appealing that classification with the support of Courage to Resist.

Canadian Cops Take U.S. Army Orders

U.S. war resister and Iraq combat veteran **Kyle Snyder** was hauled barefoot, handcuffed, and wearing only a robe and boxer shorts, out of his Nelson, British Columbia, home in exile on February 23. Snyder's house mates rang up members of Parliament, who contacted Canadian immigration officials. Police released the AWOL soldier six hours later after immigration officials told them they had no legal basis for the arrest. Immigration officials told Snyder he was hauled in at the request of the U.S. Army.

Snyder surrendered at Fort Knox last fall, believing he had a pre-court martial agreement that would result in his discharge from the army. Shortly thereafter, Snyder went AWOL a second time when a prison sentence seemed imminent instead. The fugitive soldier spoke out publicly against war at the School of the Americas demonstration in November, 2006, before leaving the country again.

On October 1, U.S. Iraq War resister **Robin Long** was arrested in Nelson, British Columbia, and flown to Vancouver the following day for deportation proceedings. The (Canadian) War Resisters Support Campaign and Courage to Resist rapidly mobilized fax, phone and e-mail protest, and after a hearing, Long was released October 3. He still faces a pre-removal risk assessment which could lead to deportation at a later time.

Long was denied refugee status last year after he was not permitted to argue that the Iraq War is illegal, even though his decision to come to Canada was largely motivated by that conviction. Since going AWOL and arriving in Canada in June, 2005, Long has married a Canadian woman and they have a one-year-old son.

For more information about how to support public military refusers in the U.S. and Canada, visit couragetoresist.org and www.resisters.ca (the War Resisters Support Campaign).

IVAW Tours the Bases

Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) took a summer bus tour of military bases, reaching out to refusers still in the ranks. Several members departed from Washington, D.C. on June 23, stopping at military bases in eastern states to talk with the troops on base and off, and invite them to a cookout, listen to their stories and tell them about their rights and the GI Rights Hotline (1-800-GI-RIGHTS). Along the way, the official response escalated.

At Camp LeJeune (Jacksonville, North Carolina), their IVAW t-shirts drew a request to leave base as soon as they were done shopping at the PX.

At Camp Jackson (Columbia, South Carolina), on June 29, five members of the tour went out to lunch on base with an active-duty IVAW member stationed there. MPs pulled the vets aside before they got through the line, demanding their ID. Adam Kokesh blogged:

"They lined us up against a row of vending machines and told us to keep our hands at our sides. Sholom Keller happened to have a copy of the Constitution on him and began quoting some craziness about rights, like 'to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation.' One of the officers went to give him back his ID card. 'Is this your ID card, brother?' 'Yes it is, and I'm not your brother. Dr. King was a brother, Malcolm was a brother, Huey P. Newton was a brother. You are a traitor and a sellout.'"

After consulting their superiors, the MPs cuffed the men and took them into their station to be frisked and questioned more. The veterans were then told they would be escorted off the base, and arrested for trespass if seen even loitering near the base gate.

At Fort Benning (Columbus, Georgia) on July 1, the vets were again told they could not wear political t-shirts on base. Liam Madden and Nathan Lewis tested the prohibition, approaching the gate wearing their "Iraq Veterans Against the War" t-shirts. They were immediately handcuffed and placed under arrest. Adam Kokesh changed into a plain t-shirt and approached the gate, only to be arrested as well. The three were charged with trespass and released a few hours later. The trespass charges were later dropped.

For more information, visit ivaw.org.

Lt. Watada Retrial On Hold

The retrial of **Lt. Ehren Watada** on military charges of missing movement and conduct unbecoming of an officer was scheduled to begin at Fort Lewis, Washington on October 9. However, on the previous Friday, U.S. District Court Judge Benjamin H. Settle granted the defense petition for an emergency stay of the court martial, so he could review and weigh the "considerable portions" of the double jeopardy issue before him.

On November 8, Judge Settle took the rare step of intervening to say that the military judge had abused his discretion in declaring a mistrial, and issued a preliminary injunction in Watada's favor that no military trial proceedings could occur until his further order or until his injunction is modified or dissolved by himself or by a higher court.

The next legal steps were not given, but the government is expected to respond with a motion that Settle modify or dissolve the order.

Meanwhile, Lt. Watada remains in the Army, now past his original discharge date, pending resolution of the court martial and assigned to a desk at Ft. Lewis, under watchful eyes.

On October 4, the day before Judge Settle granted the emergency stay, Amnesty International had declared their support for Watada's conscientious objector claim, and also as a prisoner of conscience, should he be convicted at court martial and jailed.

Lt. Watada's first court martial came to an abrupt halt on February 7, when the military judge nullified a pretrial agreement between the prosecution and the defense and declared a mistrial. Details of the double jeopardy situation are posted at www.thankyoult.org, along with legal updates and support information.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Korean Farmers Relocated; Photojournalist Jailed

On February 13, the remaining Pyeongtaek area farmers in the villages of Doduri and Daechuri, facing certain destruction of their villages in April to make way for an expanding U.S. military base, were compelled to accept a limited offer of compensation and be relocated by the end of March. As part of the agreement, the government apologized, the defense ministry's accusation of illegal farming would be withdrawn, and pending criminal charges against residents who have nonviolently resisted expulsion from their land would be dismissed immediately.

On April 7, a ceremony was held to mark the conclusion of the Daechuri struggle. The residents who had left earlier, and those who had stayed until the end, were joined by the volunteers who had made their home with the villagers in resistance for the last two years. The villagers set fire to the two bamboo guardian statues that stood at the entrance of the village. They wept as they watched the statues burn. As the Pyeongtaek farmers were finally evicted and their villages destroyed, they urged their grandchildren, "When you grow up, you must take the village back." Despite this defeat, Korean anti-militarists continue organizing to stop the ever-expanding military bases. For more information, visit saveptfarmers.org.

Soon after the Pyeongtaek farmers had charges dismissed, the government of South Korea arrested photojournalist Lee Si-woo. He is best known for his reporting on the anti-personnel mines which remain in the demilitarized zone separating South and North Korea, and on U.S. military activity on the peninsula, including stockpiling of depleted uranium ammo. Despite working from public documents and freedom of information disclosures, Si-woo is now on trial, charged under the vaguely worded provisions of South Korea's National Security Law with disclosing state secrets and propagating enemy ideology. He fasted in protest for at least 40 days following his arrest.

Lee Si-woo's trial began in July, and in September, Amnesty International adopted him as a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression. On September 14, he was released on bond, but the case against him continues. Letters are still requested, calling for the immediate and unconditional dismissal of all charges against Lee Si-woo. Write to Minister of Justice Jeong Song-jin, Ministry of Justice, Gwacheon Government Complex, 1 Jungang-dong, Gwacheon 427-725, Gyeonggi Province, Republic of Korea.

Meeting Bush & Putin

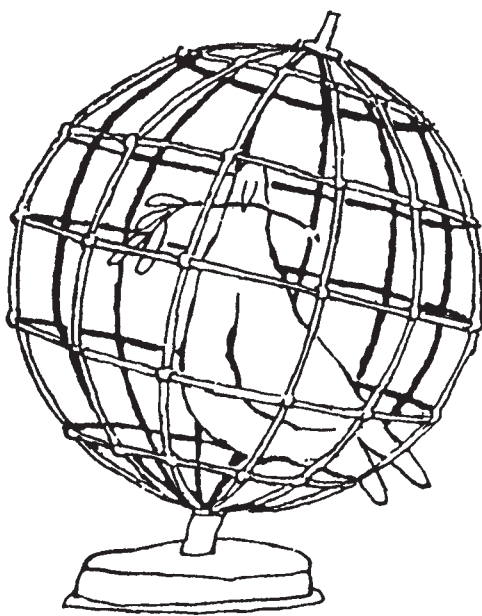
The public was kept away from the Bush family estate at Kennebunkport, Maine on July 1, when Russian President Putin came to town to meet the Bushes. Demonstrators at a seaside roadblock challenged the police, as documented on a video posted at YouTube.com.

War critic Lynn Curit-Smith is seen telling police, "I am not a sheep, I am an American and I can stand here and we can walk down this street because it is a public road."

Police made clear she would be arrested if she passed their barricades, but Curit-Smith was not deterred.

"You can arrest me in front of all these people and in front of the world media if you want to," she declared. "But I am so damn sick of being stuck in a zone. Free speech doesn't have a zone."

As she passed through the barricades, Curit-Smith's 13-year-old daughter ran to join her, as did Veteran for Peace Eric Washeski. They were stopped on the sidewalk a few feet away, and Curit-Smith's daughter was sent back with her father on the legal side of the barricade. The adults were eventually arrested, charged with trespass, then released.



Vanunu Appeals New Six-Month Sentence

Mordechai Vanunu has been sentenced to serve six more months in prison. The Israeli nuclear whistleblower was convicted in April of fourteen violations of post-release prohibitions on speaking with foreigners, specifically foreign press. Following the July 2 sentencing, Vanunu remains out of prison while his attorneys appeal the conviction. His appeal is scheduled to be heard on January 8, 2008.

Meanwhile, the restrictions on his speech and the additional ban on his leaving Israel, both subject to annual review, were renewed on May 13. This action guarantees that for at least another year, Vanunu must remain an internal exile in Israel.

"All I want is to be free, to leave the country," Vanunu told the press.

But by the prosecutor's reckoning, Vanunu might never be of a mind to leave, because "... the accused had hoarded in his memory classified information that has not been released, and the release of which could harm the security interests of Israel."

In 1986, while working as a technician at Israel's Dimona nuclear installation, Vanunu photographed top secret equipment used only to produce nuclear weapons. Subsequently, he left that job and found his way to Australia, where he converted to Christianity and came to reveal the photos to a reporter for the Sunday Times of London. That paper published a bombshell expose of Israel's nuclear secret in September, 1986.

On the eve of publication, Vanunu was lying low in London, waiting for the fact checkers and the editors to finish the story. In a classic "honey-pot" operation, a secret police femme fatale lured the isolated Israeli apostate to Rome, where he was drugged and kidnapped back to Israel. At a secret trial he was convicted of espionage and treason. Vanunu was released from custody in April 2004, having completed an 18-year sentence, including 11 years in solitary confinement.

For updates and more information, visit vanunu.com

Vandenberg Air Force Base

The disarming forces of about fifty demonstrators marked Armed Forces Day, May 19, with the annual vigil at Vandenberg Air Force Base. In the course of an ecumenical liturgy, Fr. Louie Vitale, Fr. Steve Kelly and Catholic Workers Jeff Dietrich, Dennis Apel and Mike Wisniewski were taken into custody after they crossed the line. They were all cited for trespass at the missile and space warfare center and released. Five months later, the five learned of a December arraignment date. Since Frs. Kelly and Vitale are in prison till mid-March (see page 1), the defendants will ask for a continuance. Photos are posted at lacatholicworker.org

Fairford Five on Trial Again

A handful of British war resisters have been acquitted in two separate trials on charges related to the 2003 sabotage of U.S. warplanes in England. For each of the three activists it was their second trip to Crown Court in Bristol, because the juries at their first trials could not reach a verdict.

The "Fairford Two", Philip Pritchard and Toby Olditch, were apprehended in the wee hours of March 18, 2003, just inside the perimeter fence at RAF Fairford. Although arrested short of their destination, their intent was clear from the tools they carried to damage the B-52 bombers at the base, nuts and bolts to sabotage the aircraft engines, pictures of Iraqi civilians, and paint symbolizing blood and oil.

After their first jury could not reach a decision, the men faced a new trial last May. Throughout the week-long proceeding, Olditch and Pritchard defended their intention to disarm. They shared with the jury their conviction that their action, if carried through, would have prevented the U.S. bombers from taking off during the imminent "Shock and Awe" campaign, and committing war crimes by dropping banned cluster bombs. After only three hours of deliberation, the jury was in unanimous agreement and acquitted the two.

Josh Richards was also arrested at the perimeter of RAF Fairford on March 18, 2003, in possession of pliers, cigarette lighters, and two 5-liter containers with a mixture of gas and detergent. In January, his first jury failed to reach a verdict on multiple charges. By the time of Richards' second trial in June, prosecutors had dropped all but one charge of attempted arson and a single count of cannabis cultivation (a plant seized during the search of the activist's home following his arrest). Richards pled guilty to the cultivation charge and was fined, then took the case for disarmament to the jury.

Once again, after nine hours of deliberations, the jury was deadlocked, even when directed to accept a 10-2 verdict. The judge then put an end to the prosecution's misery and declared Richards not guilty.

In July, the second trial of Margaret Jones and Paul Milling went better for prosecutors. Theirs were the first war sabotage arrests at Fairford. On March 13, 2003, they got onto the flight line and disabled fuel tankers and some trailers used for carrying bombs to the U.S. warplanes. Their first trial ended in a hung jury, but this time they were found guilty of conspiracy to commit criminal damage. Milling was given a conditional discharge and ordered to pay costs. At sentencing August 2, Judge Crowther said of Jones, "She is a persistent offender, having committed such offences on a number of occasions before." He ordered a six-month curfew, to be enforced by electronic monitoring.

For more information, visit www.b52two.org

The Occupation Project, cont.

continued from page 10

October 16

Responding to **Sen. Dick Durbin's** October 1 vote for \$150 billion for war, eight staff members of the 8th Day Center for Justice and a friend were arrested for refusing to leave his Chicago office. In a simultaneous action, five other people were arrested in the lobby of the building. They have a December court hearing.

October 22

Eight people were arrested sitting in at **Rep. Peter Welch's** Burlington office, opposed to his warbuck votes. Four who were warned last March about trespassing are scheduled to be in court December 4.

To be continued...

SODaPOP Campaign Begins in Iowa

In November, Chicago-based Voices for Creative Non-violence kicked off their latest campaign alongside Iowa activists: Seasons of Discontent - a Presidential Occupation Project (with the colloquial acronym SODaPOP). The aim is to “bring nonviolent civil resistance and civil disobedience to the campaign offices and headquarters of Presidential candidates—both Republican and Democrat—who do not publicly pledge to take the necessary concrete steps to end the Iraq war, to rebuild Iraq, to forswear military attacks on other countries, and to fully fund the Common Good in the U.S.”

The Republican and Democratic frontrunners were targeted on November 8. The “law and order” campaign of Republican **Rudy Giuliani** campaign waited only about two hours to call on the suburban Clive, Iowa police to arrest 10 activists sitting in at the campaign headquarters.

The campaign of Democrat **Hillary Clinton** campaign appeared more reluctant to remove the protesters, waiting almost eight hours before requesting the Des Moines Police Department remove nine activists. Affinity groups are invited to come to Iowa from December 29 to January 3, the day of the caucus, and thereafter join the campaign with actions in the 20 states holding presidential primaries on so-called Super Tuesday, February 5.

To participate in SODaPOP, contact Voices for Creative Nonviolence at 773-878-3815 or info@vcnv.org. Additional information and resources are available at www.vcnv.org.



SODaPOP campaigns for peace in Giuliani's office.

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

from Bridewell

By Frank Cordaro

October 25, 2007

In a confined space shared by 64 others and where one's basic needs are met, the most challenging concerns can be the social ones. The inmate population here is not much different from the inmate populations in other county jails. The most common characteristic shared by the inmates is poverty. The difference between locked up or out on the streets is money.

The old say, “You get all the justice you can afford.”

That truth holds here, and these men can't afford much. Most of the inmates have yet to be sentenced. They are somehow caught in legal limbo, waiting for their case to be settled, waiting for a parole or probation violation to get sorted out, or waiting for a determination of their incarceration status. Most are nonviolent offenders, charged with crimes that are drug or alcohol related. The more serious or violent offenders are kept back in the Polk County Jail. The racial composition here is at least 20% African American, a few Latinos, and the rest are white.

Dealing with foul and hateful language is difficult. Its use is common and filled with misogyny and homophobia. The hate speech is so frequent and common that many don't seem to notice it. While it's spoken primarily by younger inmates, there are a lot of them (the median age is 25); and this contributes to its frequent use. Though some older inmates, too, can be just as foul and hateful in their speech.

This speech added to the lack of privacy, the blare of the t.v. from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and the constant human chatter creates a din that is nerve rattling. Time for prayer or reflection is tough to manage.

Of course, there are times when the guys are disrespectful such as making noise during sleep hours, and fights do break out once in awhile. What is truly amazing, given the situation, is that most actually get along.

Thirty days is not enough time to carve out a regimen or the discipline for prayer, reading, writing, or exercise. The setting simply limits the possibilities. The first two weeks my primary reading material was the King James

THE INSIDE LINE



Bible, not my favorite translation. I try to frame my experience as an opportunity to learn to be present in the “now,” the immediate moment.

In jail, it is easy to get lost in your own emotional issues and not be in the “now.” Though in reality, I'm here in a small space with 64 others, I'm tempted to hide and spend most of my time inside my own mind thinking about things over which I have no control, worrying about what is happening on the outside, thinking about all the work I left behind, and all the work I have to do when I get out. The self-absorption can become all-consuming.

To offset this, I try to make myself available to those with whom I'm sharing this time and space. It did not take long for the guys to learn who I am and why I'm here, especially since a few have been guests of the Catholic Worker house (plus a few Des Moines Register newspapers with stories about me were passed around). Soon, I was spending a lot of time talking one-on-one with guys, hearing their stories, and actively listening.

It comes as no surprise that most come from difficult and broken lives. A lot of their troubles they bring on themselves, and a lot are brought on by factors beyond their control. Each story is far more complicated than it would seem on its surface, and none lend themselves to easy, pat answers. Sometimes just listening and caring seems to fill a real need.

I'm certainly not the only guy in our Pod offering a caring ear. One man stands out for me here as someone who went beyond listening and caring to serve as the Pod minister. Jerry Carr is 57, African American, and from Des Moines. Coincidentally, Jerry is one of those who has been a guest at the Catholic Worker house. Jerry has spent a lifetime on and off drugs and in and out of jails and prisons. He tells me he didn't have a “real” job until he was in his 50s. His physical bearing alone tells you his

life has been hard and rough. He's lost half of his teeth, and this causes a slur when he talks.

I first noticed Jerry as the guy doing a daily Bible study in the Pod. Sometimes as many as 12 men attended his study group, most of them younger African American men, but not all. He also had a steady stream of men visiting him on his bottom bunk. So, Jerry was the man I approached about getting a Bible. That's when he invited me to join his group, and I gratefully accepted.

Jerry finally sobered up a few years ago. He secured a minimum wage job and lives with his mother, who's been praying for him for years. He now attends church regularly and reads his Bible daily. He has two grown daughters and several grandkids and describes himself as “one of the richest men” he knows because he's survived and now has the love of God in his life. His greatest joys are being with his family, especially those grandkids. And while he acknowledges he can't do anything about the chunk of life he's wasted, he's determined to make the best of the remaining years he says God has given him.

Jerry found himself back in jail after the driver of a car in which he was a passenger was pulled over for a minor traffic violation. The officer ran Jerry's name through their system and discovered a warrant for an unpaid fine in Las Vegas from several years ago that he'd forgotten. Jerry embraced this return to jail as an opportunity to study his Bible and to reach out to others about the life lessons he had learned and what his newly-found faith had taught him.

Jerry is not an academically learned man. I can barely understand him when he talks. Yet, he speaks from his heart and has a way of speaking directly and effectively to the young men who attended his Bible service.

Jerry left a few days ago. The day before he left, he shared with me his hope of starting a faith-based recovery meeting in Des Moines. He says his time in jail and his experiences with leading the Bible study group have boosted his confidence and his call to do so. He's promised to visit us at the Catholic Worker. I hope he does. I also hope he starts his faith-based recovery group. He has much to teach and share.

[Frank Corado was released on November 3, after spending 30 days in jail for his participation in an occupation of Senator Charles Grassley's office on September 21. He joined an effort led by Iowa high school students who are members of the group, Students Beyond War.]

War Tax Resisters Complete Prison Sentences

Kevin McKee was released November 5 from federal prison in Pennsylvania, after completing a 24-month sentence for felonies related to his religious refusal to pay war taxes. McKee is a member of the Reformed Israel of YAHWEH, a small Christian sect based in New Jersey that is fundamentally opposed to paying for war. Codefendant Kevin Donato was moved to a half-way house in October, in preparation for the end of his 27-month sentence on January 31, 2008.

Somehow, we missed learning at the time that California attorney Tony Serra, a noted defender of the down-trodden and politically prosecuted for over four decades, completed a ten-month prison sentence in 2006 for willful failure to pay \$44,000 in federal income taxes in 1998 and 1999. Serra previously served a four-month sentence in 1974 for failure to file during the Vietnam war, and got probation following a 1986 conviction for filing late returns. Serra long ago took an informal vow of poverty and has what his attorney describes as a "dysfunctional relationship to money."

Ed Hedemann, author of *War Tax Resistance: A Guide to Withholding Your Support from the Military*, interviewed Serra for the August, 2007 issue of *More Than a Paycheck*, the newsletter of the National War Tax Resisters Coordinating Committee.

...How did his case get to court, while most war tax resisters rarely see anything more than the odd lien or levy from the IRS? First, Serra has often not bothered to file, and those years when he does file, he doesn't pay. Second, he doesn't respond to notices he gets from the IRS. Just tosses them away. They tried serving levies on clients such as the Hells Angels. Not very productive. They even sent a couple of "keepers" to his office-men in black suits whose sole function was to sit around, intercept the mail, and open all the letters to see if they had checks in them. Serra was billed \$50 a day for the honor. Fortunately, that lasted only a couple of days before they gave up. Serra usually just gets cash from his paying clients.

The Justice Department was so intent on getting Serra in 2004, they sent prosecutors from D.C. to conduct the case against him after the local District Attorney's office declined to do so. Serra reckons that it had to do with Ashcroft's office trying to make an example of a professional-any professional ("doctor, lawyer, or Indian chief") -in order to get enough press to scare the average person. Other factors likely include his previous tax convictions; his notoriety; his continuing insistence on "blowing off" the IRS, its notices, and the tax laws; and that there has been nothing to seize- "it frustrates them."

He served his time but has not decided whether to compromise his principles by making the required payments towards his \$100,000 fine in the 2005 case. "Fuck them, I'm never paying, eat shit, I'll go to jail where I belong" is what he's inclined to tell them. Serra says he doesn't mind prison because it'll give him an opportunity to help other inmates with their legal problems. Also, he will have the time-something he doesn't have now-to read and write. However, if he doesn't pay, he risks returning to prison for contempt and he won't be able to be a trial lawyer, something the 72-year-old Serra wants to do until he is 80, and he'll miss being with his longtime companion Vicki Day...

More War Tax Protest

On Tax Day, 2006, five people were arrested in the Long Island village of East Hampton, New York, for picketing outside the line city cops had established to contain an anti-war protest. Thirteen postponements and almost 17 months later, misdemeanor obstruction and disorderly conduct charges were dropped on September 7. In return, the defendants agreed not to sue the township, which had since taken a more reasonable position regarding protest permits.

In Chicago, five people were arrested after they donned sackcloth and ashes and entered the downtown federal building last April 17. The Tax Day remembrance of the death and destruction brought upon Iraq by the United States included singing the names of Iraq war dead, and a call for the redirection of U.S. resources away from military spending.

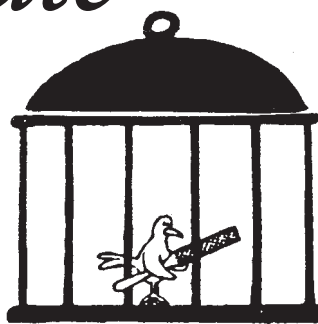
FUTURE ACTIONS



2008 WAR TAX BOYCOTT

This fall the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWTRCC) urges all who oppose the Iraq war and occupation to register and prepare for an April 2008 nationwide boycott and redirection of the federal income taxes that fuel the war in Iraq. The Boycott is endorsed by Voices for Creative Nonviolence, The War Resisters League, the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance, and the Nonviolent Direct Action Working Group of United for Peace and Justice. Visit nwtrcc.org to register and download the Boycott Appeal and registration forms for outreach and tabling, or contact NWTRCC, POB 150552, Brooklyn, NY 11215, 800-269-7464.

Update Files



IGOR SUTYAGIN: The Russian disarmament researcher convicted of espionage for his work with public documents recently spent three months in solitary confinement, allegedly because a cell phone was found on him. The punishment came three days after his attorney visited Sutyagin at the remote maximum security penal colony at Arkhangelsk, and reported that Sutyagin is being pressured either to confess or withdraw his appeal to the European Court for Human Rights...

SENATOR PETE DOMENICI: On September 6, six members of the 'Elevator 9' were found guilty in Albuquerque of 'failure to conform with signs and directions,' a federal crime. Sentencing for the September, 2006 action is set for December...

SENATOR RICK SANTORUM: After hearing the prosecution's case, a Philadelphia municipal court judge dismissed a criminal conspiracy charge and then, after hearing their defense, declared 14 Declaration of Peace campaigners not guilty of defiant trespass and criminal trespass for their September 25, 2006 sit-ins outside the Republican's locked office door and in the lobby of the building where his office is located. At the April 23 trial, the Philadelphia Declare Peace 14, some in their own defense and others with the assistance of lawyers, argued that the First Amendment protected Free Speech and access to elected officials to "petition for a redress of grievances" cannot be circumscribed simply because the representative's office is located in a privately owned building...

REP. RICK LARSEN: Operation Free Larsen scored a moral victory in April, at the sentencing of Ellen Murphy. She was convicted of trespass at the Washington Democrat's office in October, 2006, as constituents publicly pressed him to stop funding the war he had voted against in 2002. The judge had kept testimony about the war out of the trial, but took the rare move of inviting a bystander, Gold Star Mother Doris Kent, to address the court prior to sentencing: "...Ellen Murphy, from the day I met her, gave me hope. Hope that I did not have to bear the burden of insisting our country pay attention to what is happening in our nation's war on Iraq. Hope that American citizens will rise up and insist that our elected officials not send our brave men and women in uniform into war without just cause. Our nation has done this. Now my son, Corporal Jonathan Santos is dead. Ellen Murphy spoke because I could not. She is insisting someone in our elected government listen..." Judge Debra Lev pondered thoughtfully, clearly moved by Kent's comments, before sentencing Murphy to \$1,000 fine, suspended, 90 days in jail, suspended, 40 hours community service and court costs...

SEATTLE: All charges in the case of the "Flag 3" have been dismissed. They were charged during an October 5 "Drive Out the Bush Regime" rally, after a fracas that began when police confiscated their anarcho-syndicalist flag and ended in the baseless charges of obstruction, resisting arrest, and assault...

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Forced Migration and Responding to the Dream are themes for the Atlantic Life Community's Holy Innocents Faith & Resistance Retreat. The retreat will be at St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church, 16th & Newton Streets NW, Washington, D.C., beginning 6 p.m. on Thursday, December 27 and ending in the early afternoon of Sunday, December 30.

Participants are invited to study, pray, CELEBRATE and act! Simple meals and sleeping accommodations will be provided at the Church. There will be a children's program, but please call ahead with the numbers and ages of children participating. For more information, contact Jonah House at (410)233-6238 or Dorothy Day Catholic Worker at (202)882-9649.

Y-12

Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance's next major Rally, Puppet show, March and Action will take place Sunday, April 13, 2008. The Spring Action timing is intended to involve more students (as they are on campuses and often have spring break) and focus more on current nuclear issues (as this is the time of year that budgets are voted on in D.C.).

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

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#146-7

ANNOUNCEMENTS

... **European Peace Action**, a European network for direct action and peace, is organizing to create a space for grassroots organizing for peace, direct action and civil disobedience at the European Social Forum in Malmö, Sweden on the 18th - 21st September 2008. The vision is to create a Peace Forum to focus on the following issues: NATO/EU Nuclear Weapons, Militarization of Space, Globalization of Militarism, and last and most important, the Globalization of Resistance. Furthermore, the network looks beyond lobbying and seminars, to coordinate actions even after the forum.

"Join us to gain and spread knowledge about how to resist militarism and work for peace, share experiences from actions, give nonviolent workshops, express ourselves with political art and do lots of actions at various sites in the area. We will create the forum together, everyone who shares our ideas and vision are welcome to participate, organize workshops and take part in actions."

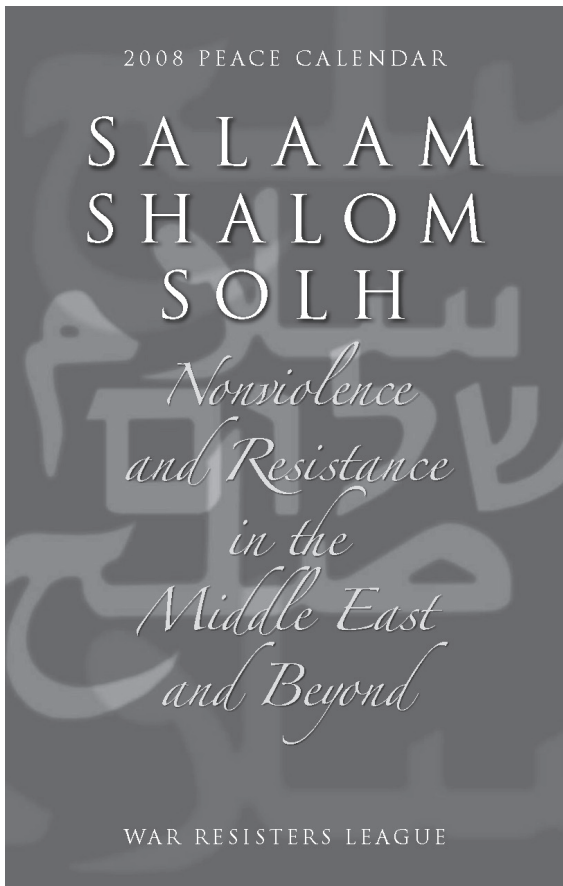
Contact European Peace Action at europapeaceaction@fog.org to participate in the forum.

...Two recently published books tell the first-hand story of imprisoned military refusers and conscientious objectors whose imprisonment was noted in these pages:

Letters from Ft. Lewis Brig, A Matter of Conscience by Sgt. Kevin Benderman, with Monica Benderman (2007, Lyons Press/Globe Pequot, \$24.95 hardcover) and **Road from Ar Ramadi: The Private Rebellion of Staff Sergeant Mejía** by Camilo Mejía (2007, New Press, \$24.95 hardcover).

...**Nuclear Nebraska: The Remarkable Story of the Little County That Couldn't Be Bought** by Susan Cragin is a well-told tale about the 20-year effort to save rural Boyd County from hosting a so-called low-level radioactive waste repository. A story of rural organizing, radical tactics, and strategic lessons for the coming era of nuclear waste dump battles. (2007, AMACOM/American Management Association, \$24.95 hardcover) -

...The 2008 War Resisters League Peace Calendar is now available. **Salaam, Shalom, Sohl - Nonviolence and Resistance in the Middle East and Beyond** is a wire-bound desk calendar including 52 pages profiling nonviolent activists and initiatives in the region. \$13.95 each, or 4 for \$50, plus \$3.50 per calendar for shipping and handling. Send all mail orders to: War Resisters League, c/o We-Fulfill, 218 Round Rock Circle, Grand Junction, CO 81503, or order from www.warresisters.org or toll-free: (877)234-8811.



Mother's Day Action at Bangor Trident Base

On Monday morning, May 14, 35 people walked in the early dawn to demonstrate against Trident nuclear weapons at the Bangor, Washington submarine base. A large banner was hung over the freeway overpass leading into the base declaring, "Create a Peaceful World for All Children, Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Scrap Trident".

At 6:00 a.m., three demonstrators entered the highway and briefly blocked arriving traffic on the Kitsap County side of the Naval Base's main gate. The three carried a banner that stated, "The Earth is our Mother, Treat Her with Respect". Michael Hill, Ann Orleman, and Joy Goldstein were immediately arrested by Kitsap County Sheriff's deputies, booked and later released in Port Orchard. They were not told what charges might be filed. The previous day, Mother's Day, approximately 60 demonstrators held a mid-day vigil at the gate.

Bangor Update

Three members of Ground Zero were sentenced on February 22 on two counts each of disorderly conduct. Kitsap County Judge Riehl agreed that international law was relevant in this and other cases in county court, but noted that this jury felt international law did not direct citizens to violate local law. For their arrests at Bangor in May and August 2006, Riehl fined Carol Ann Barrows, Shirley Morrison and Brian Watson \$2,000 each (\$1,500 suspended) plus 180 days in jail (178 suspended - two days were served in August 2006).

For more information, contact the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, (360)779-4672, info@gzcenter.org

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"A Chronicle of Hope"

Five Months for Prayer at Fort Huachuca

The Occupation Project, 2007 - a chronology of nonviolent action

Vanunu Appeals New Six Month Sentence

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Military Recruiting Resistance



#146-147 November 14, 2007

INFORMATION ABOUT AND SUPPORT FOR IMPRISONED ANTI-NUCLEAR & ANTI-WAR ACTIVISTS

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Future Actions
...and more

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