

Nuremberg Actions News



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RELAY FAST FOR EL SALVADOR February 20th Through ??????

On February 20th, Scott Rutherford embarked on an open ended water-only fast at the Concord Naval Weapons Station. He is the first faster in the Nuremberg Actions Fast for El Salvador, an open ended relay fast. The purpose of the fast is to demonstrate our solidarity with the Salvadoran people in a time of deepening crisis and to protest U.S. intervention there. We fear for the lives of tens of thousands of peasants and workers as a result of the ascendancy of the ARENA party to the presidency.

The following are excerpts from an open letter Scott prepared for the North American people.

"I am fasting for all of the people in El Salvador who are struggling to free themselves from hundreds of years of oppression. My fast must be understood as an atonement for my complicity as a Naval officer, as an official of the U.S. government and as a citizen in my government's violations in my name of human rights all over the Third World in the past 30 years. In that sense, it is a liberation, a healing and a coming home.

What is the body count? Over 2,000,000 in Southeast Asia, 500,000 in Indonesia, 20,000 in Nicaragua, 70,000 in El Salvador, 54,000 American military who were killed in Vietnam and probably an equivalent number of Vietnam veterans who have taken their own lives.

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EL SALVADOR CONVOY UPDATE

The Caravan to El Salvador arrived at the Salvadoran-Guatemalan border crossing on March 13th at 3:30 PM and were routinely given travel permits to the capital of San Salvador. One hour later, they were called back and their visas voided.

On 3/22, although previous delegations had either been turned back or taken into custody, 120 members of UNTS came up by bus from San Salvador to protest the detainment of the Caravan. They marched through the town with banners and loudspeakers, and spent the night outside the gate of the Immigration Area. They were met by a truckload of Salvadoran soldiers with automatic weapons, but no one was injured or detained.

After 10 days, the Caravan left the border on 3/23. To avoid difficulty at border crossings, the supplies had been sent by ship from Texas. 14 trucks were donated to the Salvadorans in the hopes of getting the aid distributed. The trucks made it through the border checkpoint, amid great cheers. 19 of the original 44 drivers still hope to enter El Salvador to assist in releasing the donated aid from Customs and getting it to the people most in need. Duncan Murphy is fasting on water only until the aid is released by the Salvadoran Government.



photo by Joe Eric

Children of Guarjila, El Salvador, bombed again on 3/15/89

NEVADA TEST SITE CARAVANS Leaving April 6th and 13th, 9:00 AM

This year at the Nevada Nuclear Test Site "No Taxation For Annihilation" is the theme of the April 15th rally. It will precede the largest civil disobedience this country has seen since the revolutionary war.

In order to regain our independence from nuclear oppression, the global community must first demand an end to nuclear testing and then begin conversion of the world's economy. We must replace the violent military and economic programs with nonviolent programs that work to restore the Earth balance.

In Nevada these two forces are separated only by a fence. On one side, thousands of people are employed to dig huge holes in the Earth, detonate nuclear bombs and test their consequences. On the other side of the fence, 10,000 people live Indian village style, cooperating with alternative energy, consensus process, and independence from the dollar, respecting the Earth and her gifts. Food is served for \$1 a day by 'Seeds of Peace'.

NUREMBERG ACTIONS is coordinating two convoys from the tracks to the test site this April. The first will be leaving on the 6th to set up a large camp. We have borrowed a school bus to help transport people without vehicles and have a 30ft yurt and solar power to make life easier in the desert. Part of the purpose of this convoy is to build community by living together, holding discussions, working around camp and doing actions. For people whose schedules won't allow a full week in the desert, a second convoy will be leaving on April 13th. The likely return date for both convoys is April 16th. If you want to get on either convoy, call Jennifer or Spaulding at 415-458-6289 (before the 6th) or the N.A. office at 415-458-5299. We need to know soon how many vehicles are going, who has space in their car and how many people need rides. Be there to make history this April.

NUREMBERG ACTIONS GROWING

By David Hartsough

The people of Nuremberg Actions are more committed than ever to uphold God's law and International Law: to stop the immoral and illegal and unconscionable killing of the people in Central America and other parts of the world with weapons that are shipped from the Concord Naval Weapons Station.

We are continuing to vigil 24 hours a day and nonviolently attempting to block every munitions train and many trucks carrying explosives as well. We are also renewing our invitation to church and community groups, peace and solidarity groups, women's groups, veterans and other concerned people to join us in our nonviolent witness for 1 day a month or as often as possible. Express profound opposition to what is being done with our tax dollars and in our names. Help assure that bombs are no longer shipped from our backyard into the front yards and living rooms of people in other parts of the world.

Please refer to the calendar for days when specific groups are coming to the tracks. Other groups which have expressed strong interest but do not yet have firm dates include the Unitarians, Presbyterians, Catholics, Pledge of Resistance, CISPES, El Salvadoran community, Contra Costa County folks and women's groups. Except where indicated, these groups will all be meeting at the tracks about 9 am. If possible, come join others of your Faith community, geographical community or peace group on the appointed day.

We warmly welcome your participation. Showing the breadth and depth of concern about continued killing in our names will hopefully help awaken the consciences and hearts of the North American people to act to help stop the United States from exporting death to Central America and other parts of the world. TOGETHER WE CAN OVERCOME.

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For my part, I have entered into active full time nonviolent resistance to the government which I once served willingly and with honor. I was once prepared as a Naval officer to lay down my life for my country. Now I am prepared to lay it down for the victims of my country's barbarism. I have drawn the line in El Salvador. I have chosen the side I must be on--the side of the courageous people of Guarjila and San Antonio Los Ranchos. As I once shared their joy and hope, I am now prepared to share their hunger, fear, sorrow and suffering.

I am discerning day to day about how long I shall fast. Since I have listened to my heart and the gracious Spirit which speaks through it in undertaking my fast, I will listen for them to tell me when to end it. I believe that what we receive is proportional to what we are prepared to give. I want much for my Salvadoran friends. I must give much to achieve it.

I urge you to examine your hearts and to escalate your resistance to our government's genocide in El Salvador. Consider joining our relay fast, participate in the Fast for Peace in Washington D.C. or organize one of your own. We also invite you to come to the tracks and vigil and block the death trains."

As we go to press on 3/27, Scott is in his 36th day. You can sign up for the relay fast by calling 415-458-5299 or by just coming to the tracks. Peace be with you.



MAIL FROM JAIL

By Diane Poole

Jail, I am finding, is a strange place, full of rich experiences and unexpected events. Soon after I entered, we watched a movie called 'Mandela' about the jailed ANC leader. It was with a sense of sadness, pride and smallness that I watched the life of this giant portrayed. After 24 years in prison, much of it in solitary confinement or hard labor, he was offered freedom if he renounced his struggle. And he refused. He has spent most of his life in jail.

Later, sitting in my cell and listening to the electric door lock 'click' for the 5 o'clock lockdown, I found myself wondering if I, too, am prepared for a life in jail.

Judge Hatzenbuehler sentenced me to 6 months, suspended on the condition that I cease further blocking (of munitions trains). After giving the matter a great deal of thought, I informed the judge of my refusal of his condition, and blocked another train. It was for this that, with great reluctance, he sentenced me to serve 6 months.

In chambers, while awaiting transfer, the judge said, "call me." Not sure what he meant, I said, "It would have to be collect." He answered, "That's OK. When you're ready to get out, just call me." I then realized that he was repeating his offer to commute my sentence, if only I would agree not to block any more trains.

As long as hundreds of millions, or is it thousands of millions, of people are homeless and starving; as long as tens of thousands of children die horrible deaths each day; as long as we continue to spend inconceivable billions to bring closer the day of universal death; as long as we, acting together, systematically destroy the biosphere; as long as the United States is a militant nation and as long as I breathe, I will stand in the way, as gently as I can. And say no.

You can write Diane at 847 Brookside Drive, Richmond CA 94801.

MY DAY IN COURT (AGAIN)

By Greg Getty

April 10th, 1:00 PM is my tentative trial date for blocking the weapons train on 12-23-87. Eldred Schneider's trial also starts the same day, so postponement is a possibility. Argument should begin on the 11th, but call the N.A. office to be sure. All are invited.

The charge is "Obstructing an officer in the performance of his duty". This duty, we will argue, should not include helping the contras blow up school busses in Nicaragua, or burning children in El Salvador. At arraignment, I said I would plead guilty if they could show the weapons were not going to places where they are killing innocent civilians, but the prosecutor refused to ask the Navy.

According to the prosecution's motion to limit the available defenses (excluding defenses based on 'necessity' and International Law), 'necessity' becomes a defense only when we have exhausted all other alternatives, and "In a free society neither the political process nor the avenue of lawful protest is an exhaustible remedy." (page 3 line 16 of 1-11-88 Motion in Limine) The jury, not the judge, is supposed to decide questions of fact, and whether or not other alternatives have been exhausted is a question of fact, not of law. I will try to show the alternatives I have exhausted.

For example, in Sept. 1984, when I tried to give the Attorney General information about the use of my tax money to shoot school teachers in Nicaragua, the FBI in Redding, CA refused to accept it (as required by law, USC 535) and expressed support for "the President's program". When I subsequently filed a lawsuit in federal court in 1985 on behalf of myself as a U.S. taxpayer and Nicaraguan Contra victims, the Justice Department claimed "the victims would enjoy no rights" under U.S. law and argued "the propriety of the plan" in defending the CIA chief for production of the CIA assassination manual "Psychological Operations in Guerrilla War".

Last year, Sanderson Beck was tried and acquitted after he had crossed the road to join me on the tracks as I was being given pain holds and maced for refusing to move voluntarily during arrest.

Please come to the Mt. Diablo Municipal Court at Parkside and Willow Pass in Concord. Call 415-458-5299 for updated info.

We have t-shirts and canvas bags with 'Stopping the War Starts Here' design on front and Nuremberg Principles on back. \$10 ea.

_____ Bags _____ Shirts _____ SM _____ MD _____ LG _____ XL
Grey, Blue, Turquoise
Pink, Yellow or Gold _____ 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice

I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE \$ _____ TO STOP THE DEATH TRAINS AND JOIN IN THE WORK OF NUREMBERG ACTIONS. Please send me a complementary subscription to Nuremberg Actions News.

Name _____

Address _____

THANK YOU FOR THE WONDERFUL RESPONSE TO OUR CALL FOR HELP ABOUT THE THEFT OF OUR VIDEO CAMERA. THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF OUR READERS, WE NOW HAVE ONE AND A HALF CAMERAS, AND INSURANCE TO PROTECT US IN THE FUTURE. DONATIONS OF VIDEO TAPE, AUDIO TAPE AND D CELL BATTERIES WOULD CONTINUE TO BE VERY HELPFUL. THANKS AGAIN!

TRUTH AND CONSEQUENCES No Conviction for Blocking Weapons

By Ellen Danchik

Victor Vasquez was recently tried in Mt. Diablo Municipal Court on 11 charges stemming from blocking weapons shipments at the Concord Naval Weapons Station. He was defended by Lowell Richards of Walnut Creek. The trial began on March 13 and lasted 3 days. The jury, after hearing Victor read portions of the Nuremberg Principles, did not convict him for blocking weapons. The Jury was hung on those counts. He was convicted of resisting arrest and disobeying an officer.

Victor was also a defendant in the 'Concord 30' trial last summer. After 2 trials, he still has not been convicted for blocking weapons. While the Court's rulings are becoming more restrictive, there appears to be an understanding in the minds of Contra Costa residents that upholding International Law is a legitimate activity.

Nevertheless, the District Attorney may decide to retry Victor, and the judge has proposed probation standards that specifically prohibit blocking arms shipments even though there was no conviction for those charges.

Please support Victor and others by attending upcoming trials. Victor will be sentenced on April 14th at 9 AM at 1950 Parkside Drive in Concord. Eldred Schneider will be tried at the same address beginning at 1PM April 10th. Call for Greg Getty's time.

WANTED: WITNESSES AND VICTIMS OF POLICE HARASSMENT WHILE SUPPORTING 'FOOD NOT BOMBS.' If you have experienced, photographed or seen any police harassment of Food Not Bombs from July 1, 1988 through April 15, 1989, please write a description of these events and send it to Food Not Bombs, 3145 Geary Blvd #12, San Francisco CA 94118 or call them at 415-330-5030 by 4/14.

_____ I would like to join the Nuremberg Actions Relay Fast for El Salvador. I can commit to _____ days.

_____ My Church or Organization would like to host a Nuremberg Actions speaker or video The Vigil at the Tracks.

_____ My Church or Group would like to spend a day at the tracks.

Please call me at _____

I would like to help as a volunteer for Nuremberg Actions and do

_____ (Tabling, Filing Clippings, Correspondance, Data Entry, etc.)

PEACE HOUSE BADLY NEEDS A NEW WASHING MACHINE! Durs blew up! If you are able to donate or sell cheaply a used washing machine, please call 415-458-6461. We would be able to pick it up.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

APRIL 6, 9 AM: NEVADA TEST SITE CONVOY I Join work group to set up large camp and campers going for full week's actions, 7-16.

APRIL 13, 9 AM: NEVADA TEST SITE CONVOY II Arrive in time for main event April 15th, "No Taxation For Anihilation" rally and actions. Join established camp.

APRIL 21, 8:30 AM: VOICES OF HOPE AND ANGER Women from countries dominated by U.S. Military Bases speak out for Sovereignty and Self-Determination. An international speaking tour; at the tracks

APRIL 23, 12 -6 PM: EARTH DAY '89 Martin Luther King Park in downtown Berkeley. Music, Speakers, Entertainment, Booths for environmental, peace and social justice organizations. Sign up at our office to help with the Nuremberg Actions booth!

APRIL 29, 11 AM: WE WON'T TAKE 4 MORE YEARS! Assemble at UN Plaza, Civic Center, San Francisco for a march and rally. No more cutbacks, poverty, racism, militarism and intervention. Money for the people's needs, not for the Pentagon and bank bail-outs! Look for our blue banner and march with Nuremberg Actions! Contact the Campaign for a People's Fightback at 415-821-6545 for more info.

JUNE 10: SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEGINNING OF NUREMBERG ACTIONS DAILY VIGIL AT CNWS. Details to be announced. Celebrate 2 years of sustained resistance to U.S. military violations of International Law. Help send off the Women's Convoy to Central America.

For more info on all above events, unless specified, call Nuremberg Actions at 415-458-5299.

REGULAR EVENTS:

Most likely train times: 9:45 AM or 2:45 PM Tues. and Thurs.
Nonviolent Study Group: Tuesday 10 AM.
Council Meetings: Wednesday, 7 PM at Peace House 458-5299

SCHEDULED GROUPS EACH MONTH AT THE TRACKS:

- WEEK 1: Thursday---Lutherans
Saturday---Marin Friends and Veterans
- WEEK 2: Wednesday---Mustardseed Affinity Group and
Ecumenical Peace Institute
Thursday---Quakers, War Tax Resistance & Sonoma Co. folks
Friday----Sacramento folks
Saturday---Seminarians 2-5 PM
- WEEK 3: Tuesday----Women's Vigil at the Nuclear Bunkers 7-8:30 AM
Thursday---Methodists
Sunday----Buddhist Peace Fellowship meditation 10-12 AM
- WEEK 4: Tuesday----Vigil at the Nuclear Bunkers 7-8:30 AM
Thursday---United Church of Christ
Saturday---Franciscan Affinity Group
- Except where indicated, groups meet at the tracks about 9 AM.

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Nuremberg Actions coordinates a 24 hr vigil and blockade of weapons shipments outside the Concord Naval Weapons Station in Concord, California because we believe that these weapons are used against civilians around the world. PLEASE JOIN US! No matter what time you come, day or night, there will be someone there to greet you. From the Bay Area, take Rte 24 to Concord, Rte 680 North to Rte 242 East. Take Port Chicago Highway north about 1/2 mile. Bus 100 runs from the Concord BART station. Our office phone is 415-458-5299.

Members of Nuremberg Actions' permanent community have a variety of skills to share. Please call on us if you would like to hire someone on a barter or temporary basis and help further our ability to sustain the vigil. Skills include carpentry, house painting, yard and tree work, auto mechanics, videography, massage and accounting. Call 415-458-6461 for more information.
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PLEASE HELP AT THE TRACKS FROM APRIL 5-17. MANY OF OUR PEOPLE WILL BE AWAY IN NEVADA! WE NEED YOUR HELP!

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER: MAY 15, 1989

Nuremberg Actions
PO Box 1637, Pittsburg CA 94565

