



For Immediate Release

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From: Nevada Desert Experience <NevadaDesertExperience.org>
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Catholic Workers Protest Nuclearism & Drones in Nevada

(Las Vegas) Over 100 people held an interfaith service at the entrance to Nevada's nuclear testing grounds on October 9. After the prayers, the group processed towards the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS, formerly called the Nevada Test Site). At 11:30am 37 men and 22 women were arrested by Nye County Sheriffs for crossing onto the NNSS. Upon release, many of the nuclear abolitionists then went to Creech Air Force Base, where 18 were arrested around 3:00 pm by Las Vegas Metro Police. The activists at both locations prayed for peace at both locations in historical Shoshone and Paiute territory. Most of the arrestees were in the area for the international **Catholic Worker** gathering.

People arrested at the NNSS were quickly cited and released, and no further prosecution is expected, per the custom for Test Site main gate arrests for many years. Those arrested at Creech were taken to Clark County Detention Center where they were cited and released before midnight on a range of charges including "illegal assembly" and "jaywalking." Court appearances are scheduled for December 5 and 7 in Clark County regional court. Today's arrests were part of the largest anti-war demonstration ever at Indian Springs, Nevada, and the largest antinuclear civil resistance action in at least six years at NNSS.

Over 200 radical Christian and other pacifists from around North America swelled the ranks of local activists because of the international Catholic Worker (CW) gathering in Las Vegas October 7 and 8. The CW antinuclear, anti-drone demonstrations marked the 10th tragic anniversary of the US invasion of Afghanistan. Creech is the headquarters of the USAF's 432nd Air Wing of Predator and Reaper drones which operates armed remotely piloted aircraft in various foreign countries. The NNSS continues to support the country's nuclear weapons programs, has a mandate to restart full-scale nuclear bomb tests within two years if so ordered by the President, and receives and stores radioactive waste on land that belongs to the Western Shoshone Nation.

Some of those arrested at Creech had been arrested before there. "In the time since I was arrested at Creech the first time in April of 2009, the number and variety of drones has only continued to multiply as has the number of innocent people killed. The drones' lethal capabilities have grown, as well, and with along with advances in technology, infractions against law and morality grow even more flagrant," says Brian Terrell of Maloy, Iowa, who is also awaiting a November 1 trial in New York for protesting the expansion of the drone program to Hancock airbase near Syracuse.

Yesterday's Catholic Worker prayer-actions were also part of the Keep Space for Peace Week: International Week of Protest to Stop the Militarization of Space taking place October 1 to 8. Keep Space for Peace Week is co-sponsored by the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (UK), Swedish Peace Council, Drone Campaign Network (UK), and United Against Drones (US).

Those arrested at Creech Air Force Base, awaiting prosecution, are:

Matt Campbell (Arizona)	Toby Blome (California)	Rosalie Riegle (Michigan)
Huntley Hoffman (Arizona)	Mike Wisniewski (California)	Rebecca Lambert (Minnesota)
Nancy Mancias (Arizona)	Christine Nelson (California)	Theo Kayser (Missouri)
Betsy Lamb (Arizona)	Fr. Louis Vitale, ofm (California)	Robert Majors (Las Vegas, Nevada)
Fr. Jerry Zawada, ofm (Arizona)	Mary Moody (Iowa)	Jim Haber (Las Vegas, Nevada)
John Heid (Arizona)	Brian Terrell (Iowa)	Rachel Winch (Wisconsin)

A complete list of global protests for this week can be found at <space4peace.org>
For more information on the Catholic Worker gathering and movement, see <lvcw.org> or <CatholicWorker.biz>.

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