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NEWS RELEASE

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UN's International Day Of Peace Is A Holiday Of Civil Resistance

On Monday September 22nd in Clark County near a military base twenty peace and justice advocates held a meditation which ended in the police arresting some of the prayer-activists. Creech Air Force Base is 45 miles North of Las Vegas, Nevada. The arrests were the culmination of a retreat weekend for civilians to focus on four issues of environmental and social injustices in Southern Nevada.

On Sunday morning, after an interfaith liturgy at ten o'clock a.m. Exactly 6 men and 4 women were arrested at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), which is 65 miles from Las Vegas. Prayer-activists continue to visit the NNSS annually in order to work on a spiritual level for the end of ongoing nuclear violence at this solitary US nuclear weapons proving ground and site of weekly low-level nuclear waste dumping. Since 1997 subcritical nuclear weapons testing has occurred regularly at the NNSS.

The next morning, September 22nd, eighteen miles away at Creech Air Force Base another 4 people were arrested at the end of a 30-minute meditation for peace. All meditators and arrestees were praying for nonviolence and social justice. **Evy Hubb, Dennis Duvall, Susan Dillon and Kelley Kolberg were given citations from Clark County for arraignments on November 3rd on the charge of blocking a roadway. They were then released across the US Highway 95, with a warm reception from the remaining demonstrators and prayer-activists.** Creech is the command center for US remotely piloted aircraft (“drone”) warfare, and the location of the Central Intelligence Agency's “Squadron 17” secret assassination team. The demonstrators had formed two groups, eleven people who stayed on the side of the street and the remaining nine stayed in the road, blocking traffic along with a police vehicle that Metro Police stationed for safety's sake. When the final warning of arrests was announced, five blockaders retreated to join the first group on the sidelines to continue the picketing and banner-holding.

The other issues of focus during the weekend were recent developments in Geneva pertaining to justice for the Shoshone people, and about last month's commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the closing of the former Soviet Union's nuclear weapons test site (in Kazakhstan) which resembles the NNSS.

Nevada Desert Experience (NDE) has been holding interfaith prayers for peace and justice since 1982 mostly at the NNSS, and more recently at Creech. 1982 was the first year the UN called for all nations to observe a day of peace and cease-fires from all wars. This Sunday is the day that 400,000 are expected to march for an end to human-engineered climate change in New York City, and another 100,000 people in various cities around the USA for the same environmental justice issues.

Bonnie Bobb, spouse of Chief Johnnie Bobb of the Western Shoshone National Council, has returned from Kazakhstan where the Soviet Union had closed their nuclear testing range due to popular support for closure in the 1980s. The two super-powers' test sites were located on indigenous people's lands, so the Kazakhs and the Western Shoshone tried to stop both governments incessant nuclear weapons explosions, uranium mining, and nuclear waste dumping which was permanently destroying their homelands. The recent pronouncement from Geneva recommends that the USA adopts new measures to ensure the rights of the Western Shoshone Nation to self-determination over their ancestral lands in accordance with due process of law and the USA's obligations under the Geneva Convention. The Western Shoshone lands have been unlawfully used by the USA for nuclear weapons testing, extraction of minerals without permission from the Western Shoshone Nation, and oppression of Shoshone ranchers who try to graze their cattle in their ancestral homelands, all of which should not be occurring if the US would abide by the Treaty of Ruby Valley of 1863.

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More info—can be found on NDE's web page for the weekend: NevadaDesertExperience.org/programs/2014/shed.html