



Nevada Desert Experience

Report: Sacred Peace Walk, 2026



On Sunday, March 29, more than 30 activists from Nevada and around the country gathered at the Museum of Atomic Testing on the Las Vegas strip as we have for many years to set off on NDE's annual Sacred Peace Walk, more than 60 miles to the nuclear test site at Mercury.

Preparing for the walk, we considered the heightened tensions of the moment, the war with Iran involving Lebanon and the gulf states, the ongoing genocide in Gaza, reckless expansion of nuclear weapons and barely veiled threats of nuclear annihilation, the violence from federal agents against immigrants and their allies in the streets of many cities. In times such as these, would we need to deal with more acrimonious confrontations with the public and with police than we had in past years?

We were surprised, then, when on our first leg of the walk through the city, through the crowds of tourists, we had a more friendly reception for our signs and leaflets than usual. The Las Vegas Metro Police in the city and then at Creech Air Force Base, where nine of our walkers were arrested,

were not just tolerant of our presence and actions but seemed welcoming of it. Through the week some of us drove ahead in the mornings to greet workers coming into the test site. In the past, when we mostly got ignored or cold glares from workers and occasionally even garbage thrown at us, this time it was mostly smiles, waves and peace signs.

Some of our group had friendly but serious discussions with Nye County sheriff's deputies guarding the gate to the test site, where five more of us were arrested, about how "just doing my job" might implicate them in the occupation and destruction of Western Shoshone land at the test site and maybe of the planet.

All photos by Hideko Otake

No Kings!

On Saturday, the eveing before we started walking and after our orientation, some of us joined with thousands in downtown Las Vegas and many more thousands around the US saying "NO KINGS"! We joined a strong contingent of Code Pink and Veterans for Peace and many strangers adding "NO WAR"! to our demand.



City Walk

Our walk on Palm Sunday took us through Vegas' posh commercial strip into the avant-garde arts' district, past the county jail, to the more downscale "Freemont Street Experience", where we conducted a "die-in" dramatizing the realities that our signs and leaflets spoke to. Then, through the camps of the unhoused, lunch at the Catholic Worker in

the city's historic West Side.

Morning Vigils at Test Site

This year a small contingent drove ahead of the walk to what is now called the Nevada National Security Site on land stolen from the Western Shoshone nation and the place on earth that has suffered the most nuclear explosions. From before dawn on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, we vigiled and greeted the thousands of workers there.





Creech Air Force Base

Wednesday morning found us at Creech Air Force Base, about half way to the test site. Creech is the center of drone warfare and extrajudicial executions, remote control murders, by the Air Force and CIA. Currently US drones piloted from Creech and other US bases are engaged over Gaza and Iran and bombing boats in the Pacific Ocean and the

Caribbean. Nine walkers were arrested for interrupting these crimes by blocking the road and were cited and released.



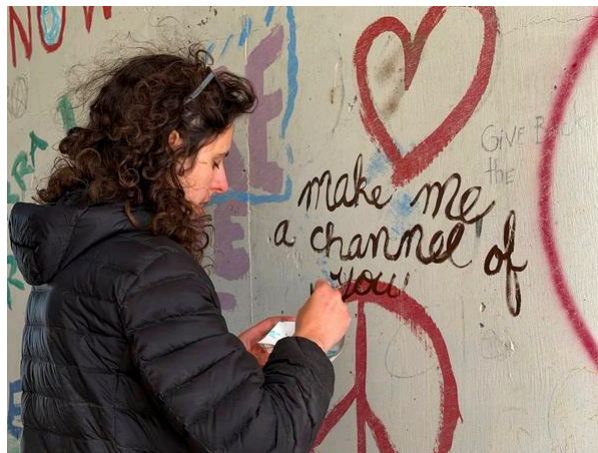
Friday at the test site

After the Good Friday 'Nuclear Stations of the Cross' led by the Las Vegas Catholic Worker, members of the Western Shoshone nation led us to the gates of the test site on their stolen and tortured but still sacred land. 5 of us crossed the arbitrary white line and, despite having permits from the Western Shoshone National Council, were arrested for trespass and released with citations.

A Holy Week pilgrimage against the bomb

Abby Rampone writes of her participation in this year's Sacred Peace Walk for her substack, [Love in Community](#).

'To me there is nothing more real than walking the land with other humans. It is what we call communion. When you go to the desert together, you cannot glaze over the horror of 165 Iranian girls and teachers murdered at school. You cannot imagine yourself separate from them, dismiss "another war in the Middle East" as if it were not done in your name, against your own flesh and blood.'



MARK YOUR CALENDAR JUSTICE FOR OUR DESERT, October 9-12, 2026

Once again, NDE is scheduling its annual fall event, Justice for our Desert, on the long weekend of Indigenous People's Day, the second Monday of October. Plans are forming for a weekend of education and reflection on the beauty of the Nevada desert and the threats that it is facing.

Our observance coincides with the annual Las Vegas Paiute Tribe Snow Mountain Pow Wow and other events in the region that we plan on joining. In a "Columbus Day" proclamation made last year, the president called "upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities." There is no more appropriate ceremony to observe the day than one at the gates of the "Nevada National Security Site," operated by the US government on stolen Western Shoshone land and we plan on ending our observance there on Monday.

A video of last year's event at the gate is posted here, <https://youtu.be/vhv2IOE1uPM?si=5mXpGD8o1x9a52MQ>

On Tuesday morning, October 13, one or more of those cited for trespass at the test site in April are expected to "surrender" to Nye County authorities to serve a short jail sentence. More information to follow!

Earth's Greatest Enemy, a film by Abby Martin shown in Las Vegas



On April 30, NDE co-sponsored a film screening at the University of Nevada Las Vegas with the Las Vegas chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and other activist groups.

The movie showed with shocking clarity the US military's destruction of the planet and the poisoning of its people. Nearly 100 people attended, followed by a virtual Q&A with Abby Martin. Participants asked heartfelt questions like how to talk to active-duty members about the impact of their work and how to approach protecting the planet as a parent and received wise responses from Abby.

For more information, see <https://earthsgreatestenemy.com/>



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