the Nuclear Resister

"A Chronicle of Hope"

No. 207 December 11, 2025

Palestinian Immigrant Jailed for Peaceful Anti-War Protest

Editors' note: In our last issue, we wrote "several high-profile immigration enforcement actions have also led to the arrest and jailing of non-citizen students and others, their legal status revoked or changed because of their advocacy for Palestinian human rights. To chronicle all of these immigration-related prosecutions is beyond our capacity, and we're grateful many others are doing that work."

The full number of immigrants detained for taking part in ceasefire protests who have since been arrested and jailed by Trump administration immigration authorities is unknown. It is at least ten.

Most were either deported or have since been released on court order. Others self-deported ahead of potential ICE action. We had known that Palestinian immigrant Leqaa Kordia was among that imprisoned number, but not the full circumstances of her imprisonment. Now, with help from family, she has gone public to tell her story and is seeking support.

Leqaa Kordia describes herself as "a simple Palestinian girl." Mistaken advice led to a lapse in her immigration status, an error that has been weaponized against her liberty because she spoke out against war in her homeland. It was her protected First Amendment conduct that exposed her to this injustice.

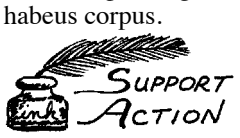
Amnesty International summarized her case:

> Leqaa Kordia is a 32-year-old Muslim Palestinian woman living in the United States. She has been detained by U.S. immigration authorities since March 13. Since 2023, Leqaa has actively participated in several protests in New Jersey and nearby areas, advocating against Israel's genocide in Gaza. Leqaa has lost approximately 175 family members in Gaza since the genocide began.
>
> At the time of her detention, Leqaa was in the process of securing legal residency. During a voluntary meeting with immigration officials at the Newark ICE Field Office, where she was accompanied by her attorney, Leqaa was immediately detained, despite being found to present a low risk to public safety, flight or criminal history. She was transferred to the Prairieland Detention Facility in Texas. This facility is located far from her attorney and family, and it has a documented history of human rights violations.

Kordia arrived in the United States from the West Bank in 2016 to live with her mother in New Jersey. Distraught and isolated from the suffering of her family in Palestine, she shared her modest income with relatives there and joined protests against the war, including outside Columbia University on April 22, 2024. She was swept up in a mass arrest and the charge was eventually dismissed.

Twice, first in April and then in August, an immigration judge in Texas ordered her released on bail, having seen no evidence to back the government claim that Kordia's remittances to family in Palestine were connected to terrorism. Twice the government appealed this ruling and twice the government then filed for an emergency stay of the order, which was granted by the Board of Immigration Appeals. Kordia remains in custody in Texas, awaiting another decision.

In a separate case, a federal judge in June concluded that Kordia's detention likely violated her 4th Amendment right to due process and recommended her release. The government responded that she is a flight risk, so that case also remains pending, as does a separate federal petition for habeus corpus.



Donations towards her bond when granted and family support can be made via chuffed.org/project/freeleqaa. Letters of support and encouragement should be sent to Leqaa Kordia at the address on page 3.

80th ANNIVERSARY of HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI

REMEMBRANCE & RESISTANCE

PENTAGON

In the early morning of August 6, over 30 peacemakers convened at the Pentagon. They joined for a nonviolent witness and Remembrance, Repentance and Resistance prayer service to mark the 80th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Art Laffin of the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker Community writes that the service especially lifted up those U.S. Catholics who were then in Japan to participate in a Pilgrimage of Peace, fostering prayer, dialogue and global advocacy for nuclear disarmament. Led by Archbishop Wester of Santa Fe, N.M., other participating prelates included Cardinal Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, Cardinal McElroy, Archbishop of Washington, D.C., and Archbishop Paul D. Etienne of Seattle.

photo by Art Laffin

Repentance at the Pentagon – Bill Frankel-Streit and Steve Baggarly don sackcloth and spread ashes on Hiroshima Day, 2025.

At the Pentagon, they displayed photos of atomic victims and hung disarmament banners next to the fence and sidewalk where civilians and soldiers pass by on their way into the building.

The group shared stories and reflections for the occasion, and read aloud an excerpt from Annie Jacobsen's book, *Nuclear War: A Scenario*, that describes what would happen in Washington, D.C. should the Pentagon be the target of a one-megaton thermonuclear weapon.

Following a litany of repentance, they all encircled Bill Frankel-Streit and Steve Baggarly, who were dressed in burlap sackcloth, to give their blessing before the two men engaged in nonviolent resistance. Several joined them as they walked to the main entrance and poured ashes directly in front of the checkpoint. Baggarly's statement explaining the prayerful sackcloth and ashes witness (see page 3) was read aloud as police closed the gate and workers scrambled to other doors.

After three warnings all but Frankel-Streit and Baggarly returned to the designated protest area. The men were arrested and taken to the Pentagon Police processing center, charged with disobeying a lawful order and failure to preserve property, then released.

In federal court on October 16, they were offered a plea agreement: one charge dropped in exchange for a guilty plea on the other, and a fine. Both agreed to the plea to save a return trip to court, but rejected paying any fine. Nevertheless they were fined $100 each and told to pay up within 90 days, which neither man plans to do.

LIVERMORE LABS

"80 Years of Nuclear Devastation: Remember Our History, Reshape Our Future" was the theme for an August 6 gathering of about 100 people at the West Gate entrance to the Livermore nuclear weapons Lab on the morning of Tuesday, August 6 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. The morning rally and nonviolent direct action were organized by Tri-Valley CARES and featured speakers, a die-in and the Japanese communal Bon dance that honors ancestors.

"We as a nation are at a pivot point," said Livermore resident and Tri-Valley CAREs executive director, Scott Yundt. "The Trump administration's recent budget contains a 58-percent increase in 'Nuclear Weapons Activities,' according to Dept. of Energy (DOE) documents. Likewise, the DOE budget for Livermore Lab is rising to nearly $3 billion, 89.5% of which is solely for one budget line, 'Nuclear Weapons Activities.'"

Yundt continued, "This moves the U.S. and world further away from the vision of the Hibakusha – and toward repeating the sin of using nuclear weapons, only now with weapons of vastly greater sophistication – and up to hundreds of times the explosive power of those first A-bombs. We must step back from the abyss while we still can. The August 6 commemoration at Livermore Lab is one such step."

The demonstration concluded with nine people continuing to block the gate to the Lab after the police issued the call to disperse. They were cited and released.

LOCKHEED MARTIN

On the afternoon of August 6, about 25 people met at the King of Prussia, Pennsylvania facility of Lockheed Martin to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and demonstrate against the world's largest war profiteer. The protesters stood side-by-side along the sidewalk, which was lined with bright banners. They waved peace flags, carried protest signs, and tolled the historic peace bell of the Brandywine Peace Community.

Following the program, three of those present crossed onto Lockheed Martin property to carry the message of no more war and no nuclear weapons directly to the company's employees. Paul Sheldon, Bob Smith and Fr. Pat Sieber, OSF were moved off the property by police and cited for trespassing.

Paul Sheldon wrote, "I was carrying copies of Senate Resolution 323 (July 16, 2025) 'a global effort to halt and reverse the nuclear arms race' and House Resolution 1888 (March 5, 2025) 'to direct the United States to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons…' to give to the workers at this facility but was stopped before I could deliver them. I gave my copies to their head of security instead."

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Resistance Reflections

The following is from a presentation given at the March, 2025 Pacific Life Community retreat held in St. David, Arizona (adapted in print from the August 2025 issue of the Catholic Agitator, *newsletter of the Los Angeles Catholic Worker).*

THE WAR IN OUR BACKYARD

by Jack Cohen-Joppa

On the ancestral lands of the Western Apache and O'odham peoples, the United States is peddling war and death.

In fact, more than sunshine, saguaros and scenic vistas, more than copper, cattle, cotton and citrus, the largest dollar-value export of things made in Tucson — and in fact in all of Arizona — is war and carnage. Most of that is weapons and related military hardware that come direct from Raytheon's Tucson plants.

Here in southern Arizona, we have all been sold on and suckered into war. For over half a century, this region has suckled on the profits of war, and it sucks.

The tools of empire are fabricated in our community only to be unleashed onto the world elsewhere. And not that this is anything unique to Tucson — we know how military money and prestige are sprinkled like candy or cocaine across congressional districts to addict voters everywhere. But this is our backyard, and living here so close to the border, we have long had front-row seats to some of the most horrific human costs of modern empire.

Negotiated in secrecy with city developers and power brokers, Howard Hughes built his aircraft company's first factory here in 1951. The security chief at the new Hughes plant saw the biggest threat to the safety of the community coming not from within the plant but from the state's "158 active Communists." As to be expected, he was wrong.

For decades, the greater threat to our community, coming from this factory, has been the industrial degreasing solvent trichloroethylene (or TCE) – dumped down the drain, flushed into the landscape and evaporated from unlined ponds, contaminating groundwater on Tucson's south side, long-affecting legacy farms along with household and municipal wells. The cost to human and land health was great, and the largest burden for the cleanup has been held by the taxpayers.

Instead of owing restitution, Hughes Aircraft Company was offered millions in tax incentives to move more and more of their operations to Tucson. And since Hughes sold their missile business to Raytheon in 1997, the Air Force-owned property and infrastructure has since been leased to Raytheon for a nominal annual fee, stripping our community of even more support.

By the 1999 war against the former Yugoslavia, Raytheon and its local boosters were calling Tucson the "missile technology capital of the world." Raytheon has been steadily growing their Tucson operations ever since, getting the region hooked on war more and more each year.

"We need to remove as many obstacles as possible that limit Raytheon's ability to expand and bring more quality jobs to the region," then-Pima County Administrator Chuck Huckleberry articulated a decade ago.

And they have. Raytheon in Tucson now produces several air-to-air missiles (Sidewinder and AMRAAM), they make a variety of missile and gun systems for defending warships (Phalanx and Standard Missiles), they manufacture missile interceptors (Kinetic Kill Vehicles) and "smart" bombs that add Global Positioning Satellite-linked functions to standard aerial bombs (Paveway). The lastest conventional Tomahawk cruise missiles (Blocks IV and V) can loiter for battle damage assessment and re-targeting capabilities, can deliver warheads like cluster munition options and has the ability to strike moving ships at sea. And the kicker — Raytheon is now ramping up production on their $16 billion contract producing the LRSO, or Long Range Stand-Off missile, a nuclear armed cruise missile to be launched from airplanes. While their website touts production of a vast array of conventional weapons, this threat to humanity is simply not mentioned at all, except briefly in public financial reports.

It does not seem to matter that Raytheon/RTX was recently fined nearly $1 billion for defrauding the U.S. government (i.e., the taxpayer) by paying multiple bribes to promote business with the government of Qatar.

It does not seem to matter that Raytheon sells weapons of increasing sophistication to scores of nations, allies and enemies of U.S. allies alike, on every continent save Antarctica, including even some "undisclosed countries."

Saudi Arabia is one of their biggest cash customers, and Raytheon weaponry has been found in the rubble of multiple attacks on civilians in Yemen. Raytheon technology destroyed vital water, electrical and sanitation infrastructure during the 1991 war on Iraq and bombarded Somalia, Afghanistan, Yugoslavia, Syria and more. Raytheon's profits are only aided by the Russia/Ukraine war and the genocide in Gaza.

It is no surprise that they have earned distinction in some circles as the most successful at lobbying Congress among the largest military firms. After all, the last two Secretaries of Defense prior to Pete Hegseth have been a Raytheon lobbyist and a Raytheon board member.

This is about more than profiting for the sake of security. Air Force Plant #44 is not simply a machine shop, dutifully filling government orders for a tidy profit. This is a corporation that has chosen to and succeeded in making profit for its investors from war. It is about commerce, not defense. In pursuit of profit, Raytheon engineers and managers spend their days imagining and supplying the warfare of the future.

And when 12,000 of our neighbors are employed by Raytheon to do research, development and production, when the lifeline of this community has been forcibly tethered to this titan of death and destruction, when alternative industries and more critical analyses of what we are doing here are stifled, slandered and criminalized, why would we think it would be any different?

Will Raytheon's part in stoking conflicts, decimating infrastructure, devastating communities and killing people — causing generations of people across the globe to seek revenge — make our world and communities safer?

Has helping allies and their enemies pile up dead civilians and soldiers become the way we best leverage our incredible ingenuity and capacities? Is this how we honor our veterans, educate our children, care for our neighbors and elevate local culture?

And for how long can we continue to develop our own community at such a great cost to others all around the world? And of course, this is not just the question Tucson has failed to ask, but our whole nation.

where we're at

Well friends, the times certainly are a changin'. Take Washington, D.C., for example, and two peace vigils that have been sustained for decades: the Monday morning vigils at the Pentagon and the 24/7 Peace Park vigil in Lafayette Park.

Over the years when we were in town, we have occasionally participated in these vigils. We met (William) "Doubting" Thomas (d. 1/23/09), Ellen Thomas, Concepción Picciotto (d. 1/25/16) and others at the round-the-clock anti-nuclear vigil opposite the White House. The article on page 3 reports on the September day when federal agents dismantled the vigil, which had continued for 44 years and through seven U.S. presidents, arguably the longest continuous vigil for peace, at least in American history.

Friends from the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, along with many others, have vigiled outside the Pentagon since 1987. Recently they were told by Pentagon police that they will now need a permit to vigil in the previously marked and fenced "designated protest area". Holding a sign will be a criminal offense without a permit, and the permit application requires submitting personal information as well as all messaging for signs that will be held. If such an application were ever to be approved, vigilers would get a special badge to wear!

For the following couple of weeks, when vigilers took a slow stroll along the main sidewalk wearing peace t-shirts, police told them that was okay as long as they weren't holding a sign. But later they were told that if they didn't have "official business" at the Pentagon they couldn't walk there without a permit. At the beginning of December, two people returned and held a "Swords Into Plowshares" banner and a sign reading "Follow Jesus's Way of Nonviolence" across from a parking lot. Six Pentagon police officers arrived and said unless they had business there they would have to leave. And doing God's business doesn't count, they learned. The vigil will continue at the nearby public intersection of Army-Navy Drive and Fern Street.

These faithful outposts for peace at the Pentagon and near the White House have long been a beacon of light and hope for a peaceful and nuclear-free world, a springboard for countless other protests, and an important part of our movement's history. Thank you to all of the people who have kept these vigils going over the years.

Indeed there is much to be thankful for as the end of 2025 draws near. What a year it has been! As we remember the upheaval and challenges, we hold in our hearts all that has been hopeful and good.

We are grateful for expanding networks of mutual aid and resistance during these difficult times; for the gift of Leonard Peltier's new life outside of a prison cell; for the activists who keep on, keepin' on; and for the lives and activism of the resisters who have passed on this year.

On a personal level, we are grateful for our friends, family and neighbors; for community, including all of you; for the donations now arriving in response to the annual Nuclear Resister fund appeal letter (thank you!!); and for our daughter soon coming to visit from Malaysia - we are in a mad rush to get this issue done before she gets here! We are blessed.

In March, Jack gave a talk at the Pacific Life Community gathering, the first time the community's annual retreat and action have been held in Arizona (see

continued on page 3

¡Presente!

We give thanks for the lives of these peace activists and nuclear resisters.

Sheila Parks

August 16, 1937 – July 23, 2025

Vincent Eirene

March 27, 1952 – September 11, 2025

Margaretta D'Arcy

June 14, 1934 – November 23, 2025

Thanks

Thanks to Sonia, Aston, Cynthia, John, Richard, Ana Maria and Jim for helping to mail the last issue and to all who have sent donations.

the Nuclear Resister

POB 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733

520-323-8697 nukeresister@igc.org ISSN #0883-9875

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!

SUBSCRIPTIONS and BULK ORDERS

Four-issue subscriptions are US$25 in the United States, US$30 to Canada, and US$35 overseas. Payment can only be accepted in U.S. currency or checks drawn on U.S. institutions. All subscriptions are sent via First Class or Airmail.

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

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 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

REMEMBRANCE & RESISTANCE, cont.

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BANGOR

The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action returned to the Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor on August 11, when 35 members and friends demonstrated against Trident nuclear submarines based there at their annual Hiroshima and Nagasaki remembrance event. Arriving just before the morning rush hour traffic, they formed a vigil line next to the roadway at the Main Gate.

Soon, four designated peacekeepers entered the roadway and stopped traffic, while behind them, demonstrators held a banner declaring "Hiroshima-Nagasaki Never Again." Another banner stated "No More Genocide In My Name."

Six demonstrators then lined up across the road, facing the workers while holding up large images of children who died in the August, 1945 bombings. One at a time, they read the names of the children, and a description of the end of each child's life.

Ground Zero member Mary Gleysteen said of the day, "We gather not only to remember, but to act with the urgency the moment demands. Eighty years after nuclear devastation, the threat persists – right here, in the middle of our beautiful Pacific Northwest. This base is a threat to our planet."

Drivers, while backed up past the Clear Creek Road overpass, were mostly courteous and respectful. The driver of one of the first cars to be stopped shouted to the demonstrators, "Thank you for what you are doing – I hate my job."

All traffic at the entrance was stopped for over six minutes, until Washington State Patrol officers escorted demonstrators off the roadway. Sue Ablao, Susan Delaney, Caroline Wildflower, Deacon Denny Duffell, George Rodkey and Michael "Firefly" Siptroth were cited for being pedestrians on roadways, and released at the scene.

PENTAGON ACTION STATEMENT

On this 80th anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima, we come in sackcloth and ashes to repent of the sins of nuclear war and preparations for nuclear war. We come to the Pentagon where orders to launch nuclear weapons would go out through the chain of command – and under which lays the National Military Command Center, the primary command and control center in a nuclear war.

We come because the story of nuclear weapons will have an ending and it is up to us what that ending will be. Will it be the end of nuclear weapons or the end of us? We must choose one.

If we choose the end of nuclear weapons, we must begin with repentance for vaporizing, burning and irradiating to death over 200,000 Japanese in seconds, on both August 6th in Hiroshima and August 9th in Nagasaki.

As long as we believe that it was necessary to drop those bombs – mostly on women, children and the elderly – we can believe that the next nuclear war will be necessary as well; only next time it will mean the end of civilization as we know it.

We come in sackcloth and ashes calling our nation to repent and believe in the gospel. We must admit our sin of having used nuclear weapons on human beings 80 years ago today, and of having rehearsed the end of the world every day since. We must repent of even having nuclear weapons in a world filled with children.

This affront to God, humanity and all of creation must end today. Today the United States can reverse course and begin to make amends by leading the world in a nuclear disarmament race, embracing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and rallying the other nuclear armed states to do the same. Then human potential and national treasures can be redirected toward meeting critical human needs.

The alternative is a world in ashes.

~ Steve Baggarly

44-Year-Old Peace Park Vigil Dismantled

In June, 1981, William Thomas began vigiling in front of the White House with a simple sign reading, "Wanted: Wisdom and Honesty." He soon added other neatly hand-lettered signs that came to define the protest. "Ban All Nuclear Weapons or Have a Nice Doomsday" and "Live By the Bomb, Die By the Bomb."

Closest neighbors to seven Presidents, Thomas was soon joined by Concepción Picciotto and then Ellen Thomas, who became his wife. Hundreds of others added to the history of this round-the-clock, globally known vigil with significant legal battles and prison terms along the way, all well told on the pages of prop1.org, the website Ellen Thomas maintains to this day.

The beginning of the end of the Peace Park Anti-Nuclear Vigil came last August, when Representative Jeff Van Drew (R-NJ) called it a "24/7 eyesore" and asked the Interior Department to figure out how to get rid of it.

A few weeks later, a reporter for the conservative Real America's Voice teed up the issue for President Trump as a statement, not a question.

"Just out front of the White House is a blue tent that originally was put there to be an anti-nuclear tent ... it's kind of morphed into an anti-America sometimes, anti-Trump at many times," the reporter led. Trump feigned ignorance of the protest that has been a fixture in the Capitol city for over four decades. He turned and told his minions, "Take it down, right now."

Park Police and Secret Service agents with dogs then visited the vigil on reconnaissance. They were looking for "weapons, rats and anti-U.S. signs" according to Philipos Melaku-Bello, who had assumed Picciotto's role as primary vigiler when she died in 2016.

Early Sunday morning, September 7, the police returned with National Park Service employees to execute the President's order. The only vigiler present that morning was Will Roosien, on his first volunteer shift with the small crew that provided relief for Melaku-Bello.

The Washington Post reported that:

> The officers told him he had 30 minutes to remove the blue tarp that he had been sheltering under in the early-morning rain. Roosien refused.
>
> When the officers began to tear down the structure, Roosien said, he got in front of them and put his body between them and the tarp.
>
> "They threw me in cuffs," Roosien said. He said they later released him without arresting him. "That tarp is what makes it possible for us to be there for 24 hours — when it's cold, when it's raining, like last night. It protects the protest."

The vigil crew recovered their supplies and continued a presence, mostly during daytime hours, for two more weeks until Park Police returned and seized banners, flags and more, leaving only a few signs held by vigilers. Without shelter as winter sets in, and a political climate that's even worse, the vigil's future is uncertain.

where we're at, cont.

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Resistance Reflections on page 2). On Ash Wednesday, we gathered at the local Raytheon factory where Elizabeth Murray and long-time friend John Heid were arrested for carrying their prayerful message of peace to workers onto Raytheon property. We later accompanied them to their trial and sentencing in Pima County Justice Court, and were inspired by their continued witness in Judge Forman's courtroom.

John said, "I am a Quaker, a member of the Religious Society of Friends. We worship in silence. We are most known for our Peace Testimony, our pacifism, our anti-war activism, and our non-conscription efforts. We are no strangers to courts, jails or prisons. March 5 was Ash Wednesday… I participated in the prayer service at the gates of Raytheon and then proceeded to take my prayers further into the facility. Where one prays matters."

When Elizabeth took the stand, she secured the court's attention when she began her testimony by identifying herself as a retired career CIA media analyst. She went on to tell the judge, "It's so much easier to do nothing. So much more comfortable. So why did I bother? Why am I standing before you today? Was I hoping to afflict the comfortable, and comfort the afflicted? Yes I was. I don't want to live in a world where death factories are permitted to operate freely in the morning, even as we see their child victims – victims of genocide, shredded to small pieces – on our evening social media feed. My faith and my moral convictions drove me to engage in an act of conscience."

The judge listened attentively. He then found the pair guilty of trespass and later handed down a sentence of community service, stating that while their trespass was a crime, their reason for being at Raytheon was "understandable".

With very best wishes for a healthy and happy new year, filled with an abundance of hope, peace, solidarity and love,

Felice and Jack

Computing Center Challenged

The University of Michigan has partnered with the Los Alamos National Laboratory to build a massive $1.25 billion "high performance computational facility" for specialized research on "artificial intelligence, energy and national security." While opposing the project on economic and environmental grounds as a major energy and water consumer, activists also condemn its intended use for Los Alamos's missions of nuclear weapons development, the production of these weapons' plutonium pits and other exotic weapons research.

At a public open house event in September to hear the concerns of area residents, a handful of activists attended to protest and hand out informational flyers. Police accused the group of illegally entering the building and have charged four people with misdemeanor breaking and entering and charged a fifth with felony larceny and felony breaking and entering. They await trial.

SUPPORTING LEONARD PELTIER

Conditions imposed on Leonard Peltier's speech and travel when he was freed from prison last winter have been successfully challenged, and the former political prisoner has been able to receive visitors, give interviews and participate in online webinars and some travel, including to get needed medical treatment.

He has settled into the home on the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Band reservation in Belcourt, North Dakota that was purchased and furnished for him with donations from scores of Native people from many tribes. His paintings hang on the walls, paid caregivers also help manage the flow of visitors, and he's got a young canine companion.

As a Medicaid recipient, there is a limit on Peltier's personal assets. A Special Needs Trust has been established and the Leonard Peltier Official Support Group is the only group authorized to receive donations there to provide for his care and well being, including expenses that Medicaid doesn't cover and life enrichment such as art supplies and other unexpected needs. Leonard receives an annotated bank statement every month, and every penny is accounted for.

Often asked to comment on the present state of domestic and world affairs, Peltier recently said, "I don't know how to save the world. I don't have the answers or The Answer. I hold no secret knowledge as to how to fix the mistakes of generations past and present. I only know that without compassion and respect for all of Earth's inhabitants, none of us will survive – nor will we deserve to."

For more information and to donate online, visit freeleonardpeltiernow.org. Checks should be made payable to the Leonard Peltier Official Support Committee and sent to 2590 Welton Street Suite #200, Box 1018, Denver, CO 80205.

His supporters recently posted that "your words of encouragement, messages of solidarity, stories of resilience, good jokes and bad jokes arriving in the mail mean the world to Leonard Peltier. Please let him know he is not forgotten. Leonard Peltier, P.O. Box 760, Belcourt, ND, 58316.

Inside & Out

Leqaa Kordia
Prairieland Detention Facility, 1209 Sunflower Lane, Alvarado, Texas 76009.
(Immigration hold for Palestinian daughter of U.S. citizen, triggered by ceasefire arrest, jailed 3/16/25)

PREVIOUSLY LISTED, NOW ON HOME CONFINEMENT: Leonard Peltier

CEASEFIRE NOW! NOT IN MY NAME!

Editors' note: The Nuclear Resister continues here with this day-by-day record of dissent, a chronicle of arrests in the United States and Canada of demonstrators demanding a ceasefire and end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. Over the past two years, we have reported on about 11,500 such arrests in the U.S. and a couple hundred more in Canada. In addition, there have been thousands more arrested in protests throughout the world (see article about actions in the United Kingdom on page 6).

We know that despite our best efforts, we have undoubtedly missed related arrests that should be included here. If you are aware of arrests related to ceasefire/anti-war protest not noted in these pages or previous issues (download at nukeresister.org), please email us the information at nukeresister@igc.org. Please also let us know of any substantial errors in this chronicle so that they can be corrected.

Finally, if you or someone you know of is jailed for anti-war actions, please let us know as soon as possible so that the news can be included on the Nuclear Resister website and in the next issue of this newsletter.

March 2024 Euless, TX 3 arrests

Judge Defies Jury, Adds Maximum Jail Time

Raunaq Alam was first arrested in March, 2024 with friends Afsheen Khan and Julia Venzor for having painted "Fuck Israel" graffiti on the wall of a non-denominational Christian church in Tarrant County, Texas. The church was flying the Israeli flag at the time, and is well known for its vocal and direct support of the Israeli state and military. Alam's arrest came a couple of days later when FBI agents joined local police to arrest him at his workplace, quickly resulting in his termination. A warrantless search of his car allegedly uncovered less than a gram of psychedelic mushrooms.

The charge against the three young adults was initially for misdemeanor damages under $750. However, when presented to a grand jury in October, 2024, the damage estimate was boosted to make the crime a felony. The indictment then also added a hate crime enhancement, conflating criticism of the state of Israel with antisemitism. Alam then faced a possible 10-year prison sentence at his trial last September.

Veznor, out of concern for her two young children, pled guilty to the misdemeanor in a plea deal to testify "truthfully" at Alam's trial. She did, saying that she did not think what they did was a hate crime. (Afsheen Khan awaits her separate trial on the felony charge.)

The judge barred much of Alam's defense, but nevertheless, the jury swiftly and unanimously found him not guilty of a hate crime, and guilty only of misdemeanor criminal mischief. The jury recommended a sentence of community supervision and a $10,000 fine.

Instead, the judge used his prerogative to add the maximum jail sentence of 180 days, and Alam was taken into custody.

An appeal bond was granted and he was released six days later.

Another judge then declared that bond insufficient on September 24, and in the middle of a press conference

photo via @scoopjefferson

Raunaq Alam in the Tarrant County Jail last September.

that day to provide updates on his and Khan's prosecution, Alam was told to report back to jail. At a bond hearing two days later, the prosecutor cited the seized mushrooms and text messages to allege Alam had lied under oath about drug use during his trial when he denied having used illegal drugs. Once again Alam was jailed in maximum security isolation for his own safety, having been classified as a high-profile prisoner. He is also charged with possession of the illicit mushrooms. Alam was released six days later after supporters posted an additional $40,000 bail bond.

Alam is the son of refugees from the 1971 Bangladesh Genocide, tying that legacy to his support for Palestinians facing genocide. Noting the support of Jewish Voice for Peace and others through his trial, Alam said "Our government merges the ideas of Judaism and Zionism. Criticizing a country or criticizing a state does not mean you're criticizing an entire group of people or an entire faith."

December 8, 2023 Miami, FL 2 arrests

More than 100 local artists and friends of Palestine demonstrated outside the Art Basel Miami Beach 2023 exhibition, unfurling a massive Let Gaza Live banner. They called out the Miami-Dade County government's investment in Israeli government bonds. Two protesters, ages 17 and 20, exchanged words with police and were then pushed up against a wall and arrested for resisting without violence and disorderly conduct.

July 19, 2024 Houston, TX 8 arrests

About 20 people demonstrated outside the home of Mayor John Whitmire calling for the city to divest from Israel and pass a resolution supporting a ceasefire in Gaza. Eight were detained in police vehicles and cited for a noise violation before being released from custody.

October 7, 2024 Orlando, FL 1 arrest

In March, 2025, three days before the filing deadline, Christopher Gibson was charged with felony battery of a uniformed officer for grabbing the arm of a cop who was pushing him out the door of a city council meeting in October, 2024. He was demonstrating with others for the city to condemn the genocide in Gaza, and was arrested when he tried to re-enter the building but not charged at the time. In July, the felony charge was dropped.

February 9, 2025 New Orleans, LA 1 arrest

On June 26, 2025, more than four months after the Super Bowl pro football championship game, Zul-Qarnain Kwame Nantambu turned himself in to police, charged with resisting an officer and disturbing the peace. Nantambu was working as one of 400 extra performers for rapper Kendrick Lamar's halftime show when he broke rank to run around the field waving a Sudanese flag emblazoned with the words "Sudan and Free Gaza".

June 26 New York City, NY 2 arrests

Police tackled two men participating in a massive ceasefire march at W. 27th St. and 6th Ave. and arrested them.

June 26 Fairfield, CA 5 arrests

The fourth in a series of blockades of Travis Air Force Base by the People's Arms Embargo group led to the arrest of five women, all in their 70s, who had blocked the remote north gate. They stopped traffic entering the base with banners reading "Travis: No Genocide, No Deportations" and "Food to Gaza, Not Weapons to Israel." The women were handcuffed and detained while police issued citations, then released them.

June 30 New York City, NY 29 arrests

Six Veterans for Peace, supported by religious and humanitarian organizations, began a 40-day fast in front of United Nations headquarters in New York City in May. Joined by at least 800 others worldwide, most restricted their intake to 250 calories, recently reported as the average intake for people in Gaza. Kathy Kelly and Mike Ferner had to end their fast early, Kelly on advice of doctors and Ferner after being hospitalized three weeks in. At the conclusion of their fast, the street in front of the Israeli mission to the U.N. was blocked and 28 people were arrested for disorderly conduct and obstruction. Ferner, a Vietnam veteran, was arrested after throwing blood on the glass windows of the U.S. mission, shouting "Here, United States, have some blood! You like shedding it all over the world so much? There you go! How about some blood? A small amount of the blood — the blood money — that corporations make taking us to war all the time. No. More. Killing. Please. Stop it."

July 1 Washington, DC 65 arrests

Interfaith Action for Palestine, a multi-faith, multi-racial, queer affirming coalition, held simultaneous lunch hour demonstrations disrupting both the House and Senate cafeterias. On the same day that members of the Christian Zionist group Christians United for Israel were lobbying Congress, the protesters were singing "Congress doesn't eat until Gaza eats." Those who were arrested were assessed the standard $50 fine for such protests.

July 2 Philadelphia, PA 5 arrests

About 50 Jewish Voice for Peace activists occupied the business office lobby and blocked the elevators of Day & Zimmerman to protest the company's production of high explosive tank ammunition like that which notoriously killed the young Gazan Hind Rajab in January, 2024. About 100 supporters demonstrated outside. The lobby sit-in continued until they were arrested.

July 3 Chicago, IL 8 arrests

After 18 days of a public Fast for Gaza in downtown Federal Plaza, two of the fasters, now needing wheelchairs, went inside with six Jewish Voice for Peace supporters to meet with Senator Tammy Duckworth. Her office was locked, so they sat in until their arrest for failure to comply and disorderly conduct.

July 14 New York City, NY 4 arrests

Palantir, a technology company growing swiftly through contracts with Israel's military and U.S. domestic agencies to surveil people and pursue immigrants, was the target of nationwide protest. Four people who blocked the entrance of the company's Manhattan offices were arrested.

July 19 Toronto, ON 11 arrests

More than 1,000 people demonstrated for an end to Israel's "genocidal campaign" against the Palestinians and an immediate embargo on Canadian arms shipments to Israel. Eleven people were arrested in clashes with police and face a variety of charges including assaulting a peace officer, obstructing police, mischief and carrying a concealed weapon. Since October, 2023, Palestine solidarity activists have tallied the arrest of 133 people in Canada since October 7, and half of those charged have since had the charges withdrawn or received discharges from the court.

July 23 San Francisco, CA 7 arrests

The Oil and Gas Action Network invited allies to protest outside Wells Fargo to demand the bank divest from projects that are detrimental to the planet, including arms production. "Wells Fargo Funds Genocide" read a freshly painted mural in a nearby plaza. Seven people refused to remove their blockade that prevented employees from entering and police arrested them.

July 25 Dallas, TX 12 arrests

More than 100 people joined the Palestine Youth Movement for a noisy "Stop Starving Now" protest outside the offices of the Boston Consulting Group, a major backer of the discredited Gaza Humanitarian Foundation. After an hour of demonstrating, a small group brought their sirens into the lobby and began a sit-in. Police confronted the sit-in with pepper spray and tasers, arresting nine people for trespass and three for interference with officers, with added resisting arrest and assault charges for one of those. Outside, police closed the street and used force and pepper spray to disperse the crowd, and one demonstrator was briefly hospitalized for injuries. Some supporters waited overnight outside the jail until all were released by the following evening.

July 28 New York City, NY 8 arrests

Coordinated demonstrations in New York City and Washington, D.C. brought together rabbis calling for a permanent ceasefire, a flood of humanitarian aid and the release of all hostages. The Jewish religious leaders were arrested after blocking traffic in front of the Israeli consular office.

July 29 Washington, DC 27 arrests

In the nation's Capitol, more rabbis occupied Senate Majority Leader John Thune's office, holding banners reading "Rabbis say: Protect Life!" and "Rabbis say: Stop the Blockade". Capitol police arrested 27, who were held for two hours and released with a citation.

August 1 New York City, NY 50 arrests

Jewish Voice for Peace led about 200 people in a noisy demonstration in the lobby of the Manhattan offices of Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand. Most wore black T-shirts with a bold yellow message, "Jews say let Gaza live" and "Jews say stop arming Israel". Among those arrested were New York state representative Claire Valdez and New York City councilmember Tiffany Caban.

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END THE OCCUPATION!

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August 2 Cambridge, MA 3 arrests

Capital One Bank's loans to the Israeli arms firm Elbit Systems was the target of a protest at the Harvard Square branch. Police used pepper spray on the demonstrators and arrested three. The following day, hundreds showed up at the same location to continue their protest. One organizer told flipsideneews.net, "The genocide needs the cooperation of state and local governments and their police to repress the opposition, all in the name of law enforcement," he said. "But we don't oppose genocide because it's illegal. We oppose genocide because it's immoral, it's unconscionable and because we believe in justice, equality and dignity for all people."

August 3 Brooklyn, NY 12 arrests

Grand Army Plaza was the site of a "Families Stand Up for Gaza" rally demanding the immediate opening of humanitarian corridors to deliver food and other aid to Gaza and the end of U.S. arms and military aid to Israel. New York State Assembly Member Marcela Mitaynes was among those arrested for blocking traffic with their banners.

August 4 Renton, WA 3 arrests

Rep. Adam Smith's town hall was abruptly canceled after ceasefire activists took the stage and began chanting. People attending the meeting left the room, and police initially got the activists to disperse. Three returned and refused to leave. They were arrested for trespass and booked into jail.

August 4 New York City, NY 41 arrests

If Not Now, an American Jewish anti-Zionist group, called for an end to Israel's ethnic cleansing and starvation of Gaza with a march from Columbus Circle to the Trump International Hotel. Dozens remained after the planned demonstration, chanting, beating drums and reciting prayers for those killed in the conflict. Police arrested those blocking the hotel entrance and the road out front.

August 19 Houston, TX 22 arrests

The protest was not advertised in advance, but when word went out to gather at the Israeli Consulate and set up a Gaza war protest encampment, the response was swift, and within hours a dozen tents had been pitched in an adjacent grassy area. About 10 p.m., police shut down the street and cleared out the encampment, arresting 22 people on suspicion of trespass.

August 20 Redmond, WA 20 arrests

No Azure for Apartheid, a group started by Microsoft employees opposed to the company's business with Israel, pitched camp on August 19 in a plaza on Microsoft's main business campus. The group says Israel has used Azure to produce "a sweeping and intrusive system that collects and stores recordings of millions of mobile phone calls made each day by Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank" and which "facilitated the preparation of deadly airstrikes and has shaped military operations in Gaza and the West Bank." They passed out a declaration of their aims and were eventually told they were trespassing and to leave, which they did. But a couple dozen activists returned the next day, set up tents and proceeded to chant and hand out literature from behind a modest barricade of tables and bicycles. Paint was poured over a Microsoft sign and the plaza renamed "Martyred Palestinian Children's Plaza". Eventually, police massed and moved in, trashing the encampment and making arrests. Microsoft has terminated employees who take part in such protests.

August 20 Northampton, MA 2 arrests

Demilitarize Western Mass returned to the L3 Harris plant in the morning rain to continue raising awareness of the arms maker supplying Israel from their community. They unfurled mock blood-stained banners and swaddling to represent dead children and dumped buckets of fake blood in front of two entrances. Crime scene tape was strung along the sidewalk where a sit-in blocked employees. They packed up when police threatened arrest, but two women who crossed the street holding their signs were arrested when the light changed while they were in the middle of the crosswalk.

August 20 New York City, NY 2 arrests

As the crisis of starvation as a weapon of Israel's war deepened this year in Gaza, Egyptian diplomatic posts around the world were the target of repeated protest demanding that Egypt do more to open its border with Gaza at Rafah to humanitarian relief shipments.

In New York, Yasin El Sammak, 22, and his 15-year-old brother, both U.S. citizens, joined others outside the Egyptian Mission to the United Nations on August 20. El Sammak had been asked to film another demonstrator attempting to chain the doors shut. Guards inside disrupted the action, and an Egyptian guard outside the building approached El Sammak, yelling at him. Soon, another guard grabbed his brother, pinning the teen into a doorway behind barricades. El Sammak tried to intervene, speaking in Arabic and crossing the barricade to reach his brother. Quickly two more guards were on the scene, pushing the brothers ten yards down the sidewalk and into the building. Video taken through the glass doors shows El Sammak being repeatedly whipped with the chain, which the guard had grabbed, and choked with his kaffiyeh.

Police were quickly on the scene to assist the Egyptians, and arrested El Sammak on a felony charge of assault and his brother on charges of assault and strangulation. Both were held overnight, and in court the next day his charge was reduced to a misdemeanor, while his brother's case was transferred to family court and the record sealed. El Sammak's charges have since been dismissed. Egyptian officials have not been charged.

August 26 Redmond, WA 7 arrests

No Azure for Apartheid returned to protest on the Microsoft corporate campus, rolling out an 18-foot long scroll with the group's four demands: 1. Cut Ties with Israel, 2. Call for an End to the Genocide and Forced Starvation, 3. Pay Reparations to the Palestinians, 4. End the Discrimination Against Workers. More than 2,000 employees have signed it in the previous 15 months. Several demonstrators entered Building 34, hanging a banner to rename it "Mai Ubeid Building" after a Palestinian software engineer killed in an Israeli airstrike. They released helium balloons carrying noisemakers in the atrium, and then seven people stormed the office of President Brad Smith where they held a sit-in. Two employees in the group were immediately fired, and when they refused to leave, police arrested all seven, placing them in full-body harnesses before carrying them out of the building.

August 27 San Francisco, CA 138 arrests

Hundreds of Jewish Voice for Peace activists joined in simultaneous sit-ins at the offices of California Senators Alex Padilla in San Francisco and Adam Schiff in Burbank. Both Senators were condemned for not supporting Senator Bernie Sander's bill to cut all military support for Israel. All of the arrests occurred in Senator Padilla's office, and all were taken to the county jail for processing except one, who was cited and released at the scene.

September 3 Washington, DC 2 arrests

At a Senate Foreign Relations Committee confirmation hearing for the Ambassador to Costa Rica, two uniformed veterans – former intelligence officer Captain Josephine Guilbeau and U.S. Army Lt. Col. Anthony Aguilar (retired), a former Green Beret, stood to denounce congressional inaction for Gaza. They were arrested and taken out of the hearing room.

September 9 Washington, DC 1 arrest

CodePink co-founder Medea Benjamin, a regular vocal presence bird-dogging militarists in the halls of the Capitol and congressional office buildings, had a congressional aide try to grab her phone and was then arrested and briefly jailed for asking a congressman what he thought about Israel bombing Qatar to kill Hamas negotiators.

September 9 Washington, DC 61 arrests

Mennonite Action returned to Capitol Hill, where they called "for an end to the killing and forced starvation of the people of Gaza ... for humanitarian aid to be immediately allowed into Gaza and an end to U.S. weapons to Israel." The group, 120 strong, was organized by the Harrisonburg, Virginia chapter, but were turned away by the office of Virginia Senator Mark Warner. So they instead held a sit-in outside his office, singing hymns in what one participant called "a very Mennonite way of protesting." They were arrested and charged with the standard "Crowding, Obstructing, and Incommoding," a misdemeanor in Washington, D.C. with punishments of up to 90 days in jail, $500 in fines, or both, and often satisfied with payment of a $50 fine.

September 10 Toronto, ON 1 arrest

Police arrested one person when a few dozen people held a protest outside the Toronto International Film Festival premier of "The Road Between Us: The Ultimate Rescue," a documentary about one Israeli man's response to the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack in Israel.

September 14 Montreal, PQ 3-4 arrests

Several arrests were reported when members of Divest for Palestine, Bikers4Palestine, and Palestinians and Jews United gathered to protest the presence of the Israel-Premier Tech (IPT) team at the Grand Prix Cyclistes de Montréal. They see the team as another tool to whitewash Israel's image in the face of its genocide of Palestinians. Similar protests have blocked roads during European cycling events, and in Spain, forcing the final stage of the Vuelta a España to be abandoned the same day as the Montreal protest. Those arrested are charged with assaulting and obstructing police.

September 17 Brooklyn, NY 8 arrests

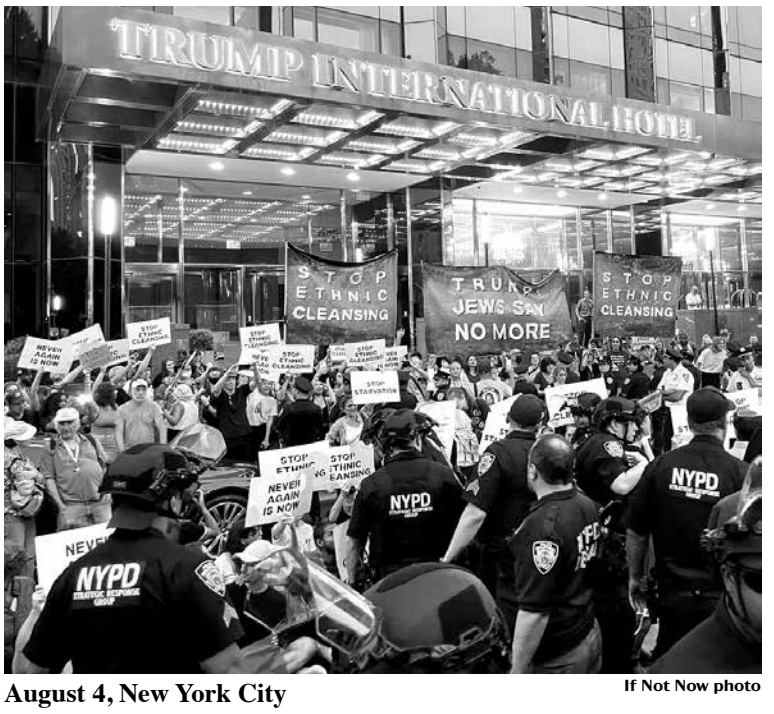
The Brooklyn Navy Yard is now a group of city-owned buildings where tenants get tax breaks. For more than a year the community coalition Demilitarize Brooklyn Navy Yard has regularly demonstrated against two tenants, Crye Precision and Easy Aerial, who supply the Israeli army. The activists rallied on the day of the governing board meeting to demand the companies be evicted. While most rallied outside Building 92 where the meeting was being held, another group staged a sit-in at the intersection of Flushing and Clinton Avenue, blocking the entrance to the Yard's parking lot. Seven people, including New York State Senator Jabari Brisport, were arrested there, and another was arrested later during a noise demonstration outside Building 77. Brisport had previously supported the BNY project but was "horrified" to learn about the two business tied to Israel. "I have seen them do a lot of work to make sure they are centering the marginalized, the Black and Brown people in our community, women-owned businesses, immigrants, [and] formerly incarcerated. We cannot do all that on the backs of a genocide," Brisport said. "It is nothing but hypocritical to uplift the marginalized here while harming the marginalized in Gaza. Our public resources should be responsive to the public and should go toward community-centered uses."

September 18 Tampa, FL 5 arrests

Veterans for Peace held a press conference and demonstrated outside MacDill Air Force Base, home of U.S. CENTCOM, which overseas Pentagon operations in the Middle East. They held signs along a sidewalk and some people then briefly blocked traffic entering the base. Several held signs declaring "Veterans Against Genocide". Congressional candidate Marialana Kinter was among those arrested and facing multiple misdemeanor charges, including resisting without violence, obstruction of a street or sidewalk and disobeying an official.

September 19 Toronto, ON 1 arrest

Private police at Toronto Metropolitan University arrested a student during a rally for Palestine for disruptive behavior in violation of the student code of conduct.



August 4, New York City If Not Now photo

September 23 New York City, NY 50 arrests

People protesting a variety of issues, including an end to U.S. support for Israel's war, joined two midtown Manhattan sit-ins, attempting to block traffic to the United Nations and President Trump's appearance there before the General Assembly.

September 24 Washington, DC 8 arrests

Arrests were made at a protest outside the U.S. Capitol against U.S. support for Israel.

September 28 New York City, NY 3 arrests

Three people were charged after investigation of graffiti at the New York Times building on June 30. "NYT Lies, Gaza Dies" had been written on a window and leaflets left outside the building called the Times "an active accomplice in the ongoing genocide." Anna Owens and Sarah Schaff were arraigned on felony criminal mischief charges, alleged to have caused over $100,000 in property damages. A separate criminal complaint alleges that photographer Alexa Wilkinson was present and

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INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Around the world, the global arms industry promotes a future of forever war by marketing the hardware to make it happen in glitzily shameless international expositions. Israel's war on Gaza and the Palestinians is one of the latest reasons to resist these bizarre bazaars.

United Kingdom

The spirit of war resistance has followed the recent arms sales circuit, beginning in London in early September. A coalition of over 100 groups opposed to the international "harms" trade held multiple protests outside London's ExCel Centre. Their name was their aim, Shut DSEI Down. DSEI (Defence and Security Equipment International) is described by one British arms executive as the "Super Bowl of the defence world."

For years, campaigners have sought to have Israeli companies barred from the event for their complicity in Israel's war crimes. While the British government declined to invite the Israeli government delegation to attend the expo over Israel's escalation against Gaza, at least 51 Israeli arms companies were invited to exhibit this year, stoking the mood of the protests. Despite a smaller number present than at previous expos, a group of protesters held ground just outside the ExCel loading docks for a fortnight before opening day, greeting the lines of trucks waiting every day to unload.

By opening day, September 9, Palestine solidarity activists swelled the crowd to over 500 people, many who arrived well before the announced 8 a.m. gathering time. With that element of surprise, 150 people marched on the main entrance to challenge the thousands of war merchants walking from the Custom House transit hub into the Centre. Police lined up behind barricades to push back demonstrators who were chanting, 'Over sixty thousand dead, you're arresting us instead!' – a reference to the arrest of over 900 people in Parliament Square a few days before, simply for holding signs in support of the banned Palestine Action group.

On the morning of opening day, police made three arrests for alleged "assault on an emergency worker" and obstructing police duties along the line of engagement.

At the alternate entrance, a mass of police rushed the protesters, pushing from all sides to kettle a small group for a short time before releasing them without charge. In the melee, one person was knocked unconscious and another broke her ankle. A legal observer's wrist was broken while police reported receiving minor injuries.

Taiwan

Half a world away in Taiwan, activists from the Taiwan Alliance for a Free Palestine demonstrated outside the Taipei Aerospace & Defense Technology Exhibition on its final day, September 20. Earlier that week, the Alliance had released a report identifying at least 17 Taiwanese defense-related companies supplying Israel's war needs, and 60 more either likely involved in supply or engaged in related commerce that could lead to future military contracts. Some protesters briefly disrupted the largest arms expo in the nation's history when they carried mock, shroud-wrapped corpses representing slain Palestinians around the venue while handing out flyers detailing Taiwan's complicity in the genocide. Police quickly cleared them out, and one person was arrested on unspecified charges.

New Zealand

Spreading the spoils of war to the southern hemisphere, the National Aerospace Summit in Christchurch, New Zealand was the next protest venue in early October. More than 100 anti-war activists chained themselves together and blocked multiple entrances to the Te Pae Convention Centre early on the morning of October 8. Peace Action Ōtautahi organized the blockades openly in the weeks before the summit as part of a campaign to change the narrative surrounding the annual event from promoting technology to war profiteering.

Police arrested 22 adults and three minors while clearing the blockades, most at the main entrance. A further 14 people were arrested for obstructing the police vehicles carrying the arrestees away from the venue, or for trespass and/or breach of bail conditions. Three people were held overnight before release.

Lucy Corlett described to Scoop.co.nz being dragged away and handcuffed while police knelt on her back. "I've been left with injuries to my shoulder, elbow, wrist and ribs. However, my treatment pales in comparison to Israel's genocide of the Palestinian people ... I refuse to stand idly by as a conference of warmongers takes place in our city of 'peace'. As long as our government keeps our country complicit in the genocide of Palestinians, we will continue to protest."

Canada

North to Canada, where more than 100 people protested the war profiteers at the October 21 opening of the "Best Defence Conference" in London, Ontario. They blocked multiple entrances while holding banners declaring "War Crimes Start Here" and calling for an arms embargo on Israel. Arriving arms dealers were delayed as they were shuttled under police guard to a side entrance. One man told the press that he and others attending the protest have family in Gaza, "but this is not just a Palestinian issue. This is to really shut down the war machine."

Two people were identified by police soon after the protest and arrested on charges related to barricades and damaged locks while wearing a mask as a "disguise".

Police asked for community help identifying other masked protesters they were investigating for possible criminal acts.

Five weeks later, in coordinated early morning raids on four homes across southern Ontario, police intimidated activists and their families while conducting searches and seizing electronic devices from four people. Two activists were arrested and taken hours away for processing. Two others were charged later.

Among those charged are World Beyond War – Canada organizer Rachel Small and David Heap, a professor of French studies at Western University in London. Heap is charged only with obstructing police when they searched his home for evidence. The others are facing various charges of obstruction, disguise with intent and mischief over $5,000.

Across the four locations, police seized computers and laptops, phones, USB drives, hard drives, placards, two-way radios and smoke bombs, and claimed to have found plans for causing property damage and handwritten notes describing police tactics. The activists have all been released and await court dates.

Redirecting press inquiries about his arrest to the subject at hand, Professor Heap told one reporter, "Canada isn't just a bystander – it's a supplier." A report published in November by the Canadian coalition Arms Embargo Now is titled "Exposing the U.S. Loophole: How Canadian F-35 Parts and Explosives Reach Israel."

Australia

The international conflict promoters then headed back south to Australia, where in November the "largest ever" Indo-Pacific International Maritime Exposition also faced protest. Like the British arms executive comparing DSEI to the Superbowl, Australia's defense minister giddily invoked another American entertainment icon to describe their event as "a kind of Disneyland – the happiest place on earth." It's a small world, after all.

As in England, Taiwan and New Zealand, the arms expo protests in Sydney on November 4 centered on the host nation's complicity in Israel's genocidal war.

Hundreds showed up for the opening of the three-day event at the International Convention Centre in Sydney's Darling Harbour. By early morning on opening day, demonstrators faced police across barricades separating them from convention goers. Chants of "War criminal, go home!" and "Shame, shame, shame!" rang out to greet the arriving war merchants. Conflict broke out when police claimed they were "set upon by a pack of very angry protesters." Activists videotaped police on foot and horseback massing together and forcing the barricades into the crowd while shooting pepper spray at close range.

Palestine Action Group organizer Josh Lees was among the first hit.

"The police know who I am as a protest organizer, and they immediately targeted me and pepper sprayed me in the face from a distance of about one meter," he told the press.

Police made 13 arrests. After some negotiation, a planned march through the area was allowed to proceed without incident.

That afternoon, as supporters rallied outside the police station awaiting release of those arrested, the police superintendent came outside and held a news conference, announcing that charges including resisting arrest and assaulting police were being filed. When Lees tried to ask a question about investigating the expo and the companies in attendance, he was told it was not the time nor place. Police then surrounded Lees and threatened him with arrest. After a short time the police relented, the press conference having ended.

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Poster mocking new protest restrictions, as seen recently in London.

U.K. Palestine Action

In the United States, the case of Raunaq Alam (see page 4) illustrates how decrying the state of Israel is being prosecuted as a hate crime. In Great Britain, this false conflation of critique of a nation with ethnic hatred gets protesters arrested on charges of supporting terrorists.

Last summer, two members of the nonviolent direct action group Palestine Action broke into RAF Brize Norton and shared a video of themselves spraying red paint into the engines of two Voyager airplanes used to service Israel's war effort. Red paint "symbolising Palestinian bloodshed was also sprayed across the runway and a Palestine flag was left on the scene," the group said. The activists quickly departed and were identified, arrested and jailed a few days later.

Outraged, the government responded in early July with overwhelming support of the House of Commons to amend the Terrorism Act. Palestine Action is now a proscribed terrorist group, making membership or taking part in its actions punishable by up to 14 years in prison (Sec. 12). Showing support is now a lesser crime, subject to a maximum six month sentence (Sec. 13).

Protest in Britain was already constrained by new laws, including new limits on who can have a jury trial.

David Polden writes that outlawing Palestine Action prompted the group Defend Our Juries to:

> ...organize a series of demonstrations aimed at showing the absurdity of this proscription by trying to make it impossible to enforce. The campaign consisted of getting supporters to assemble in public places and invite arrest under suspicion of supporting terrorism by holding signs saying "I oppose genocide. I support Palestine Action".
>
> So far over 2,350 people have been arrested holding these signs by the end of November, over 1,500 of them in London and the rest all over the country including in Liverpool during the Labour Party Conference, though police in Derry, Edinburgh, Exeter and Kendal failed to arrest people engaged in similar demonstrations. In Cardiff, 13 people taking part in the same action were arrested under suspicion of breaching section 12 of the Terrorism Act and their homes were searched by police.
>
> Of those arrested, the police reported on November 24 that 254 people had been charged, almost all under section 13. The over 2,000 others arrested however have not been charged but "released under investigation" or bailed to report to a police station at a future date with bail conditions of not taking part in other support actions for PA.

The conditions of bail for some of those arrested has limited their normal movement outside the home.

A petition for High Court review of the proscription of Palestine Action was accepted in October, and on November 26 the High Court began their review.

At the end of November, there were 32 Palestine Action members in British prisons on remand or serving a sentence, and their communication is very restricted.

[David Polden edits the Non-Violent Resistance Network Newsletter. Subscribe by sending an email to davidtrpolden1@gmail.com.]

LET GAZA LIVE

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photographed the graffiti incident in progress and shared the photos on social media. Wilkinson was charged not with mischief but aggravated harassment in the second degree as a hate crime, on a further allegation that they posted "a threatening social media message targeting the Jewish editor of the *New York Times*". One post cited in the complaint was shared screenshots of a social media post stating, "They hanged newspaper editors at Nuremberg" and captioned "Looking at you," with reference to the *Times*' Executive Editor. All three entered not guilty pleas.

October 2 New York City, NY 56 arrests

Rabbis for Ceasefire observed Yom Kippur at Brooklyn Borough Hall, leading a Yizkor prayer for the dead. According to the holy day's tradition, most participants wore white. After prayer, they marched to the Brooklyn Bridge behind a banner demanding "Not Another Bomb." Arriving at the bridge entrance, several joined together with long lock-on devices to block bridge traffic, and dozens more simply sat in the road until arrested.

October 3 Port Elizabeth, NJ 4 arrests

Before dawn, more than 100 people disrupted operations at Port Elizabeth, New Jersey, "in solidarity with those protesting at the ports of Oakland, of Dublin, Ireland, ports in Spain, Italy, France, Sweden, and Greece, the Global Sumud Flotilla, and most importantly, the people and children of Gaza." The entrance road was quickly blocked with large banners declaring "ZIM + Mearsk Ship Bombs!" and "It's a crime to ship weapons to genocide." Their statement noted that, "This site exports weapons used by Israel to kill Palestinians in Gaza, shipped by Maersk and ZIM. In addition, it is one of the largest weapons exporters on the East coast. Supplying these weapons for Israel's genocide is a blatant violation of the U.S. War Crimes Act, the Leahy Law, The Foreign Assistance Act, Arms Export Control Act, and The Genocide Convention Implementation Act." Daniel Creamer, sisters Ellen Grady and Teresa Grady and Mark Scibilia-Carver were arrested while pleading with police "to stop the trucks and inspect them for weapons. [You] must be a part of stopping this illegal activity."

October 3 Toledo, OH 6 arrests

In solidarity with a Toledo Marine Corps veteran on the Global Sumud Flotilla who had just been intercepted and arrested by the Israeli Navy in international waters, three dozen people demonstrated for peace outside the downtown Ohio Building. In a planned act of civil disobedience, six people blocked the entrance to the building, where U.S. Senator John Husted, a vocal supporter of Israel, has an office. The six were handcuffed and led away in a police van to be charged with disorderly conduct.

October 7 Boston, MA 13 arrests

On the evening of the second anniversary of the Hamas attack on Israel, 200-300 hundred people blocked Tremont Street downtown, locking arms and chanting through amplified bullhorns. Police stationed nearby for the protest say an unrelated emergency nearby prompted them to rapidly clear the street for emergency vehicles to pass through. A melee erupted as a few protesters pushed back, kicking the doors of police cruisers and igniting smoke bombs and flares. Twelve were arrested on various misdemeanor charges, including several for assaulting police. Seven were additionally indicted on one felony count of "promotion of anarchy" to incite a riot. The felony counts were premised on a flyer announcing the protest that depicted a burning police car, and dismissed December 3 for lack of further evidence.

October 9 Toronto, ON 8 arrests

Supporters of Palestine occupied the common area of Canadian Parliament member Karim Bardeesy's office in Toronto, urging her and the government to take action following the most recent interception of an aid flotilla in the Mediterranean Sea. They were arrested after refusing to leave, and face multiple charges including forcible entry and unlawful assembly.

October 12 Damariscotta, ME 1 arrest

People's Perseverance for Palestine thought the annual Damariscotta Pumpkinfest Regatta would be a good place to broadcast their message. About a dozen members placed a Free Palestine banner across the road, while others held signs stating "Kindness", "Dignity" and "Whatever you say, don't say nothing." Alexandra Welch refused repeated orders to leave the roadway and was arrested for obstruction of a public way.

October 13 Louisville, KY 1 arrest

University of Louisville Students for Justice in Palestine arrived before sunrise, hoping to establish a campus encampment. School police nixed that intention before an hour passed. Students continued to protest through the morning, marching to the student activity center and back to the encampment location. When an attempt was made to re-establish the camp, university police intervened to seize their camping gear, resulting in one arrest.

October 21 St. Paul, MN 11 arrests

The contentious issue of investing in Israel led the Minnesota State Board of Investment to postpone their mandated quarterly meeting in August after Palestinian support groups announced plans to pack the public hearing room. After postponing or canceling four more public meetings, an online-only format was adopted. Activists showed up early and entered the lobby of the Retirement Systems Building when it opened at 8 a.m., hours before the scheduled meeting and imposition of security restrictions. They started a sit-in, demanding the state immediately divest from Israel Bonds, create a task force to publicly state risks associated with Minnesota's investment ties to companies complicit in Israel's crimes, and pledge to hold all future meetings in person and fully open to the public. The group was arrested for trespass when the building closed for the day. Two people were held overnight before a judge ordered their release.

October 21 London, ON 6 arrests

See separate story, page 6.

October 22 Binghamton, NY 3 arrests

A dozen or so members and allies of the Downtown Berrigan Collective of Ithaca, New York visited the district office of U.S. Representative Josh Riley, "demanding action to protect Palestinian lives." Members of the group had been unsuccessful asking for a meeting with Riley about the war, so they came to sit and wait. They were not welcomed in, so they decamped to the hallway near the office suite. By late afternoon, four remained and police arrested three who declined the invitation to leave. Dan Burgevin, Bill Carini and Tom Joyce were arrested and taken to the nearby police station, where they were cited for trespass and released. In separate court appearances in November, all three pled not guilty and asked to represent themselves and have their cases combined.

October 22 Ann Arbor, MI 3 arrests

Three hundred people showed up in protest when the University of Michigan chapter of Students Supporting Israel hosted two former members of the Israel Defense Forces, on a 20-campus tour "sharing firsthand stories from October 7th and beyond." Some demonstrators blocked the exit of an underground parking garage, where they were arrested for refusing lawful orders. One of the two women arrested was turned over to Saginaw police on outstanding warrants, and all three were released by the following afternoon.

November 5 Toronto, ON 5 arrests

When the Students Supporting Israel at Toronto Metropolitan University hosted the same tour, masked protesters allegedly stormed the building, breaking a glass door. Five people face varying charges including forcible entry and unlawful assembly, obstructing an officer and assaulting an officer.

November 11 Livingston, NJ 6 arrests

More than 100 anti-genocide activists protested outside the Suburban Torah Center where former Israeli Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant was scheduled to speak. A handful of demonstrators clashed with police, who had been called in from multiple agencies to assist with crowd control. Three were cited for disorderly conduct and released with a summons, as was another for unlawful possession of a weapon, resisting arrest, aggravated assault, and disorderly conduct. Two men were transferred to another county on outstanding warrants after one was charged with disorderly conduct, aggravated assault and resisting arrest. The other man is facing multiple counts of aggravated assault and resisting arrest and remains in custody awaiting trial for previous unrelated assaults.

November 28 New York City, NY 4 arrests

Police arrested four people who blocked the entrance to an Apple computer store during a Black Friday demonstration, holding signs reading "Think before you buy" and "Israel is killing children."

FUTURE ACTIONS

pentagon

Plowshares activist Patrick O'Neill writes: "Friday, March 27, 2026 is my 70th birthday. As a longtime pacifist I plan to celebrate this milestone birthday, and I want to include all Nuclear Resister readers in my plans. Please consider coming to Washington D.C. to meet me at the Pentagon at 7 a.m. where I am inviting 70 of my family and friends to join me in risking arrest for praying the Lord's Prayer – or a prayer or action of your choice – outside a main entrance to the place that serves as the braintrust of global militarism. Please contact me at 984-810-2273 or pmtoneill@aol.com for more information. The only presents I want are all of you to be with me on my milestone birthday to collectively say "No" to U.S. militarism. All eight of my children will be there with me. You do not have to risk arrest in order to be there with me."

sacred peace walk

The Sacred Peace Walk is a seven day pilgrimage, a 70 mile trek through the Mojave Desert starting in Las Vegas on March 28, 2026, stopping at Creech Air Force Base and ending at the Nevada National Security Site on April 3, Good Friday. Walking by snow covered mountain ranges, sleeping under the desert sky, participating in the ceremonies of the Western Shoshone friends who join in the walk and welcome us to their land, building community, listening and praying together, acts of resistance at the Test Site and Creech, are cleansing for the spirits of all who participate and we hope, cleansing for our planet at risk. For more information, visit nevadadesertexperience.org/spw-schedule, or contact info@nevadadesertexperience.org, (702)646-4814.

royal air force lakenheath

Save the dates now for the spring Peace Camp at RAF Lakenheath. Lakenheath Alliance for Peace will sponsor events April 1 – 6, 2026, during daytime hours at the main gate of the British air force base where U.S. nuclear weapons have recently returned and are now stockpiled for ready use in Europe. Overnight accommodations are available in a nearby village hall with a large camping area at the back, as well as commercial options and home stays. Training for nonviolent action is encouraged before the peace camp, to facilitate formation of affinity groups and planning for direct action while at the camp. More details as they become available will be posted at lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.uk. For more information, email vigils@lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.uk.

kansas city

Midwest Catholic Workers, in consultation with the local activists of PeaceWorksKC, will return to the Kansas City National Security Campus, (KCNSC) for their annual Spring Resistance gathering, April 24 – 27, 2026. The KCNSC produces 80% of the electronic and mechanical parts for U.S. nuclear weapons. It will be a weekend of prayer, education, discernment, celebration and mourning in preparation for acts of nonviolent direct action for the sake of life on Monday morning, April 27. For more information, contact Henry Stoever <henrystoever@sbcglobal.net>, Mike Miles and Barb Kass <anathoth@lakeland.ws> or Lois Swimmer <loisswimmer1130@gmail.com>.

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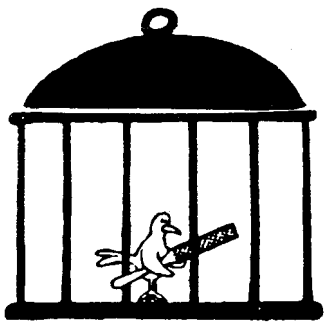

RAYTHEON/TUCSON: John Heid and Elizabeth Murray were convicted in September in Pima County Justice Court of trespass at the factory producing nuclear cruise missiles and many other weapons last March. They were both sentenced to 20 hours of community service...

Some ceasefire updates of note:

CHICAGO: In June, a Chicago jury accepted the necessity defense of Nitaawe Banks and found the young Anishinaabe activist not guilty of obstructing traffic during a March, 2024 demonstration. Their own testimony at trial and advocacy by *pro bono* attorneys from the National Lawyers Guild convinced the jury that Banks and other protesters' minor obstruction sought to prevent the far greater harm of unconditional U.S. support for Israel's war. In November, Banks offered the same defense against charges of blocking traffic at O'Hare International Airport on April 15, 2024, but was convicted...

CLEVELAND: Eleven people facing felony vandalism charges for multiple incidents of pro-Palestine graffiti on the campus of Case Western Reserve University agreed in October to pay $400,000 in restitution in order to avoid a trial...

PALO ALTO: Of 13 people arrested for occupying and vandalizing the office of the president of Stanford University in June, 2024, a reporter's charge was later dropped while the others were indicted for felony vandalism and conspiracy last spring. One person agreed to testify against the other 11. Six of them have since entered a diversion program, three with pending plea agreements to pay restitution. Five others await trial in January, with prosecutors seeking to bar mention of genocide, protest and free speech from the trial...

ANN ARBOR: Drin Shapiro was among 11 students arrested at the May, 2024 ceasefire encampment at the University of Michigan. Those charges were raised to felonies months later, but all were dismissed last May. But that was not before private investigators hired by the University had trailed Shapiro and others and reported that he'd violated the condition of his release not to be on campus unless attending class. Instead, he'd spent the hour between classes posting flyers about the University's complicity in the genocide in Gaza, and spent three days in jail as a result. Michigan authorities continue to investigate a number of vandalism incidents related to the war, raiding homes alongside the FBI, seizing electronic devices and taking DNA samples...

ANNOUNCEMENT

... **Against All Odds**, a new book by Scott Schaeffer-Duffy, tells the story of a nine-year nonviolent campaign against the local GTE factory producing essential nuclear missile guidance systems. This inspiring tale of faith-based civil disobedience is available direct from the author for $25 sent/payable to Scott Schaeffer-Duffy, Ss. Francis and Thérèse Catholic Worker, 52 Mason St., Worcester, MA 01510. For credit card or Venmo purchase, contact the publisher, Haley's, at 978-249-9400.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES, cont.

continued from page 6

Netherlands

Climate activists joined peace activists in June to confront the NATO Summit in The Hague, Netherlands. A two-day Counter Summit preceded the official event, bringing together climate activists, anti-militarists and others, concluding with a major demonstration on Sunday, June 22. That morning, the United States had bombed three Iranian nuclear facilities, so signs and banners also proclaimed "No Iran War," and "Hands off Iran."

Demonstrators called on the Summit to prioritize environmental issues and peace-building programs. The next day, dozens of climate activists attempted to block a critical route from the Amsterdam airport about 20 miles from the venue, resulting in several arrests.

Activists tried to block another motorway closer to the venue on Tuesday, the summit's opening day. About 30 people were detained as police averted the blockade.

One demonstrator told a reporter, "There is a meeting going on in the next few days ... where they talk about the security of the world, security of the West, but the climate crisis is not on the agenda. We think it is important that it comes on the agenda because it is an even larger threat [than] Russia."

The next day, June 25, Donald Trump arrived to address the summit, and about 200 people were arrested for again blocking a motorway and other protests.

New Zealand

On March 3, 2025, fifteen Peace Action Ōtautahi activists held a protest outside the Rolleston headquarters of NIOA. The company notoriously produces the "preferred" sniper rifles of the Israeli army, among other profitable munitions for New Zealand and the world. Some protesters held signs and banners outside the fence while two young men entered the property and climbed on the roof. They hung large banners over the walls declaring "No War Profiteers in our City" and "NOIA Supplies Genocide".

The two were arrested and charged with burglary, and released on condition they have no contact with each other. A few weeks later they were again taken into custody briefly for violating that condition. Police had requested CCTV footage from a university event on March 19, allegedly showing a brief interaction between the men as they were setting up chairs for a public meeting. They face a possible 10 year sentence if convicted, with their trial expected later this year.

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Resister

"A Chronicle of Hope"

Hiroshima & Nagasaki Remembrance & Resistance

Immigrant Jailed for Peaceful Anti-War Protest

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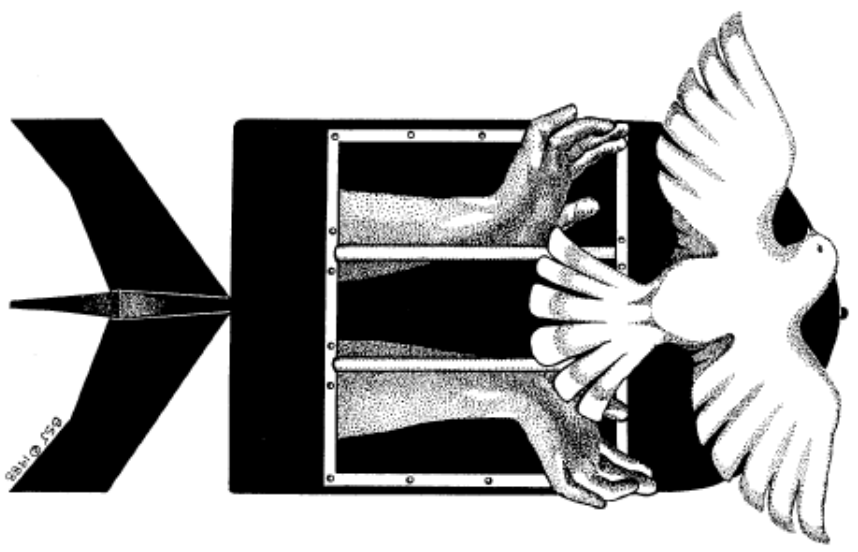
Ceasefire Arrests, Day-by-Day



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