



Nevada Desert Experience

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2024 Sacred Peace Walk



On April 29, peace walkers arrived at the "Nevada National Security Site" at Mercury, NV, the most bombed place on the planet, on land stolen from the Western Shoshone people, after walking 65 miles from Las Vegas. photo by L.E. Baskow/Las Vegas Review-Journal



On Sunday, April 24, Johnny Bobb and Jeremiah Jones of the Western Shoshone nation sent off the Sacred Peace Walk from the Museum of Atomic Testing on the Las Vegas strip. Walking through the city, we distributed leaflets to the tourists and workers and houseless folk that we met that read: "In this season of wars, a worldwide refugee crisis and the climate thrown into chaos, when the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists moves up its doomsday clock to 90-seconds before

midnight, the Nevada Desert Experience embarks today on an event of hope and resistance in the desert." photo by Mary Lou Anderson

Creech Air Force Base

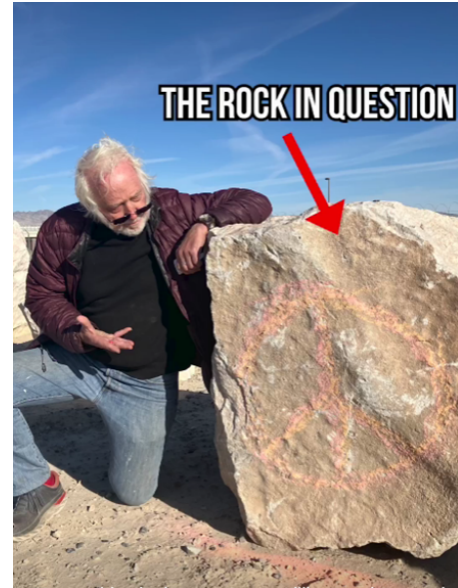
After walking through the desert on Monday and Tuesday, we arrived at Creech Air Force Base at Indian Springs, the center of the US Air Force and CIA drone program, surveillance and assassination, war by remote control. We were keenly aware as we approached Creech of the role played by drones in the genocide of the people of Gaza, in murders in Yemen and Iraq, in provocations of Russia in the Black Sea, dangerously taking us to the brink of a third world war. Some of us blocked the gates of the base, Sylver Pondolfino and Karen Pettit remained in the roadway after being ordered by Las Vegas Metro Police to disperse and were transported to the Clark County Jail. photo by Shirley Tung, Vera Anderson on the road.



Disrupting "business as usual" at a drone base. Karen and Vera lovingly appealed to a distraught young woman in a flight suit to take the day off and go home rather than go to work, keeping cool and friendly even as she threatened them, nudging them with her SUV. John Amidon captured the drama in a [video](#), [2 Arrested! Protest at Creech AFB.](#)

"Chalk of Mass Destruction"

Besides arresting the two who put their bodies on the line, interrupting the war machine, the vigilant Metro Police also courageously intervened in response to an act of senseless destruction. George Killingsworth, an 89-year-old retired pastor, was observed drawing a peace sign with chalk on a rock on the side of the road. Taking no chances, five armed police officers were dispatched with the support of Air Force military police to apprehend the suspect.



With George safely handcuffed, the officers escorted him to the scene of the crime to be photographed next to the property that he had vandalized. John caught Las Vegas' finest defending and protecting the community in another [video](#), [Chalk of Mass Destruction](#)

At the test site...



After our witness at Creech we enjoyed the hospitality of the [Temple of Goddess Spirituality](#) at Cactus Springs for a day of rest. On Thursday we walked 15 miles to Mercury and Peace Camp, across Hwy 95 from the test site. The next day, Good Friday, we walked the last half mile to the nuclear test site.



After the Las Vegas Catholic Worker led us in the "nuclear stations of the cross,"



Jeremiah of the Western Shoshone brought us up to the gates of the test site. The meeting at the white line with National Nuclear Security

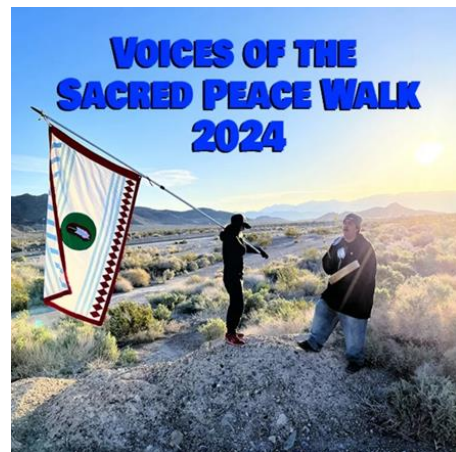
Authority police and Nye County deputies was cordial and respectful, but none the less serious for that. Beth Blattenberger (above) was apprehended immediately upon arrival. Jeanne Firth (below) was also arrested after making a heartfelt appeal to all to live in ways that "will not kill the earth and all future generations... It is possible... We can do better than this!" Beth and Jeanne were detained briefly on site and released with citations for criminal trespass.



A video recording of the meeting of peace walkers with government officers at the white line is available on YouTube, "[Good Friday Protest, 2 arrested at the Nevada National Security Site](#)" as is an interview with Jeanne and "[The Good Friday Arrest of Jeanne Firth](#)".

Voices of the "Sacred Peace Walk" 2024

John Amidon's fine videos are not the only record made of this year's Sacred Peace Walk. Alan Winson and Rebecca McKean of Bar Crawl Radio in New York walked with us and live streamed a report and interview from the walk each evening and posted a podcast, [Voices of the "Sacred Peace Walk" 2024](#), on their website. Alan says,



"This BCR podcast will not counter the insanity of the deterrence argument – rather here are a few of the people who walked to the white line at the entrance to the most bombed place in the world – run by the U.S. Department of Energy and protected by the U.S military. When you are aware of a great danger - even one that is – probably -- unavoidable -- there is some comfort in working with others doing

something positive.”

Coverage in the Las Vegas Review-Journal



For the first time in several years, the Las Vegas Review-Journal covered the Sacred Peace Walk in their Easter Sunday print edition, with a half page of color photos. More photos by L.E. Baskow are in the paper's online edition-[https://](https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/annual-peace-walk-completes-pilgrimage-photos-3026239/)

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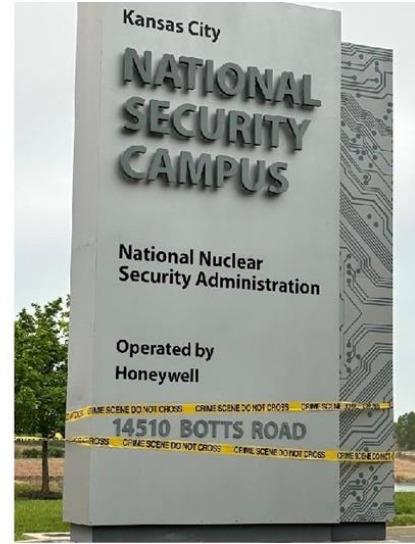
NDE Joins Catholic Workers Resisting Nuclear Weapons at Kansas City Factory



Kansas City's "National Security Campus," where most of the non-nuclear components of the US nuclear weapons arsenal are produced, is under the authority of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) the same branch of the Department of Energy that operates the nuclear test site in Nevada. Less than two weeks after the Sacred Peace Walk ended with civil resistance at the test site, more than 50 Catholic Workers and their friends gathered in Kansas City for a weekend of reflection, education, prayer, celebration and preparation to disrupt business at the plant on Monday morning, April 15, Tax Day.

Bennete Dibben, Fawn Gahman and Brian Terrell, recently in the

desert with NDE, were with the community gathered there, as were 2023 Sacred Peace Walkers Theo Kayser and Sarah Cool. Just as construction at the test site in Nevada is ramping up, so it is that the "Security Campus," operated by Honeywell Corporation under contract with the NNSA, is growing to meet the demands of the new nuclear arms race, the \$1.5 trillion program of "stockpile stewardship" and "lifetime extension" of nuclear weapons. With more than 7,000 employees already, the "campus" is now doubling in size and some of the activists interrupted the new construction. Others confronted the factory already in operation.



Brian and Bennette label the National Security Campus a "Crime Scene," warning employees not to enter. NNSA security police did not appreciate us doing their job for them.



Four activists on the construction site were quickly taken away by Kansas City Police to a local precinct station, charged with criminal trespass and released. Some of the seven of us apprehended by the NNSA security on the “campus” had to sit on the curb in handcuffs for more than an hour because the KCPD officer dispatched to transport us to the police station got lost on the way- she did not know that this massive factory employing thousands of workers existed and was shocked to hear from us that nuclear weapons are made in Kansas City. One of the “campus” workers who stopped to see what the fuss was about seemed equally unaware of the product of his own work.

Just as the Sacred Peace Walk got covered in the Las Vegas Journal Review two weeks earlier, so the local daily paper, the Kansas City Star, covered our action, front page, over the fold: <https://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/article287691830.html> While the Star report "objectively" gave equal time to Honeywell's public relations backing for the destruction of the planet as to those of us who would save it, our actions made it possible for a large segment of Kansas Citians who didn't know, but who might know now, that nuclear weapons are made in their back yard.

“Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and establish such creative tension that a community that has consistently refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue. It seeks so to dramatize the issue that it can no longer be ignored” said Martin Luther King Jr., in his Letter from the Birmingham Jail

SUPPORT NDE



In these days of climate crisis, multiplying wars and World War III being already fought “in piecemeal” as Pope Francis puts it, we are most grateful to those who support our work, those who contribute financially, those who contribute with their time, labor, hospitality and in-kind gifts. We are equally indebted to those who support us spiritually with their friendship, blessings,

prayers and solidarity. All of these enable us to meet the demands of this most urgent of times.

<http://nevadadesertexperience.org/donate/>



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