

the Nuclear Resister

"A Chronicle of Hope"

No. 150

September 24, 2008

LOCKED UP FOR REFUSING TO KILL

Two American military refusers who had taken refuge in Canada were court martialed and sent to prison this summer.

American war resister Robin Long was arrested and deported from Canada in July, the first public objector to be forcibly returned after being denied legal refuge. A few days after Canadian police took him into custody, he was transferred to the U.S. army brig at Fort Carson, Colorado.

In a courtroom overflowing with supporters in the highly militarized city of Colorado Springs, Long pled guilty to desertion at his August 22 court martial. The judge, Col. Debra Boudreau, said she wanted to lock him up for 30 months, but was limited by terms of a plea agreement Long made with military prosecutors. The 15-month sentence she imposed still ranks among the harshest given to convicted war refusers since 2001.

James Burmeister, who returned from Canada on his own last March and turned himself in, was court martialed July 16 in Fort Knox, Kentucky. He was sentenced to six months in the brig at Ft. Knox.

Burmeister and supporters had hoped that the military would offer him an "other than honorable discharge in lieu of court martial" — especially in consideration that he turned himself in to seek treatment for war injuries and PTSD he acquired two years ago in Iraq. He was a machine gunner assigned to "bait and kill" teams now notorious for killing civilians.

Burmeister believes that he is suffering from traumatic brain injury, which would explain his reoccurring seizures. However, he has found real medical treatment an impossible maze to navigate — the military instead offers him various anti-psychotic drug cocktails.

On August 13, Canada ordered the deportation of another army refuser, Jeremy Hinzman. Hinzman was the first U.S. war resister to apply for asylum north of the border. Canada's high court ruled that he does not face persecution in the United States and will be treated fairly in U.S. courts. Hinzman, his wife and two children were ordered to leave by September 23, and Hinzman faces court martial and a possible 5-year sentence for desertion. The day before the family was to leave, a federal court judge stayed the order while it considers whether an appeal will be heard. A decision is expected within weeks or a few months.

After three years in the army, Hinzman went to Canada in January 2004 rather than deploy to Iraq. His first application for conscientious objector status had been thrown away. While his second application was pending in 2002, he had served a tour of duty in a non-combat position with the 82nd Airborne Division in Afghanistan.

"I went through all the training. I served honorably in my unit. I used army provisions to try to become a noncombatant and remain in the army as a medic or something, but I still would be subject to going on combat missions as a medic," Hinzman told the Associated Press. "I can't bring myself to shoot another person. If people want to criticize me for that, then I'm honored to be criticized because I'm not a killer."

At least half a dozen other refusers could be ordered out of Canada at any time, their appeals exhausted or not pursued. Updates will be posted at CourageToResist.org

Less than 40 of the estimated 200-700 military refusers now in Canada have made a formal claim with the Immigration and Refugee Board. Six cases have been appealed to the federal court, with mixed results depending on each soldier's particular claim. Some have private counsel and have not sought public support.

The War Resisters Support Campaign in Canada and their allies in the United States successfully lobbied the Canadian House of Commons to pass a nonbinding resolution in early June calling on the government to allow

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Protesting Gods of Metal

Four people got atop a B-52 nuclear bomber on display at the Oceana Naval Air Station air show in Virginia Beach, Virginia on September 20. Steve Baggarly, Beth Brockman, Susan Crane, and Kristin Sadler unfurled two banners above the crowd reading "WE SHALT NOT KILL" and "WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION ARE NOTHING TO CELEBRATE." They displayed the messages for several minutes before military police scrambled up on the aircraft and arrested them. Eight supporters on the ground were also taken into custody.

From the action statement: ... Nowhere was the reality of the people under the bombs even whispered; the deafening explosions, the quaking earth, the fear, the chaos, the smoke and fire, the loss of homes, jobs, utilities, and resources, the burning of flesh, the spurting of blood, the pain and shock, the blinding, maiming, and crippling, the loss of limbs, the deep psychological trauma, the soul-rending howls of new orphans and widows...

Such realities would have upset what was essentially a religious event. Faith in the weapons was palpable. The aircraft were heralded as the source of freedom and security, peace and prosperity. These attributes of a deity were readily assigned to the warplanes, the airborne idols of our national religion, militarism. In the end it is our B-52's and F-18's and our stealth fighters and bombers that we believe will save us. We entrust our children to their protection, swell with pride when they join the ranks in their service, and freely give our money to create ever more lethal versions. This is the message of the air shows; life as we know it is made possible by these planes and we owe them our



Sailors at Oceana Naval Air Station stand in shock and awe of peaceful civilian iconoclasts.

absolute and undying allegiance...

Air shows are public liturgies venerating our gods of metal. They glorify our wars and they indoctrinate our children. Go to airshowbuzz.com and find the air show nearest you. Then grab some friends, some signs, literature, puppets or a bullhorn, and, as Dan Berrigan said, "Don't just do something, stand there!"

Eleven of the twelve arrested were released with letters barring them from all Naval installations from Maine to Virginia. Steve Baggarly was charged with trespass and summoned to federal court November 3. He was previously barred from the base after an arrest two years ago at the air show, when he and two other men climbed atop an F-22 fighter jet and displayed a similar banner.

The demonstration at the open house took place during a weekend retreat of the Southern Life Community. For more information, contact the Norfolk Catholic Worker at 757-423-5420 or willbags2002@yahoo.com.

CONVENTION ROUND-UPS & TERROR BRANDING

[Editors' note: Despite police at the Democratic and Republican national conventions targeting both credentialed and independent journalists and even seizing their video and audio recording equipment, there has been a significant amount of reporting about abusive policing at both events. We can only touch on the stories here.]

In Denver and in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis-St. Paul, demonstrators were met by riot-equipped police in overwhelming numbers, with provocative attitudes. Low-intensity harassment and several arrests of activists meeting or making their way about town was reported in both cities prior to and during the conventions.

A majority of the 154 arrests reported in Denver, and the over 800 reported in Minneapolis-St. Paul, occurred when police surrounded peaceful marchers, declared their assembly unlawful, let loose with pepperspray, tear gas, percussion grenades and/or smoke bombs, then swept through the chaotic scenes of their own making with bundles of plastic handcuffs.

Many of the convention-related arrests in each city were not explicitly tied to anti-war activity. But an opposition to Bush's wars was arguably the most common characteristic of activists who were targeted by police. And Randolph Bourne's World War I observation that "war is the health of the state" was unmistakably in evidence, between the hyper-militarized police and some distinctly anarchist opposition.

The strategy of preemptive war abroad showed its domestic side. In this case, it was funded by a \$50 million federal grant to each city for convention security.

Avoiding specifics, a Denver police spokesman explained the 91 arrests on the first night of the Democratic convention with clairvoyant acuity. "[We] determined

their intent was to possibly head toward the downtown to create havoc and possibly do destruction to private property..."

That night, several hundred demonstrators gathered near Civic Center Park to begin a march. Police in riot gear, without name badges or numbers, moved in with pepperspray to divide and disperse what had been a peaceful, if unpermitted, gathering. Police isolated the media, then surrounded groups of demonstrators. Many simply sat down in response to the repression. Police arrested everyone in their net, including some pedestrians passing by.

The fact that such preemptive law enforcement has, in recent years, found several cities on the multimillion-dollar losing end of class actions suits for civil rights violations meant nothing. Or, in the case of St. Paul, about \$10 million less than nothing.

That city had a virtual license to abuse and illegally detain: a contract with the Republican Host Committee that guarantees payment of the first \$10 million in liability for lawsuits arising from the convention will be made by the Host Committee.

Civil rights suits are being prepared in both places on behalf of people wrongly arrested.

The most significant prosecution arising from the Minnesota melees are the felony "Conspiracy to Riot in Furtherance of Terrorism" charges brought against eight organizers from the Republican National Convention Welcoming Committee (WC), under provisions of the Minnesota state version of the Patriot Act.

According to their Call to Action, the WC is a project

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Declaration of Dependence

July 2, 2008

As Americans here in Anoka, throughout Minnesota, and all over the country begin gathering together to celebrate the founding of this nation and the preservation of freedom, liberty, and justice for all, we believe that a different response is in order. In this sixth year of war, we continue to watch as bombs fall on Baghdad and Fallujah. We continue to read as the casualty count of American youth and Iraqi citizens climbs. We continue to read as politicians use threats of pre-emptive war against an Iranian civilian population as political currency to secure the next presidency. We are forced to wonder who this freedom and liberty is meant to serve, how military aggression can be accepted as a peacekeeping measure, and how we can all fire up the grill when people are needlessly suffering under the pretense of democracy.

The prosperous collusion of the U.S. government with private weapons manufacturers like ATK tells us that our reason for staying in Iraq have nothing to do with human welfare, and everything to do with the preservation of power and profit. As a direct result of our government's total dependence on private contractors to make war, corporations like ATK benefit from the escalation of violence

and the indefinite extension of armed occupation. And while there remains at best an illusion of a democratic structure regulating the actions of the U.S. government, contractors like ATK that supply the raw material of military aggression are entirely unaccountable to the taxpayers from whom they draw their profits.

In this anti-democratic atmosphere, working to stop the war means taking direct action to halt the means of its production. We must realize that we live near the war's laboratories, that the war is embedded in our communities, and that we can confront its operation. While we may be unable to end the war in a day, we can work to stop the flow of armament from our cities to Iraq. We see our action today at ATK as one small part in an overwhelming yet necessary project. We are doing what we can to disable local branches of the war industry in order to challenge the wars of aggression that are being fought in our name. Because elected officials will never block the cycle of death and destruction with legislation, we have to do it with our selves.

- Project to Stop the War Industry (PSWI)

The action related to this statement is reported on page 7.

ITALIAN PRISON CENSORSHIP LIFTED

Prison censors have relaxed their restrictions, and now permit Italian eco-anarchist Daniele Casalini to receive or send correspondence in foreign languages. Casalini has been in prison awaiting trial on charges related to the 2005 sabotage of powerline pylons built to import nuclear-generated electricity, although she is being held for a different alleged eco-crime. The government recently dismissed "conspiracy to overthrow the state" charges in the nuclear power case, exonerating some codefendants who had only been charged with conspiracy.



Letters of support in English can now be received, and should be sent to Daniele Casalini, Casa Circondariale, Via Burla 59, 43100 Parma, Italy. Casalini reads English with the help of a dictionary.

2008 Resistance Review

Editors' note:

This chronological diary of arrests, together with reports in the previous two issues of the Nuclear Resister, brings our chronicle of this aspect of anti-nuclear and anti-war activity up to date. There are some noteworthy and even humorous nuggets here!

Undoubtedly, given the diversity of situations represented in these reports, we have missed many more cases of arrest in the course of acting for a peaceful, nuclear free future. Readers are encouraged to email <nukeresister@igc.org>, call 520-323-8697 or write to us at P.O. Box 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733 with reports of actions we have missed. We are very interested to know the legal outcome of arrests, where not already reported here.

Date	Location	# of arrests	Brief narrative.
1-3-2008	San Francisco, CA	8	First Thursday die-in at Federal Building.
1-10-2008	Montpelier, VT	10	A small group of war protesters briefly took over center stage at Gov. James Douglas's State of the State address. Minutes into the speech, the activists, including high school students, unfurled banners bearing anti-war slogans. Ten protesters were removed from the House chambers by Capitol Police, but not before winning the attention of the overflow audience.
1-16-2008	Chicago, IL	5	Members of Christian Peacemaker Teams donned sackcloth and demonstrated outside the office of Rep. Rahm Emanuel, calling on him to manifest his vocal opposition to the war in Iraq by voting to cut war funding. They burned stacks of paper listing American and Iraqi war casualties, then marked each other's foreheads with the ashes in a sign of repentance. Five who entered the office were arrested for trespass and released.
2-7-2008	San Francisco, CA	5	First Thursday die-in at Federal Building.
2-13-2008	Washington, D.C.	1	Desiree Fairouz was arrested at the conclusion of a congressional hearing on the 2009 war budget.
2-14-2008	Bennington, VT	1	David Cowan, 18, pled guilty September 10 to a felony charge of injuring a historical marker, the 308' tall Bennington Battle Monument. Last winter, a teen companion reported to police that he and Cowan approached the landmark, an obelisk that is the tallest structure in the state and commemorates a critical Revolutionary War battle. As they neared its base, "Dave pulled the top off (the spray paint can) and on one wall wrote, 'Fuck Bush' [sic] and an anarchy sign because we are anti-war. We walked to another wall of the monument and Dave painted 'Heros?' This means that we disagree with what the soldiers are doing," the witness' statement concluded. The witness was not charged because when Cowan was arrested, he took full responsibility and exonerated his companion. The initial charge of felony mischief was dropped in the agreement, and Cowan's sentencing will be deferred for two years. He has agreed to repay \$1,650 spent to remove the graffiti.
3-9-2008	Iowa City, IA	2	Citing Karl Rove's role in the war crimes of

the Bush administration, Des Moines Catholic Workers Kirk Brown and Mona Shaw attempted to make a citizen's arrest when Rove spoke in public at the University of Iowa. Before they could finish reading a Citizen's Arrest Complaint, they were taken into custody by university police, informed they were under arrest, and removed from the hall. Outside, they were told not to return and released without charges. (see also 7/25/08)

3-19-2008 Rochester, NY 7
Eli Yewdall, Sister Grace Miller, Rita Lewis, Mike Connelly, Kathy Castania, Jake Allen and Harry Murray were arrested for disorderly conduct after placing a coffin in front of the IRS office on the anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. In court, the case was adjourned, contemplating dismissal.

3-27-2008 New Brunswick, NJ 3
Three hundred students from Rutgers University took part in the 2nd Annual Rutgers' Walkout, taking over Route 18. Subsequent police investigation led to disorderly conduct charges being filed April 10 against Suzan Sanal, Erik Straub, and Arwa Ibrahim, who police say were responsible for leading the anti-war protest. None of the other participants have been charged. The three are being represented pro bono via the National Lawyers Guild, and no trial date has been set.

3-29-2008 Lake Grove, NY 2
As he sat in the Smithhaven Mall food court with a few friends, police informed Don Zirkel that he was disturbing shoppers. Then they told the octogenarian to remove or cover up his tee shirt and its slogans: "4000 Troops, 1 million Iraqis dead," on the front and "Enough!" on the back. Zirkel refused, and police took him away in a wheelchair to face charges of trespass and obstructing government administration. At a preliminary hearing on May 22, Zirkel met Susan McKeon-Steinman for the first time. She'd been arrested the same day with another group at the mall while reading aloud the names of American war dead. "I was going to make the defense that there's a higher law than private property and shopping," said McKeon-Steinman, but prosecutors instead dismissed the charges against both activists.

4-8-2008 Washington, D.C. 1
During public testimony by General David Petraeus before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Paul Zulkowitz stood and chanted, "Bring them home! Bring them home!" He was arrested for disruption of Congress. In June, the case was dismissed before trial.

4-11-2008 Grand Junction, CO 2
When Vice President Cheney came to town, many who stood along the road to greet the motorcade waved blood-red hands in protest. Jacob Richards crawled into a body bag, and along with Mallory Rice moved into the road. Both were arrested for obstructing the highway.

4-11-2008 Ottawa, ON 1
Fifty people marched through downtown to the Congress Centre to decry the "war profiteers" gathered for an arms fair. Police arrested one person after a window was broken.

4-14-2008 Los Alamos, NM 2
After four hours of deliberation in August, a hung jury ended the trespass prosecution of Marcus Page. Page and Mike Butler of Trinity Nuclear Abolitionists (TNA) were arrested on the eve of Tax Day, which they

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Where we're at

This issue is a bit late getting to the printer. In August, Felice took a job for eight weeks to organize what was a very successful conference in Tucson for people working with families of the incarcerated. The offer came when our credit union account was empty, so now we're able to catch up with bills and complete this issue.

Also in September, we attended the annual conference of the Peace and Justice Studies Association at Portland State University. We were invited by activist Tom Hastings, an adjunct faculty in the Conflict Resolution Graduate Program at PSU. As nuclear abolitionists, it was an honor to participate in the Welcoming Plenary with two Hibakusha, Ms. Junko Kayashige and Ms. Yano Miyako, along with nonviolent resistance colleagues John LaForge and Kathy Kelly.

Thanks

Thanks to Pat, David, Jerry, Mark, Roger, Lil, Ted, Sally, Faith, Sarah, Charlotte, Marsha, Jim, Leonardo, Lida, Emma, Cindy and Kathleen for helping to mail the last issue!

the Nuclear Resister

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YOU CAN HELP!

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

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

THE NUCLEAR RESISTER ON MICROFILM

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

ABOUT THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

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

The Nuclear Resister is published about every two months and serves to network this nonviolent resistance movement while acting as a clearinghouse for information about contemporary nonviolent resistance to war and the nuclear threat. We believe that in any significant movement for social change, many committed individuals are imprisoned. Behind bars, they are physically isolated from their supporters and their own resistance activity is limited. Broader awareness of their actions and support for the imprisoned activist are essential to the movement for a peaceful, nuclear-free future.

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

Jack and Felice Cohen-Joppa, Editors

No Nukes, No Coal, No Kidding

The week-long Southeast Climate Convergence at the Twin Oaks intentional community in Virginia was one of three regional education and action gatherings this summer for people concerned about global climate change.

On the afternoon of August 7, some participants and local activists paid a visit to the public information center at Dominion Virginia Power's North Anna nuclear power plant, in Louisa. Prepared with pads of post-it notes, they proceeded to put right the promotional propaganda proliferate in such places. Thousands of notes were placed in the 90 minutes before closing time.

When the activists were asked to leave, six instead sat down and began singing anti-nuclear songs. They were arrested for trespass and jailed overnight. The next morning, a judge demanded \$1,000 bail from each. Supporters showed up with cash, but it was refused in favor of a simple I.O.U., and the six were released.

On August 11, the last day of the convergence, many participants joined an unpermitted march in Richmond that visited the offices of several "climate criminals," carrying banners reading "Social Change, not Climate Change" and "No Nukes, No Coal, No Kidding!" At Dominion Virginia's headquarters, activists chanting "No Nukes, No Coal, We won't stop until you do!" attempted to occupy the corporate plaza but were repelled by police on horseback. One horse bucked the cop off its back, an action perceived by marchers as a show of inter-species solidarity.

Later, two women slipped through police lines and locked themselves to a sign in front of the local Bank of America, a major financial backer of the coal industry. They were cut loose, arrested for trespass, and then bailed out pending a pretrial hearing September 5.

Three out-of-state defendants from the North Anna nuke action pleaded guilty and were sentenced to 90 days in jail, suspended, two years unsupervised probation, and a \$2,500 fine, half of it suspended but subject to terms of probation. They have appealed the sentence, and seek a jury trial in circuit court.

On September 23, the three local defendants - Paxus Calta, Spot Etal and Sue Frankel-Streit - were found guilty of trespass in a bench trial. Calta was sent to jail for 30 days, 15 suspended, while Etal and Frankel-Streit were fined \$1,000 each, \$700 suspended with community service in lieu of payment. Calta's sentence is stayed pending appeal.

Earlier this year, some of the same southeast energy activists were behind two other protests that ended with arrests. On both occasions, the primary statement was in opposition to Dominion's new coal burning plant in Wise County, but their message also included opposition to the North Anna nuke expansion.

Three people were arrested April 15 for impeding traffic during a brief blockade of Tredegar Street in front of Dominion's Richmond office. Then on June 30, a dozen were arrested after a two-hour, reinforced hands-in-concrete-barrel blockade there. The company spokesman told the press, "It did affect the operability at Tredegar... It had a significant effect." Ten took a plea bargain a week before the Climate Convergence got underway, and were ordered to serve the community for 200 or more hours each. Laura Van Dohlen and Lara Mack declined the plea bargain. They were scheduled to stand trial September 18.

For more information, contact Nuclear Information and Resource Service Southeast Regional Coordinator Mary Olson at 828-675-1792 or nirs@main.nc.us.

No Nukes Northwest, either

While most of the new nuclear plants in the United States are being proposed for the southeast, the industry is playing hardball with opponents in Idaho. Alternate Energy Holdings (AEH) first proposed a 1,600 MW plant in Owyhee County, but is now seeking to build on a site in neighboring Elmore County. At an informational public meeting that nearly filled the Glens Ferry Opera House on June 16, Twin Falls podiatrist Peter Rickards was handing out flyers critical of the Idaho Energy Complex, promoter of the plant and host of the meeting. He was asked to stop by the manager of the opera house, so he took his educational effort outside. But when Rickards later tried to reenter and observe the meeting, he was blocked by an AEH executive assistant.

"I asked him to please get out of my way, to step aside, and he said he wasn't in my way," Rickards told a local newspaper. "So I turned sideways and slid past him. The doorway is probably three feet across and Doug's about two-and-a-half feet across so our bellies touched when I went by."

Police were summoned, and they pulled Rickards from the hall to face charges of trespass and battery. A pretrial hearing for his case was scheduled for September 18 and trial set for October 24 in Mountain Home.

In late August, AEH filed suit against the Snake River Alliance, alleging defamation in an August 11 television interview with Andrea Shipley, Executive Director of the 29-year old nuclear watchdog group. Shipley told KTVB-Boise that, "These guys are scammers. Regardless of how you feel about nuclear energy, these guys are scamming Idahoans."

For more information, visit myidahoenergy.com or contact Peter Rickards at info@myidahoenergy.com

WAR PARADE REPORT

by Patrick O'Neill

Outnumbered 500 to 1, a small band of jittery peace activists from throughout the Raleigh-Durham area attempted to march in the April 26 "Salute to Our Troops" parade in downtown Raleigh.

From the get go it was clear that the bankers, the Pentagon, the news media, the police and thousands of pro-war spectators were of one mind as they encountered our group marching behind a banner stating "Don't Celebrate War."

Led by a group of Veterans for Peace (with their banner), the 20 or so activists attempted to march in the parade seconds after four F-15E Strike Eagles passed overhead to wild cheering from the crowd along Fayetteville Street. Police immediately interdicted the group while the cameramen from WRAL-TV averted their cameras so as to not report the story. To my knowledge not one peace activist was interviewed by a television station despite the fact that TV reporters often go out of their way at our events to find naysayers.

The Raleigh police were very rough, often shoving us and not stopping people who kept taking our placards away and tearing them up. One cop told me I had provoked the person who tore my "Jesus Said: Love Your Enemies" sign in half. I also had my "Gods of Metal Won't Save Us" sign ripped out of my hands in front of a cop.

Many people took and read Cy King's fine "WHY WE ARE HERE -- WHY WE MOURN" leaflet that explained our presence. "The parade today is more about showing off the weapons of war than the tragedy of war," Cy wrote. "A more fitting tribute would be to have a parade of those in wheelchairs and on crutches followed by a demand that a sad but grateful nation provide the ongoing care that these young people will need."

A few people nodded their heads in agreement at our presence, but idolatry ruled the day as stern-faced soldiers marched in formation behind many war vehicles as the throngs of spectators screamed for joy at this massive show of force.

When a man covered my Love Your Enemy placard with his U.S. Flag, the Morgan St. crowd let out a roar of approval. It was clearly a "You're-with-us-or-with-the-terrorists" crowd today. Lots of "Love it or Leave It" and "Go Back to Chapel Hill" comments; not much 1st Amendment consideration.

Police monitored us closely, but Daniel Foster, a UNC-G student from Fuquay-Varina walked onto Morgan St. and laid down in front of a very large armored vehicle, bringing the parade to a stop. Foster was arrested for disorderly conduct. Peace folks scraped together his \$1,000 bond, and got him out of the Wake County Jail by 3 p.m. Foster pled not guilty, and his trial is set for October 16.

Inside & Out



NUCLEAR RESISTERS

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)

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

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)

Daniele Casalini
Casa Circondariale, Via Burla 59, 43100 Parma, Italy.
(Eco-anarchist on remand for another alleged crime, and awaiting trial for 9/05 sabotage of nuclear electricity pylons)

PREVIOUSLY LISTED, RECENTLY RELEASED: Beth Rosdatter, Andrew Heger-ty, Ryan Jackson

PUBLIC MILITARY REFUSERS

Robin Long (15 months - out 6/09)
Miramar Naval Consolidated Brig, P.O. Box 452136, San Diego, CA 92145-2136.
(Pled guilty to desertion, 8/08)

James Burmeister (6 months - out 01/15/09)
Regional Confinement Facility, Box A, Fort Knox, KY 40121.
(Convicted of desertion after CO application was denied)

Robert Weiss (7 months - out 12/08)
Unit 29723, Box LL, APO, AE 09028-9723.
(Pled guilty to desertion and missing movement after application for discharge as a conscientious objector was denied, 5/08)

ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS

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)

Port and Fort Blockades

With the return of a Stryker combat infantry brigade's equipment to Fort Lewis via the Port of Tacoma last summer, Port Militarization Resistance (PMR) and other groups again turned out to resist the use of civilian ports in Washington State for the revolving door policy of redeployment. Regionally, the port demilitarization movement has brought out hundreds of protesters from all over the northwest and resulted in over 150 arrests in the last 2-1/2 years.

The protests resumed July 30, monitoring war equipment moving from the Port of Tacoma. Protesters and observers endured harassment by law enforcement demanding identification, arbitrarily detaining pedestrians and using force without provocation to control crowds. Six arrests were reported at the Port over the next two days.

By late Friday night August 1, the protest moved for the first time to the gates of Fort Lewis. A total of nine arrests were made over the next two days as activist blocked various exits off of I-5, each action a direct attempt to stop the return of Stryker vehicles to the base where they would be readied for redeployment. Some arrestees were held overnight before being released on bail.

On Saturday, August 2 near Fort Lewis - at a separately organized event corresponding to the National Day of Action Against the War with Iran - an organizer who provided his home to coordinate jail and legal support for those arrested in Tacoma was arrested himself on charges of littering and obstruction while dropping off signs and a papier-mâché head of George Bush Jr. to be used at the rally.

One man, Forest Student, was hospitalized under arrest Sunday after being threatened and then shot with a taser by a police officer sitting in his patrol car. Initially

charged with felony assault, Student was released the next day without charge.

On Monday, August 4, a videographer was targeted while recording a demonstration, arrested for trespass, and his camera and videotape confiscated. The camera was returned later, but the tape is being held as evidence.

After this recent round of resistance, PMR activist Patrick Edelbacher explained part of the group's strategy to the *Seattle Times*:



As an August 8 peace vigil concluded outside Raytheon's software facility in Derry, Northern Ireland, Jim Keys was arrested for criminal damage as he touched up the 3-year-old black shamrock sidewalk art. "Reasoning with the arresting officers had little effect," he observed later, after being cited and released. "They seemed to be paying more attention to what was being said to them through their ear pieces than making an accurate assessment of the situation on the ground."

"We want cities to say, 'We don't want to be involved with this anymore because it's economically ineffective and disastrous when it comes to police activity and conflicts with protesters.'" Local law enforcement agencies have spent up to \$800,000 to deal with two rounds of protest last year, and the military acknowledges shipping some equipment by train to ports in other states for loading out to Iraq.

UPDATE

After months of waiting, the city of Olympia has finally charged seven people from among 66 arrested during a series of protest actions at the port last November.

In May, prosecutors charged Shyam Khanna with obstructing an officer and resisting arrest. Sisters Patsy and Katie Hutchison were charged with obstructing an officer. Patsy had taken a face-full of pepperspray before police handcuffed her and threw her into their van. Her cries of pain from the spray were ignored by police, and when sister Katie implored police to get medical attention for Patsy, police instead arrested Katie as well. Patsy negotiated a plea, and Katie's case was thrown out September 19 when the judge apparently agreed with a defense claim that a police videotape with possibly exculpatory evidence had been destroyed. Khanna awaits trial.

In June, four more people who were part of a larger group arrested on November 10, 2007, were also charged with obstructing an officer: Gabrielle Sloane, Amory Ballantine, Davi Rios and Joji Kohjima. Davi has taken a plea agreement and the other three have moved to consolidate their cases.

For more information visit www.olypmr.org

REFUSING TO KILL, CONT.

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Iraq war resisters "to apply for permanent resident status and remain in Canada" and "that the government should immediately cease any removal or deportation actions" against them.

Despite polls showing nearly 2-1 support for such a policy, and at least four out of every five Canadians opposed to the Iraq war, the conservative government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper has so far refused to go along, continuing instead to pursue deportation proceedings against those refusers who have sought asylum.

The deportation orders are in contrast to the Canadian high court's June 2 ruling that granted asylum to Joshua Key, a former army combat engineer who fled with his wife and children to Canada in 2006 while on a two-week leave. Canada grants asylum to soldiers who seek protection from committing war crimes, and the court said it "cannot be seriously challenged" that Key took part in military operations that violated the Geneva Convention against "outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment" and "unlawful confinement." During his yearlong deployment, Key was ordered into nighttime home invasions and adult male roundups of Iraqi civilians, where he witnessed extreme human rights violations.

UPDATE

Andrew Hegarty, who pled guilty at court martial to desertion and failure to obey a lawful order, saying "I'm not ready to pull the trigger and shoot anyone," was released from the military brig in Germany in mid-August. While serving a nine month sentence, Hegarty refused some of the support mail sent to him, but confirmed receiving other letters.

For more information, contact the War Resisters Support Campaign, Box 13, 427 Bloor Street West, Toronto, ON M5S 1X7; 416-598-1222, resisters@sympatico.ca, www.resisters.ca and Courage to Resist, 484 Lake Park Ave #41, Oakland CA 94610; 510-488-3559, www.couragetoresist.org (thanks to Courage to Resist for parts of this story).

Military refusers and conscientious objectors, and anyone in the armed forces, veterans or their families can contact the GI Rights Hotline (877-447-4487, www.girightshotline.org or girights@girightshotline.org) for free, confidential, and accurate information and counseling on U.S. military regulations and practices regarding discharge and other issues.



Letters of support can be sent to Robin Long, Miramar Naval Consolidated Brig, P.O. Box 452136, San Diego, CA 92145-2136; and James Burmeister, Regional Confinement Facility, Box A, Fort Knox, KY 40121.

Robin Long's Journey of Conscience

Robin Long was raised in a military family. Upon enlisting in the Army in June 2003, the recruiter promised that Long would not be sent to Iraq. Long was excited about this chance to serve his country and finally make something with his life. He headed off for basic training believing the President and feeling he had made the right decision.

Over the next few months, Long's enthusiasm began to wane. His drill sergeant repeatedly referred to Iraqi people as "ragheads" and led the troops in racist cadences. When Long protested, he was punished by senior officers and alienated by his peers. At this point, Long began to suffer a crisis of conscience. "I was hearing on mainstream media that the U.S. was going to Iraq to get the weapons of mass destruction and to liberate the Iraqi people, yet I'm being taught that I'm going to the desert to, excuse the racial slur, 'kill ragheads.'"

After basic training, Long was transferred to the nondeployable unit at Fort Knox. Upon meeting soldiers returning from Iraq, Long was horrified by their stories of violence and brutality. Soldiers bragged about their "first kills" and showed pictures of people they shot or ran over with tanks. "I had a really sick feeling to my stomach when I heard about these things that went on," he said.

Long first learned about conscientious objection in 2005. He asked his sergeant for the application forms, but sarge couldn't find them. One month later, Long was the only soldier in his unit to receive orders to go to Iraq. He was given a month's leave to check out of Fort Knox and report to Fort Carson, Colorado for deployment.

While on leave, Long educated himself about the "behind the scenes" story of the Iraq invasion. He talked

to friends about whether to go through with his deployment. By his scheduled departure day, Long had made the decision not to go. He skipped his flight and soon made his way to Canada. "I knew that my conscience couldn't allow me to go over there (to Iraq)," he told Courage to Resist.

Long spent the next three years building a life for himself in Canada. He met a woman, had a child and established contact with other war resisters in Canada. Long applied for refugee status on the grounds that he was being asked to participate in an illegal war and would suffer irreparable harm if he returned to the United States. Not only was his bid rejected, but Canadian authorities responded by mandating that Long report his whereabouts every month. On July 4, a warrant for his arrest was unexpectedly issued. Authorities claimed that because Long was then staying with different friends around Nelson, British Columbia, he was in violation of the order. He was soon arrested, deported and barred from reentry for ten years.

In an interview with CourageToResist.org Audio Project from the El Paso County Jail, two days after sentencing, Long reported he has received over 300 letters of support from across the United States and Canada, and around the world. "I'm thankful that I, in my life and the things I've chosen to do, that I got the tools and the training to have inner peace," he said. "I'm thankful that it's me and not somebody else that wouldn't have those tools to be in this position, that they might be suffering a lot more than me."

Supporters in Canada are preparing to seek a private act in Parliament so he can return there before the ten years has passed.

2008 Resistance, cont.

continued from page 2

were observing with a 24-hour prayer vigil in The Bomb's home town. The Department of Energy owns the city, and at sunset, demanded the vigilers leave the space negotiated for TNA's monthly daytime vigil. Page and Butler crossed the road to land they believed to be under county jurisdiction, and continued their vigil. A few hours later, they were arrested and jailed. In court the next day, both pleaded not guilty to trespass. They spent another night in jail before posting \$1,000 bond each. Butler later pled no contest and was sentenced to 30 days probation.

4-17-2008 Annapolis, MD 3

A brief, impromptu anti-war sit-in and class boycott that sparked a lunch-hour commotion in the halls of Annapolis High School led to the arrest of three students and a ten-day suspension. Will Sharkey, 18, was led away and held until 3 a.m. Friday on charges of disorderly conduct and disturbing school operations, while his brother Sam, 16, and friend Kit Whitacre, 17, got juvenile

charges. Whitacre told a reporter, "We just sat down in front of the main office. We didn't want to go to class because we felt it's unfair other people our age are in Iraq." Their civic, if impetuous, engagement was reluctantly acknowledged a few days later when the criminal charges were dropped and the suspension cut to three days.

5-1-2008 Burlington, VT 10

In solidarity with the anti-war protest of dockworkers refusing to load West Coast ships on International Workers' Day, ten people locked themselves together in the local office lobby of war profiteer General Dynamics, demanding that the corporation stop contributing to politicians responsible for their business, stop making weapons, and give back the \$3.6 million in Vermont tax breaks it received in 2007. "This is the gas tank of the war machine," one of the office occupiers said, "and we are the sugar." The ten were arrested about six hours later, cited for trespass and released.

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HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI REMEMBERED

The 63rd anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima (August 6) and Nagasaki (August 9) were commemorated around the world with renewed calls for nuclear disarmament, some of which resulted in arrest.

VANDENBERG

Arrests were not expected at Vandenberg Air Force Base on Nagasaki Day. About two dozen people demonstrated at the main gate, an area of disputed jurisdiction where California Highway 1 passes north of Santa Barbara through the sprawling missile base. During the two-hour vigil, military police closely observed the crowd and then arrested Dennis Apel and Fr. Stephen Kelly, SJ for trespass. The two men had been barred from the base for life after they and three others crossed the painted green line at the same gate in May, 2007. Their codefendant Mike Wisniewski was also present and threatened with arrest but opted to leave the area immediately. A trial date for the 2007 line-crossing has not been set.

Four days later, another unexpected arrest occurred when a Minuteman III missile test launch was scheduled for the early morning hours. More than 20 armed riot police were on hand at 5 a.m. to meet the three women who arrived at the gate to demonstrate.

One officer approached organizer MacGregor Eddy and demanded to know if she was, in fact, Ms. Eddy. Eddy refused to answer the question, and began questioning the officer in return about the legality of that morning's test of a nuclear attack missile. Police, after consulting a large notebook with photos of demonstrators, determined that they had their woman and handcuffed Eddy. She was charged with trespass for violating a 2005 order barring her from the base, and also with resisting arrest for failing to identify herself. Eddy was cited and released, and ordered to leave the area.

For more information, visit vandenbergwitness.org

WASHINGTON, D.C.

(thanks to Jonah House for this report)

Remembering the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and aware of the threat to use nuclear weapons to control the policies of other nations, activists from the Atlantic Life Community gathered for a Faith and Resistance retreat in Washington, D.C.

On August 6, the group walked to the Pentagon, led by Japanese Buddhist Nun, Sr. Ichi Kawa, who also led walks to the Department of Energy (DOE) and White House later during the retreat. Her presence, drumming, chanting and prayer kept the participants mindful and helped create a cohesive group.

Most wore burlap sackcloth tunics and were marked with ashes, recalling "an ancient public display of grief and repentance." During a silent vigil at the Pentagon, some sat on the grassy area. Others held banners which read: "We repent the sin of Hiroshima and Nagasaki" and "We oppose the use and threat of nuclear weapons." Five people - Liz McAlister, Clare Grady, Eve Tetaz, Peter De Mott, and Bill Streit were arrested when they knelt on the Pentagon sidewalk.

On August 7, the activists joined a tour of the USS Sterett, a guided missile destroyer anchored in the Baltimore Harbor in preparation for its commissioning on August 9. During the tour, 19 people brought out banners, handed out leaflets (not many were taken) and sang

as they were escorted off the ship. Everyone was detained for an hour or so as they got off the ship, but during this whole time, the action became a vigil on the dock, watched throughout by many of the Sterett's crew. The banners were visible to all, reading "Disarm the Sterett, Love your Enemies" and "Jesus would never join the military."

On August 8, the retreat community walked to the DOE, again dressed in sackcloth and ashes, displaying again the banners they had used at the Pentagon. Matt Olachek taped a correction onto the sign on the lawn so it read "Department of Extinction", but he was not arrested. (The DOE is responsible for research, development and production of all U.S. nuclear weapons.)

On Nagasaki Day, the group went to the White House. Two Hibakusha - one a survivor of the Hiroshima bombing and the other a survivor of the Nagasaki bombing - had come from Japan for the anniversary. They told their moving stories to the activists and hundreds of attentive tourists and then joined the silent vigil in sackcloth and ashes.

That evening, a newly formed peace flotilla convened in the waters surrounding the USS Sterett during the commissioning. Each of the 9 boats displayed colorful banners with pointed messages, including the banners that were unfurled on the Sterett two days earlier, a floating peace sign and a helium filled weather balloon holding up a DISARM banner.

For more information, contact Jonah House via jonah-house.org or at 1301 Moreland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21216, 410-233-6238.

BANGOR

Following a weekend of community building and action preparation at the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 45 people joined an early Monday morning demonstration on August 11 at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, Washington.

At around 5:45 a.m., five demonstrators walked toward the freeway overpass near the main gate of the base with a large banner declaring, "CREATE A PEACEFUL WORLD FOR ALL CHILDREN. Abolish Nuclear Weapons. Scrap Trident." They were met by Kitsap County deputy sheriffs who had closed both sidewalks on the overpass with signs stating, "No Pedestrian Traffic." The five attempted to pass the sign with their banner and were immediately arrested. Lynne Greenwald, Jack Fogelberg, Mary Gleysteen, Kim Wahl and Glen Milner were booked and later released in Port Orchard, being told only that they may be charged with failure to obey an officer.

At the same time, four demonstrators went to the freeway overpass near the Trigger Avenue entrance and held a banner stating "Abolish Nuclear Weapons" and a U.S. flag. When deputies arrived about 30 minutes later,



Children's Peace Memorial (detail), Hiroshima

the demonstrators were ordered to disperse. Officers eventually told the four demonstrators that the law did not apply to their actions. One officer explained that the demonstrators were arrested at the main gate because they could drop something on Washington State Patrol officers or Kitsap County deputies working below them.

Bannering from the overpass sidewalk during demonstrations was commonplace until August, 2007, when sheriff's deputies first prohibited the practice. The Ground Zero Community responded with a letter to the sheriff noting that similar banners had been held in this location over the past five years without incident and indicated they would continue to exercise their constitutionally protected right to free speech. Four of the five charged in August had also been arrested in the same place on May 31 (not June 1 as first reported here), but have not been back to court on either count.

FIRST FEDERAL TRIAL FOR BANGOR RESISTERS SINCE 1989

In a related update, Fr. Bill Bichsel, Rev. Anne Hall, Tom Karlin and Lynne Greenwald were in federal court September 3 to answer unlawful entry (18 USC 1382) charges from demonstrations last May. Their trial is set for December 3 in the Union Station Courthouse in Tacoma. This will be the first trial in federal court involving Ground Zero members since 1989.

Fr. Bichsel had previously appeared at the Union Station Courthouse for his scheduled trial on August 6, 2008. The charge was the same, 18 USC 1382, from a demonstration on January 19, 2008. When Bichsel appeared he was told the prosecutor was not available to try the case and that his case was dismissed.

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

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE

Three women were taken into custody August 8 during the 7th Annual Sisters Witness Against War. Each year, the Colorado Springs orders of Mount St. Francis and Benet Hill invite other religious women to vigil at Peterson Air Force Base. "We remember the tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in hopes that they will never happen again," said Benet Hill Sister Therese O'Grady. This year, about 45 people took part, and when Sister Barbara Huber of Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, Sister Mary Ann Cunningham of the Sisters of Loretto in Denver and Esther Kisamore of Colorado Springs tried to carry a letter to the commanding general onto the base, they were apprehended and turned over to local police for possible prosecution for trespass.

LOCKHEED MARTIN

A four-hour Hiroshima Day vigil for peace at the Valley Forge headquarters of Lockheed Martin corporation preceded a midday die-in and the arrest of fourteen people for disorderly conduct. The vigil was marked by the sounds of a siren, a nuclear bomb blast, and the hourly tolling of a peace bell 63 times, once for every year since Hiroshima. Participants shared water in memory of the Hiroshima victims who sought relief in the river from the fire that exploded over their homes in 1945. A litany prepared for the event declared in part:

"Today, we seek to make visible the unspeakable

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TERROR BRANDING, CONT.

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for "those of you who abhor the rapid growth of racist militarized borders across stolen lands, the raids and deportations, destruction and commodification of our shared and living earth, police brutality and prison industry, fear propaganda and subjugation, exploitation and robbery of peoples worldwide, and all forms of injustice and oppression". They had worked openly for more than a year to disrupt the Republican's celebration of their "latest conquests in global domination and exploitation" and to "build a radical infrastructure" for and with anti-authoritarians and others who came to protest at the convention.

As a practical matter, the WC reserved a gathering space and arranged the sort of hospitality needed for sustained mass action.

David Zlutnick of the Friendly Fire Collective wrote about what happened beginning on Friday, August 29, before the convention began.

...[I]t started with the raiding of the WC's Convergence Center—a rented church event center being used for meetings, free dinners, film screenings, etc.—after which police began a series of house raids, where the eight members of the WC were arrested as being organizers of the "violence" and "mayhem" that police insisted would occur in the coming days. Warrants had been issued and served for Monica Bicking, Eryn Trimmer, Luce Guillen Givins, Erik Oseland, Nathanael Secor, Robert Czernik, Garrett Fitzgerald, and Max Spector, now

known as the RNC 8, who are facing the terrorism charge.

It has now been made public that these individuals were targeted after long police investigations where evidence was obtained mostly through the use of paid informants who infiltrated the WC. The informants made allegations that WC-members sought to kidnap delegates to the RNC, assault police officers with firebombs and explosives, and sabotage airports in St. Paul, although so far none of the evidence that has been provided by police corroborates any of this.

Labeling these organizers as terrorists quickly galvanizes support for heavy-handed police action and offers justification, especially when filtered through the lens of the not-so-anarchist-friendly media.

"These charges are an effort to equate publicly stated plans to blockade traffic and disrupt the RNC as being the same as acts of terrorism. This both trivializes real violence and attempts to place the stated political views of the defendants on trial," said Bruce Nestor, president of the Minnesota chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. "The charges represent an abuse of the criminal justice system and seek to intimidate any person organizing large scale public demonstrations potentially involving civil disobedience."

Supporters maintained a 24/7 vigil outside the Ramsey County Jail until the eight and others were released.

Nearly half (396) of the Minnesota arrests took place on the final night of the convention. Hundreds of people

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Whistleblowing Danish Intelligence Officer Jailed

Danish military intelligence officer Major Frank Grevil has completed a four-month prison sentence for leaking classified reports that contradicted official Danish statements about Iraq's "weapons of mass destruction." With credit for good time, he served less than three months and was released on September 10.

Retired Col. Ann Wright tells Grevil's story in her new book (coauthored with Susan Dixon) *Dissent - Voices of Conscience: Government Insiders Speak Out Against the War in Iraq* :

Denmark was among the first countries to join the Coalition of the Willing [...] In August 2002, the Danish government asked its military intelligence service to produce intelligence estimates on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. [Grevil] helped write these classified WMD intelligence reports for Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen. The reports, from August 2002 until March 2003, clearly and consistently stated that there was no evidence that Iraq had any weapons of mass destruction.

The day before the invasion of Iraq, Prime Minister Rasmussen told the Danish Parliament, "Iraq has weapons of mass destruction. This is not something we just believe. We know." Grevil was stunned. To convince Parliament to vote to go to war, Rasmussen completely ignored the intelligence reports.

In fact, in July 2002, Secretary of State Powell had told the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Per Stig Moeller, that the U.S. had decided to remove Saddam Hussein from power by any means necessary. Much evidence reveals that Danish leaders knew the U.S. decision to go to war in Iraq was not based on WMD but was focused on regime change. And yet, during the five months before the war began, the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs told Parliament more than 100

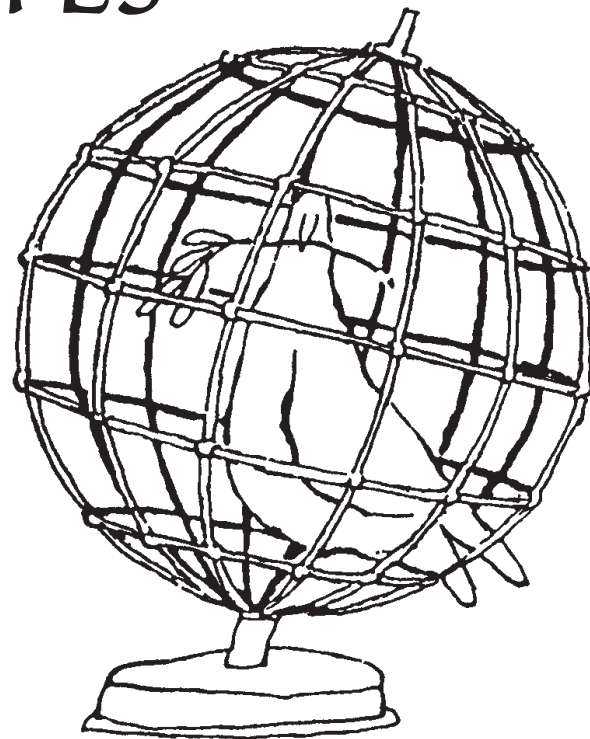
times that "the conflict was about disarming Iraq."

Frank Grevil was deeply disturbed that his Prime Minister was distorting the intelligence on WMD to make the case for war. He believed that Parliament hadn't received the information it needed to make an informed decision whether to go to war. But for almost a year, he kept his frustrations to himself. When no WMD were found in Iraq, the Parliament began hotly debating the prewar intelligence. In January 2004, Grevil approached two Danish journalists and told them the Prime Minister had misled Parliament and the country in making the case for war. The journalists told him they needed hard evidence, and after a few days, Grevil decided to leak the intelligence reports he had helped write. "I couldn't as a democratic citizen live with the fact that the government was withholding crucial documents," he told *Democracy Now!* host Amy Goodman eight months later. "It was my conscience that led me to provide these documents."

In February 2004, the headline story "that there had in fact been no credible evidence that Iraq had possessed" WMD ran in *Berlingske Tidende*, one of Denmark's three major newspapers, and the Prime Minister denied the story. By March, Danish police identified Grevil as the source of the leak and arrested him for revealing state secrets. Grevil confessed and was "dismissed" from his job, tried, and sentenced to six months in prison, later reduced to four months.

In late 2006, the two journalists and their editor were acquitted of leaking state secrets and "undermining state security" by printing the classified reports.

For more information, visit www.grevilsupport.dk and click on the Union Jack for English.



Vanunu's Latest Sentence Cut in Half

The East Jerusalem District Court, hearing an appeal, has reduced to three months the six-month prison sentence given last year to Mordechai Vanunu. He was sentenced for violating the terms of his release from prison by maintaining unauthorized contact with foreigners, namely foreign media.

In April, 2004, Mordechai Vanunu was released from prison, having served his full 18 year sentence for releasing photographic and other evidence of Israel's secret nuclear weapons lab, where he worked as a technician. Days before the Sunday Times of London published his story in October, 1986, Israel's nuclear whistleblower was kidnapped in Rome by Israeli spies and taken back to Israel, where a secret trial convicted him on charges of espionage and treason.

In addition to the prohibition on speaking with foreign media, he has been forbidden to leave Israel since his 2004 release, and these restrictions have been renewed annually.

Vanunu was not taken into custody following the September 23 resentencing, and will continue his appeal to the Israeli Supreme Court.

The District Court judges wrote that, "Considering his ailing health and the absence of indications that his actions put the country's security at risk, we believe his sentence should be reduced."

U.S. supporter Eileen Fleming, who phoned Vanunu after court, was assured that he was just fine, physically and mentally. "The issue is about my right to be free, my right to speak and my right to leave the state," Vanunu told her.

The state has consistently argued that the ban on contact with foreign media "was issued on the basis of a security necessity" because Vanunu has more nuclear secrets to tell. Vanunu has always insisted that he told the Sunday Times all he knows. Now, the district court has agreed that Vanunu's current actions pose no threat to Israel.

On his way into court, Vanunu told reporters, "When I'll be free to talk and move about I'll be able to speak with you. I want the court to authorize my freedom of movement and expression."

In a related development, the government of Norway in May formally rejected Vanunu's appeal for asylum. More than 250 Norwegian jurists, including three on the country's highest court, have signed an appeal to the government to reverse the decision and bring the full weight of the Norwegian state to bear against Israel's lawlessness in the Vanunu case.

For more information, visit www.vanunu.com.

The Exorcism of Raytheon

Two members of Christians Against ALL Terrorism were found not guilty of disobeying a police direction last April in Brisbane, Australia. Their bench trial followed a series of exorcisms carried out in a Raytheon corporate office. The July 25 acquittal, apparently because the charge did not fit the circumstances of the arrests, led prosecutors to withdraw prosecution of Jim Dowling, one of the defendants, for willful damage during the third rite conducted by the group. Dowling writes of Raytheon's part in many crimes, particularly Israel's reliance on Raytheon for bombing Lebanon in 2006, and the March 23, 2003 bombing of a Baghdad market by a single missile traced to Raytheon, and then, of "A Response."

...With all this in mind, a group of people, Christians Against ALL Terrorism, began a series of Deliverance prayers, or exorcisms, at the Raytheon office in Murrarie, Brisbane. Convinced that only the demonic could account for a company which exists to make profit from such death and destruction, we were determined to do our best to rid the Raytheon company of those forces...

On 25th April, five of us entered the Brisbane front office, lit candles, prayed and sprinkled holy water. We also pasted the walls with photos of Raytheon massacres. We then placed human blood in

the shape of a cross in three places on their white walls and glass doors. At last Raytheon could show its true nature to visitors!

Raytheon executives declined to press charges. Police then charged two of us (Lisa Bridle and myself) for refusing to leave when asked by police.

On 29th May, immediately after our first court appearance, I returned with Lisa and six others to the Raytheon offices and repeated the Deliverance rite. (It is handy that Raytheon is not far from the court house). This time, in front of the glass doors leading to the reception area, we put up the same photos and poured blood. After 20 minutes of reciting the deliverance prayers, we went downstairs and stood with others on the footpath. Three car loads of police arrived, but once again Raytheon declined to press charges, and no-one from the police even bothered to talk to us.

On 7th July we returned to court again and finally got a date for our trial (25th July). Immediately after, we again returned to the Raytheon office and performed the deliverance rite, a virtual repeat of that on 29th May. This time however there were over 20 people present, seven of us taking part in the deliverance rite and the others standing outside with a large banner reading "Raytheon - Merchant of Death."

Perhaps finally sensing we were not going to give up easily, this time Raytheon executives did ask police to press charges, and being the one who poured the blood on the doors, I was charged with "willful damage" [the charge now dismissed].

...This is our prayer also, that Christians and others will be emboldened to embrace the non-violent message of Jesus."

For more information, email Christians Against ALL Terrorism at penangke@octa4.net.au

U.S. Nukes Out of Büchel

(From a report in *Nukewatch Quarterly*)

More than 2,000 people marched against the Büchel Air Force Base in southwestern Germany on August 30, marking the largest anti-war protest in 20 years at the site. A broad spectrum of labor, student, religious, pacifist, women's and international organizations put together the rally.

Carrying puppets, banners and placards - one reading "Missing in Iraq, found in Büchel" - the activists called for at least 20 U.S. nuclear warheads still deployed there and thought to be the last ones still on German soil, to be withdrawn and destroyed.

Some of the demonstrators climbed the fence around the base. Police made 24 arrests, including three protesters who managed to get into the fighter-bomber base before being caught.

ANZAC Ploughshares Update

Pretrial proceedings for the ANZAC Ploughshares action group got underway with a deposition hearing in Blenheim, New Zealand on September 18. Support demonstrations occurred that day in Auckland and Wellington as well. Defendants Adrian Leason, Fr. Peter Murnane and Sam Land entered pleas of not guilty to two charges related to a peace action last April 30 at the U.S.-run spy base at Waihopai. The three men entered the base

and with a sickle, cut through and destroyed the inflatable dome that covered one of two dish antenna used for intercepting communications as part of the global ECHELON network. Police will present their evidence and witnesses at the deposition hearing as well, and trial is expected to begin in November.

For more information, visit ploughshares.org.nz

2008 Resistance, cont.

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5-1-2008 Sarasota, FL 2

Seventy people celebrated May Day with a boisterous and unpermitted anti-war parade that stopped by City Hall. Three traffic barricades and yellow caution tape were found to block a section of the road. Police arrested one juvenile who did not clear the street as ordered, and charged Mike Forsyth with disorderly conduct after he climbed a light pole and refused to get down.

5-4-2008 Kent, OH 4

On the 38th annual commemoration of the Kent State killings, 200 people departed from the official ceremony ahead of a permitted march, down the same route towards the West Main Street bridge. On the bridge, the marchers swarmed into the first empty lane, then another and another as traffic was stopped and cars on the bridge drove on. Police tried to disperse the group, but soon retreated as many marchers simply sat down and took up chanting "Whose Streets? Our Streets!" Soon the permitted march, with a funeral procession theme and jazz band on a flatbed trailer, approached the bridge. The occupying marchers agreed to let it pass over, and when the procession was on the bridge, it stopped and the two groups merged for half an hour. When the permitted procession departed for a planned tree-planting, police directed traffic immediately behind them, despite the presence of the original occupiers. Bill Arthrell, Aaron Brooks, Yvette Coil, and Sable Foster sat down and were immediately arrested. Dozens followed them to jail and quickly raised \$2,000 bail for their release. The four pled guilty to disorderly conduct and were fined \$25 and sentenced to 24 hours community service at Freedom House veterans shelter in Kent. They were also ordered to send letters to their congressional representatives and local newspapers about their ideas for peace in Iraq. The *Record-Courier* reports that Foster, a student at Kent State, knows her proposal to build more schools and teach Iraqi children to be proud of their culture, language and families "sounds incredibly fanciful." However, she noted, "Someone has to have hope for these things."

5-13-2008 Washington, D.C. 1

Liz Hurican was arrested for loudly lobbying Representatives about war funding outside the Cannon House Office Building.

5-16-2008 Portland, OR 3

Sen. Gordon Smith again rejected peace lobbyists, this time having Jesse Laird, Rhoda Moore and Tom Hastings handcuffed and cited for trespass, despite their having promised to leave as soon as Smith agreed to vote against more war funding.

5-21-2008 New London, CT 1

Donald Blevins, chairman of the Waterford Board of Education, was arrested as he took a shortcut to join an anti-war rally at the entrance to the Coast Guard Academy. Police allege he interfered with their work by failing to leave an area secured for the commencement visit of Vice President Dick Cheney and his motorcade.

5-22-2008 Stockton, CA 3

Police escorted three CODEPINK women away from a McCain campaign rally after they challenged the candidate's threat of war on Iran. Medea Benjamin, Nancy Mancias and Katelyn were held for questioning by the Secret Service. Benjamin blogged "...one of the agents questioned me about our motives. 'The war in Iraq,' I said, pointing to the [McCain=Endless War] sign on my chest. 'I just returned from the Middle East and saw the horrible consequences of our policies, like five million Iraqi refugees. I want to end this damn war and stop another one in Iran.' 'Oh, you're just protesting the war,' he shrugged, 'then I guess there's no problem,' indicating that we were free to leave."

5-22-2008 Washington, D.C. 4

CODE Pink women were charged with "unlawful conduct on Capitol grounds" at Gen. Petraus' confirmation hearings. Three spent the night in jail.

5-29-2008 St. Paul, MN 1

St. Paul police apologized for the earliest pre-convention repression. Mick Kelly was arrested for peddling at an Obama campaign rally. A week later, police acknowledged it was a free speech issue, because he was simply passing out a wordy flyer with the headline "March on the RNC and Stop the War." The charge was dismissed.

6-13-2008 Berkeley, CA 1

Pam Bennett was charged with violating a local nudity ordinance when she removed her shirt for a second time during the Breasts Not Bombs protest at the Marine recruiting station. Others had complied when police demanded they put their shirts back on and keep them on. "War is indecent—breasts are not," Bennett told the *Berkeley Daily Planet*. "Four million people displaced, lacking food and water is indecent—breasts are not."

6-19-2008 Washington, D.C. 1

A man was arrested in the gallery of the House of Representatives when he threw "bloody" money down to the floor of the chamber during the vote

for more Afghanistan and Iraq war funding.

6-20-2008 Miami, FL 2

Lobbying for the United States Conference of Mayors to approve a Don't Attack Iran resolution, two CODEPINK women were arrested and held for hours.

6-26-2008 Sacramento, CA 6

Following a "Freeze-In for Peace," where about two dozen people stopped in motion for five minutes as a dramatic anti-war statement, activists outside the Governor's office were arrested for illegally entering the Capitol and demonstrating without a permit, and released. "This is absolutely linked to the budget deficit mess in California. Our share of the war in Iraq is \$67 billion," said Maggie Coulter, one of those arrested. "In fact, just spending the money for these officers to arrest peaceful demonstrators doing little more than what happens in a legislative hearing is also a waste of taxpayers' money," she added. At their arraignment, all charges were dismissed "in the interests of justice."

6-28-2008 Des Moines, IA 3

In solidarity with the eleventh annual 24-hour vigil hosted by Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition in Washington, D.C., ten people gathered to vigil outside the federal courthouse in Des Moines. Four vigilers decided to walk through a nearby farmers market and an arts festival. Taylor Hays, Christine Gaunt, Halsey Reynolds and Kirk Brown intended then to return to the courthouse. A police officer escorted them through the market. However, private security stopped them from walking through the arts festival. When police arrived and were told the group had not yet decided to leave, an officer cuffed Reynolds. In solidarity, Brown and Gaunt were also arrested. Hays moved away, gathered up their banners and informed their supporters. In the squad car, the police decided to charge the three with "harassing a public official." They were held overnight. Reynolds was released on personal recognizance but the other two had to post a \$300 bond. Later, all charges were dropped.

7-2-2008 Anoka, MN 9

Members of the Project to Stop the War Industry (PSWI) were arrested after eight of them locked themselves together in a human chain across the entrance to Federal Cartridge Company. Police also arrested the activists' police liaison for obstructing justice. Seven adults and one juvenile were charged with unlawful assembly, disorderly conduct and disobeying a lawful order. All pleaded not guilty and await a pre-trial hearing October 16. [Read PSWI's action statement on page 2 of this issue.] A supporter writes that, "One of the nine arrestees came home last month to find the business card of Saint Paul Police Sergeant Scott Duff left in his mailbox with a hand-written note reading 'Please call when you have time, thanks.' The individual immediately contacted our National Lawyers Guild lawyer who then contacted Sergeant Duff inquiring about the nature of the request. Sergeant Duff responded by saying that, 'I heard that (said Anoka arrestee) was arrested in Anoka last month, and I wanted to see if he was planning on exercising his first amendment rights during the RNC because we'd be happy to arrest him.' Neither the arrestee nor his lawyer have plans to further contact Sergeant Duff on the matter. The family home of another arrestee was visited by two officers, including Sergeant Duff later that same week under similar pretenses. To us this is a reminder of the political climate we are living in, in which small acts of protest are so often met with economic, legal, and in this case personal intimidation. We hope that people learn their rights in order to protect ourselves and each other from this kind of needless fear-mongering so that we can continue to speak out against war and occupation."

7-4-2008 Charlottesville, VA 6

Protest disrupted President Bush as he presided over the annual Independence Day naturalization ceremony at the home of Thomas Jefferson. Shouts of "War Criminal" and "Impeach Bush" rang out, and eventually, six people were arrested, handcuffed, and escorted from the grounds. They were then released without charge.

7-19-2008 Pacific Heights, CA 3

Demonstrators converged on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's mansion to protest war moves against Iran. Toby Blome, Phoebe Sorgen and David Hartsough were arrested after they moved past police barricades to die-in on her sidewalk, "as examples of the death that will come to yet another country if the build-up toward war is not halted."

7-22-2008 Chicago, IL 9

An integral part of the training process for volunteers with Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) involves planning as a group and carrying out an action of civil resistance. The Chicago office of Democratic Representative Rahm Emmanuel is a frequent forum for such actions, because Emmanuel has consistently voted in favor of funding the Iraq war. This time, the action was to deliver what Emmanuel had paid for. One training participant, dressed as a delivery person, entered with a clipboard and began to check off items on an order receipt

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FUTURE ACTIONS

Salina

The Heartland Speaks is a three day teach-in leading up to Hawgsmoke '08, an A-10 bombing and strafing competition which begins at Salina Regional Airport on October 15. Learn about increased militarization and its effects on the heartland, meet and dialogue with those of diverse views, train, plan, and carry out a nonviolent direct action to celebrate all life. Monday through Wednesday, October 13 - 15, at the Quality Inn and Suites, 2110 W. Crawford, Salina, Kansas. Visit salinapeace.org to register, or contact Salina People for Peace, 141 S. Clark St., Salina, KS 67401, (785)643-5334, e-mail s4p@cox.net

Ft. Huachuca

The Southwest Witness Against Torture will take place in Tucson and Sierra Vista, Arizona, November 15-16. Saturday, in Tucson, a Civil Initiative to Stop the Training and Practice of Torture will inform and plan for action beyond the weekend. Sunday, in Sierra Vista, an anti-torture rally with music and speakers begins at 10 a.m. in Veteran's Memorial Park, followed by a procession, possible nonviolent civil resistance, and a vigil until 3 p.m. at the main gate of Ft. Huachuca, home to the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and School. For more information, visit southwestwitness.org and tortureontrial.org

The Southwest Witness Against Torture and Ft. Huachuca demonstration are in solidarity with events the following week at Ft. Benning.

Ft. Benning

Converge in Columbus, Georgia, November 21-23 at the gates of one of the largest military bases in the world and speak out against interventionist U.S. foreign policy and the Western Hemispheric Institute for Security Cooperation, formerly and infamously known as the School of the Americas. Friday nonviolence trainings, workshops and benefit concert will be followed by a mass rally Saturday, and Sunday procession and direct action at the gate of Ft. Benning. For more information, including organizing materials in English and Spanish, contact SOA Watch, P.O. Box 4566, Washington, DC, 20017, 202-234-3440, soaw.org

HIROSHIMA, CONT.

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reality of war, nuclear weapons, and of Lockheed Martin: DEATH! In memory of all victims of the past 63 years of war and nuclear terror, we cry out for peace and a future worthy of our hopes and our children - education, home, health care for all, justice, an honoring of the earth, peace...Today, we say: Death is War's Only Victor and therefore 'No More Hiroshimas, War No More!'

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

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2008 Resistance, cont.

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as others filed into the office and deposited automobile parts, decimated household goods, broken toys, damaged medical supplies, small coffins, large photographs, and boxes labeled with additional types of war-torn debris, all to the steady beat of a drum. Then, participants representing dead or traumatized soldiers and civilians laid down their bodies amidst the rubble. The office staff was told that the group could not leave without Congressman Emmanuel's signature, either on the order receipt or on a pledge to vote against future Iraq war funding measures. Chicago police arrived just before 5 p.m., and arrested nine CPTers inside the office on charges of trespassing. Most were soon released, but three were held overnight.

7-25-2008 Des Moines, IA 4

Karl Rove returned to Iowa for a Republican fundraiser, and again faced determined citizens prepared to arrest him for aiding and abetting war crimes. Police offered their adhoc international law enforcement colleagues no assistance, however, and instead turned on them. Rev. Chet Guinn, Ed Bloomer, Kirk Brown and Mona Shaw were arrested, charged with criminal trespass and released. At their arraignment a few days later, Mona Shaw was the first called, and she pled not guilty. Polk County Judge William Price asked her, "Ma'am, what were you doing at the Wakonda Country Club?" "I was attempting to make a citizen's arrest of Karl Rove, your honor," Shaw answered. "Well," the judge looked up and said, "it's about time." The others also pled not guilty, and their jury trial was set for September 25.

7-25-2008 Washington, D.C. 2

Two people, one a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, were arrested and removed from a House Judiciary Committee hearing on "Executive Power and Its Constitutional Limitations" where impeachable offenses regarding the Iraq war were brought to the record. When they appeared for their first court date, they learned no charges had been filed.

8-8-2008 Martin, TN 2

A family's public memorial to their dead soldier son was vandalized when Sara Gallimore and

Brandon White garishly repainted the life-size concrete statue of an infantry soldier in Iraq. The statue was placed as part of a community landscaping project by the family of Sgt. Dustin Laird, killed in Iraq two years ago. Gallimore and White turned themselves in amidst the public outrage that followed what they had intended as an anti-war statement. Both pled guilty to vandalism, and in September each was ordered to pay \$100 restitution to the Laird family, and to serve 200 hours community service at Laird's Tennessee National Guard 913th Engineer company in Union City.

8-10-2008 Ft. McCoy, WI 13

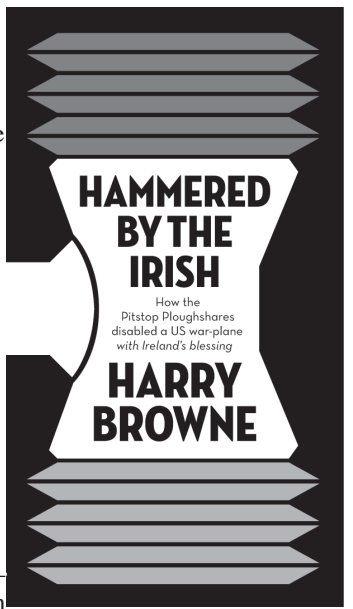
Voices for Creative Nonviolence coordinated a 400-mile peace walk from Chicago to the Republican National Convention, passing by the army training base. The walkers stopped at the gate to deliver a letter to the commander, and seek entrance to talk to soldiers. They were refused on both counts, but thirteen people stayed put and were arrested for trespass. All but Kathy Kelly were cited and released. Kelly was transported to Ashland County on a 1999 warrant for failure to pay a fine for trespass at the now-closed Project ELF nuclear sub antenna. Kelly's fine was paid anonymously, and she rejoined the walk two days later.

9-15-2008 Madison, WI 3

Cassandra Dixon, Bonnie Block, and Joy First were arrested at the federal building during the Monday noon hour vigil for peace, now in its 26th year. About three dozen people took part, some chalking body outlines on the sidewalk representing Wisconsin soldiers and Iraqis who have needlessly died in the illegal and immoral war in Iraq. Stories about those who died were read aloud before the three women laid themselves down in the doorway. They were arrested for obstruction, cited and released. While calling for an end to the war, the women were particularly mindful that the largest deployment of Wisconsin National Guard troops overseas since World War II is scheduled to leave for Iraq in early 2009, and have called on state government leaders to protest this deployment because the legislation that authorized "federalizing" the Guard has run out.

Resistance Reading

Hammered By The Irish: How the Pitstop Ploughshares Disabled a U.S. War-plane with Ireland's Blessing by Harry Browne (2008 - CounterPunch/AK Press). Tells the tale of the February, 2003 disarmament action that caused \$2.5M damage and concluded 3-1/2 years later when a Dublin jury found the six activists innocent of any crime. (\$15.95 paper, ISBN 978-1904859901. Order from the Catholic Worker Bookstore, POB 3087, Washington DC 20010, 1-800-43-PEACE or bookstore@catholicworker.com



Locked Up: Letters and Papers of a Prisoner of Conscience by Don Beisswenger (2008 - Upper Room Books). A retired Vanderbilt University professor of church and community found as he grieved the loss of his wife of 50 years, that he also now, "...had the freedom to act upon my beliefs in a way I had not before." One year later, Beisswenger crossed the line at the School of the Americas and served six months in prison. (ISBN 978-0-8358-9939-0; 160 pp. \$15 + s&h from upperroom.org)

A Persistent Peace, One Man's Struggle for a Nonviolent World is the autobiography of John Dear, SJ (2008 - Loyola Press). Dear has long been involved in civil resistance to nuclear weapons and was imprisoned for his part in the 1993 Pax Christi - Spirit of Life plowshares action. (ISBN 978-0-8294-2720-2; 440 pp. \$22.95 list)

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

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...and more

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