



Nevada Desert Experience

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Peace Walkers Arrested At Nuclear Security Site

Local non-profit organization raises awareness on killer drones, nuclear testing and waste, and the general mistreatment of people and land.

Mercury, NV - At 11:15 AM today--Friday March 25, 2016--**eleven women and ten men were arrested** during a peaceful, nonviolent demonstration of peace in the roadway leading to the **Nevada National Security Site (NNSS)**. 47 people had gathered at the entrance to the NNSS only to be greeted by security guards and Nye County Sheriffs. This was the culmination of the annual **Sacred Peace Walk** of three dozen pedestrians hosted by Nevada Desert Experience. Earlier this week the walkers held vigil at **Creech Air Force Base**, including a prayer-action in which eight people were arrested and cited and released for protesting weaponized drone killings.

This morning's ritual line-crossing and arrests at the NNSS followed several prayer services. The day started with an indigenous Sunrise Ceremony at 6:30AM. A Christian liturgy was held with a communion service after breakfast. Chief Johnnie Bobb of the Western Shoshone Nation led the group in a blessing at the Mercury Exit of US95, preceded by the Good Friday Nuclear Stations of the Cross ceremony around 9:30 AM in the historic Peace Camp tunnels under the highway.

Participants in Nevada Desert Experience events are mobilized to create nonviolent social change and are actively reconnecting personal responsibility to care for the environment, planet, and people through public demonstrations of peace.

Although the nonviolent prayer-action for peace and justice was handled by authorities as a routine occurrence, the emotional power of the crowd at the entry to the NNSS was felt by all. A few of the prayer-activists, including Chief Johnnie Bobb, spoke to the security forces just prior to the line-crossing that resulted in 21 arrests. One of the Ministers arrested for crossing the line is Rev. Felicia Parazaider. She said, "Being a child of the '70s I was never concerned about the reality that we live under the threat of nuclear weapons until my first arrest at the NNSS. I return here yearly to remind myself and report back to my community the spiritual, structural and environmental violence that this place represents."

Another participant, John Amidon of Veterans for Peace added, "We have a responsibility to bring to the attention of the government its wrongdoing, and that they are in criminal violation of the NonProliferation Treaty of 1970 and the Treaty of Ruby Valley of 1863."

About Nevada Desert Experience

Nevada Desert Experience (NDE) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1982 with a mission to stop testing, development and use of nuclear and other weapons systems through a campaign of prayer, education, dialogue, and nonviolent direct action. NDE seeks to mobilize people of all faiths to work toward nuclear abolition and nonviolent social change and to support personal renewal through desert spirituality, reconnecting with each other and the earth to end subcritical tests and other war-making preparations at the Nevada National Security Site, preventing the return of full-scale nuclear testing. Thousands of people have come to NDE's retreats and conferences to learn about the related issues of nuclear testing and gathered at the edge of Security Site for vigil, religious services, and nonviolent civil disobedience. For more information, see NevadaDesertExperience.org or call 702-646-4814.

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