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Willson getting death threats, wife says

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The wife of a peace demonstrator who lost his legs when a munitions train ran over him said Tuesday that both she and her husband have received death threats but that they intend to return to the tracks for more protests.

"Come out to the tracks . . . vigil, fast, pray, block the trucks," Holley Rauen urged a gathering of about 150 outside the downtown federal building at a rally against U.S. policy in Central America.

Her husband, Brian Willson, was run over by a munitions train just outside the Concord Naval Weapons Station on Sept. 1 as he knelt on the tracks trying to stop what he and other protesters allege are arms shipments to Central America.

Fellow protesters allege the incident was purposeful, but the Navy denies it. Criminal and Navy investigations are pending.

Rauen, 34, said she and Willson intended to move from their San Rafael home because of death threats since the incident.

About 10 of the 2,000 letters to their home have contained threats, and she has gotten two threatening calls from unidentified men, she said. She said that she has asked the police to keep watch, and noted that the hospital where Willson is staying has posted a guard outside his room.

"It's a price we have to pay to speak the truth," she said.

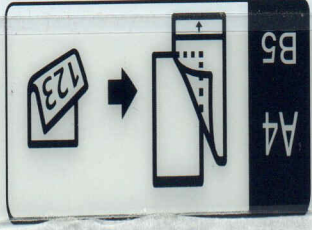
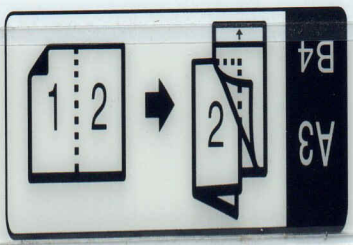
Rauen, who recently was in Nicaragua

with her husband, said she decided the day Willson was injured to take a leave from her job as a midwife and devote several months to work on Central American issues.

She said Willson was due to be released from the hospital in about two weeks and hoped to return to the Concord naval weapons yard as soon as possible.

Asked if she was inviting the demonstrators to risk danger, Rauen said she didn't think so.

"I don't think the Navy is going to be dumb enough to run someone down again," she said. "It's more important than ever that this sustained presence at the Naval center grows."



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