



Nevada Desert Experience

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www.NevadaDesertExperience.org

Interfaith Resistance to Nuclear Weapons and War

Coordinating Committee

1 December 2009

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Dear Friends,

It is high time we close the Nevada Test Site.

If we are going to work for a world without nuclear weapons, as President Obama has declared we must, closing the Nevada Test Site would be a concrete, confidence-building sign to the world that the US will not enlarge or re-shape its nuclear stockpile, and is sincere in working for nuclear disarmament.

Since 1982, **Nevada Desert Experience (NDE)** has been leading the call to close the Nevada Test Site, address the problems of radioactive contamination, and honor the Treaty of Ruby Valley (1863), which acknowledges that this land belongs to the Western Shoshone Nation.

We write to invite you to join us in helping NDE to achieve its mission “*to stop nuclear weapons testing and development through a campaign of prayer, education, dialogue, and nonviolent direct action.*”

It is high time we close the Nevada Test Site, and NDE can help make it happen.

New weapon systems are still being developed, and the special status of the Nevada Test Site keeps it active and on alert — even without full-scale nuclear bomb tests. Plans have been announced for three “sub-critical” experiments at the NTS in the next couple of months, the first ones since 2006. Pressure is on to build large, new facilities at other weapons sites, so the threat of expansion is real. NDE continuously monitors the test site, faithfully bearing witness to the past, present, and future activity in this desert which is the most bombed place on the planet.

Furthermore, NDE has enlarged its peacemaking efforts to include Creech Air Force Base, located near the Test Site in Indian Springs. Creech is one of the places from which “unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV)” are controlled as they fly and kill, mostly civilians, in Afghanistan and Iraq. These “Predators” and “Reapers” operate out of several bases in the US, but Creech AFB is the Air Force's UAV headquarters. The use of these weapons is



unconscionable; in addition to their high cost in civilian deaths, their use inflames hatred toward the US, and makes prospects for peace even more remote than the UAV crews are from their victims. We hope our friends see through false justifications for new, armed robotic technology and voice their concerns to their legislators as well as President Obama.

Frida Berrigan, daughter and niece of long-time NDE supporters Phil and Dan Berrigan respectively, and Senior Program Associate of the Arms and Security Initiative at the New America Foundation, describes the **Nevada Desert Experience** as:

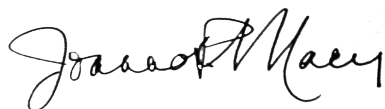
A small group working with passion, creativity and deep knowledge, in the nuclear heartland--on sacred rock and sand, to undo the harm of the nuclear age and chart a new course for humanity towards community, sustainability and peace.

You can help chart this new course for humanity by supporting the work of NDE with tax-deductible donations — and now is the perfect time. **An anonymous donor will match up to \$5000 generated in this year-end appeal. Please contribute as generously as you can, making checks payable the Nevada Desert Experience.**

We also invite you to join us in Las Vegas, at the Nevada Test Site, and at Creech Air Force Base when we gather August 5-9, 2010, to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and also for the Sacred Peace Walk from Las Vegas to the NTS from March 29 to April 5.

NDE consistently enacts and renews our determination to free the world of nuclear weapons and war. Please join us in supporting NDE, a witness and a voice of conscience we cannot do without.

Yours for a free and nuclear-free world,



Joanna Macy
Teacher, Author



Daniel Ellsberg
Writer, Activist



Anne Symens-Bucher
NDE Co-founder

Join Nevada Desert Experience in one of our nonviolent direct actions or invite us to make a presentation or prayer-offering to your community or congregation. We are grateful for your prayers and financial contributions too!

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NDE does not share our list; nor do we send lots of e-mail. E-mail is very helpful for our work though — saving money, resources, and speeding the distribution of time-sensitive news.

- ◇ Check here if you don't want physical mailings from NDE.
- ◇ Check here if you don't want to receive the NDE newsletter, *Desert Voices* or be kept informed of NDE events at all.

Enclosed is my contribution of:

◇ \$500 ◇ \$125 ◇ \$65 ◇ \$35 ◇ \$25 ◇ other _____

Contact us for more information specifically about

- ◇ Sacred Peace Walk ◇ August Desert Witness ◇ Nukes
- ◇ Immersion Programs ◇ Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____