

Desert Voices

The Newsletter of Nevada Desert Experience • Volume 14, Number 3, • August 2001

NDE's EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN JAPAN

As part of NDE's expanded activities on an international level, Sally Light, NDE's Executive Director, traveled to Hiroshima and Nagasaki to participate in the 2001 Conference Against A & H Bombs. She also spoke on "Star Wars" to students at the Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, at the invitation of acclaimed Professor and long-time peace activist, Atsushi Fujioka. Here is her report on that trip:

I spoke at both Hiroshima & Nagasaki. The thousands of Japanese attending the conference were so kind and loving. In one Nagasaki workshop, it fell to me by lot to speak briefly on behalf of the US delegates. I apologized for the US' atomic bombing, and said that there were many thousands of people in the US peace movement. Of course, I brought a message of solidarity from NDE and described our ADW action going on at that very moment. Afterwards, I was rushed by some of the audience - all so loving and wanting my card - I believe a photo of this will be in the Akahata newspaper. I noticed at the final plenary session that folks continued to seek me out - giving me gifts, taking my picture, coming right up to speak - it was pretty overwhelming to, firstly, experience the Hiroshima & Nagasaki commemorations, and then, to be treated with such love by the people there. One thing is very clear - unlike many in the world, the Japanese respond with love & sincere wishes for peace, not with vengeance. There is a natural bonding between the progressive peace activists of our two countries. Meeting with the hibakusha of these two cities has changed me - I believe everyone must visit there at least once.

I had many rewarding political discussions with other delegates, as well as with Satomi Oba, advisor to the Board of the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space. Among other things, I reconnected NDE with the Nevada-Semipalatinsk Movement by meeting Maidan Abishev. We agreed that it's very important that we work together once again. I also made wonderful friendships with Tatiana Mukhamediarova and her colleague Milya (Movement for Nuclear Safety in Chelyabinsk, Russia), Zhenisgul Konarova (International Antinuclear Alliance of Women and Children, Kazakhstan.), as well as with delegates from Japan, the Marshall Islands, Philippines, India, Nepal, China, Africa, New Zealand, Norway, and Europe, and invitations were received to visit all these new colleagues. The door is opening for NDE's expanded, global networking and organizing.

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Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Conference at the UN.

An NDE delegation will attend the New York UN conference on the CTBT ratification process in September '01. We believe that this is an extremely important conference, since the Bush administration has shown interest in withdrawing from the treaty and in returning to full-blown nuclear testing at NTS. NDE will also present a statement in support of the CTBT from Ian Zabarte to the UN missions. Zabarte is Secretary of State of the Western Shoshone Nation, and an NDE Board Member.

NDE Director to lead a workshop

Sally Light will be leading a workshop on the Militarization of Space and "Star Wars" for the National Lawyers' Guild Convention October 14, 2001 in Tucson, AZ. While in Tucson, she will be speaking at an October 13 rally at Raytheon.

The time spent with Prof. Atsushi Fujioka and his students at Ritsumeikan University was the best! We had a really good seminar covering NMD/TMD/"Star Wars" and many other topics, and the Japanese style dinner party afterwards was so wonderful – outstanding conversation and food! Several Japanese students indicated an interest in interning with us in the future. In fact, the Japanese youth are very active in nuclear abolition groups. They are truly inspirational and I intend to follow up with them, inviting them to our events. They would give a real boost to our youth here.

The Hiroshima lantern ceremony on the night of Aug. 6 is very special – and this year, the water was running upstream rather than out to sea (the tide was incoming), carrying the lanterns with it. I learned that the Japanese believe that this means that souls are returning to Japan.

I cried a lot, but also came away with so many loving friends. A string of images runs through my mind: seeing a group of young Japanese children learning to make their first peace cranes (at Atsushi's outstanding peace museum in Kyoto), seeing the mist in the valleys at night near Hiroshima, seeing the bamboo forests (like giant ferns – very soft), hearing the ringing of the gong commemorating the moment of the Hiroshima bombing, and so on. This journey was both heart-breaking and beautiful.

Resist, Inc. Grant for General Support

Our sincere thanks go to Resist, Inc. for a \$1,000 grant for our general support. Resist began in 1967 with a "call to resist illegitimate authority" in support of draft resistance and in opposition to the Vietnam War. For more information about Resist, please contact them at 259 Elm St., Suite 201, Somerville, MA 02144; Tel.: (617) 623-5110

NDE to Host 2002 Annual Meeting of the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space

Our Berkeley Office will host the annual meeting of the Global Network. This is an international gathering lasting 3 days – May 10-12, 2002 – and will include a rally & demonstration, a conference featuring international speakers & discussion groups, a night of entertainment, and a business meeting. A wonderful opportunity to meet and mingle with exceptional activists from around the world in a progressive setting, please consider attending this exciting event. Details will be forthcoming, but feel free to call (510) 527-2057 for information.

NDE to host Monday Night Talk Series

The Berkeley office of NDE will host a Monday night talk series on a variety of topics concerning nuclear weapons, nuclear waste, militarization of space, and related topics. Speakers include activists, artists, lawyers, and scientists active in this field. Seminars will be held at the office, located at 2398 Bancroft Way (at Dana), Berkeley, 94704. For more information regarding speakers, topics, and dates, call 510.849.1540. The current list of events is:

Sept. 10, 2001 : Patrice Sutton, Western States Legal Foundation – overview of nuclear cycle
Sept. 17 "Cade Bursell, Artist – nuclear and radiation issues

Oct. 1 – Maurice Campbell, Community First Coalition – Hunters Point Naval Ship Yard
Oct. 15 – Ernie Goitein – Nuclear Power Plants
Oct. 29 – Jackie Cabasso & Andy Lichterman, WSLF – Legal perspectives on nuclear weapons

Nov. 12 – Issac Trotts – Ex-Nuclear weapons lab scientist/whistleblower
Nov. 26 – Andreas Toupadakis – Ex-Nuclear weapons lab scientist/whistleblower

Dec. 10 – Kathryn Smick, Physicians for Social Responsibility – Radiation and health

Jan. 14 – Bruce Gagnon – Coordinator of Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space
Jan. 28 – TBA

STAR WARS RESISTANCE SUMMARY—VANDENBERG UPDATE

Introduction

There has been a resurgence of interest in “Stars Wars” in recent months. Under the new name of National Missile De-fense, the Military-Political-Industrial Complex is increasing activities toward developing new weapons for use in space. As military-industrial activities have increased, so has opposition. Van-denburg Air Force Base (VAFB) has been a major focus of heightened activities on both sides. VAFB security forces have made more than 60 arrests since July of 2000, and in May 2001 the US Attorney began to prosecute most of these nonviolent activists. NDE endorsed the actions and prayer-actions at VAFB this year that were part of the “M19” convergence. On May 19, 2001 hundreds gathered there for a rally and 23 were arrested at a ritual line-crossing. On May 20th, at least 16 people went back-country at VAFB and 10 were arrested and charged with conspiracy to trespass and two counts of trespass. Six of these nuclear abolitionists were part of the Los Angeles Cath-olic Worker affinity group. They conducted a prayer-action to bless the land that VAFB occupies, and to stop star wars and to call VAFB to cease their work that supports corporate globalization. In a federal jury trial this summer in Los Angeles, four of the faith-based activists pointed out that the US Space Command overtly intends to enforce the immoral and anti-democratic system of social injustice and environmental injustice that globalization has wrought. Former NDE office manager Marcus Page was one of the convicted M19 back-country activists, facing sentencing with three others on October 15th in Los Angeles. NDE co-founder and Board member Louis Vitale, ofm, is scheduled for trial in November 2001 with 20 co-defendants including many seasoned nuclear abolitionists.

WHY VANDENBERG — AND WHAT’S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

By Marcus Patrick Blaise Page

In order to create and maintain peace, we must communicate with the ones enabling the violence. This spring, following a prayer-action to resist star wars and economic exploitation, I told investigators working for the U.S. Air Force and FBI: “I believe God is Love and, as Dorothy Day said, ‘Love is the only solution.’... I hope you listen to your con-sciences and understand the Nurem-berg Principles. We came to Vandenberg Air Force Base to pray for peace on earth and in outer space—to pray for an end to the disrespect, coercion, and outright violence that Vandenberg is committing...”

Hundreds of anti-corporate, pro-peace activists had converged at this place near Santa Barbara, CA for May 19, 2001 (M19). We gathered on Saturday at Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB) — a place infamous for weapons of mass destruction and new space age threats to life, freedom & democracy. Some incredible statements have come from the U.S. Space Command and Rumsfeld’s office about exploiting outer space and maintaining the increasing gulf “between the haves and the have-nots.” VAFB is responsible for much of the US Space Command’s work. Since I am personally committed to environmental justice and sustainability, as well as the anarchistic principles of egalitarianism, empowerment and direct democracy, I joined the group trying to end the threat of Vandenberg’s violence towards our planet and all peoples. The publicly known plan was for a rally on Saturday the 19th with a standard, ceremonial line crossing, followed by random back-country hikes into VAFB over the next few days. After 23 line-crossers were arrested on Saturday. The Los Angeles Catholic Worker (LACW) affinity group

welcomed me on May 20th for a back-country prayer-action.

Part of our participation in M19 included being detained by security personnel and locked up in a Base holding cell on Sunday May 20th. They asked if we’d like to individually speak with gov-ernment agents, i.e. to be interrogated. Most of us exercised our right to remain silent, but two of us wanted to dialogue with VAFB’s Office of Special Investigations (OSI) personnel. In that room was also FBI Special Agent John Zelinsky. During the casual interrogation (with OSI Special Agents Darryl Murphy and Janice Rodriguez and Agent Zelinsky) Mr. Zelinsky read me his notes and asked if his impression of my statements were accurate. I said, “no, that’s a quite twisted version of what I just said.” At that moment I rejected his offer to waste my time later documenting a more accurate account of my words. After leaving California, I realized the investigators’ common question was a very good one. They were simply asking, “Why did you come to Vandenberg?” among other things. Despite the intrigue of answering to these agents of the U.S. Empire, my spiritual development requires me to engage in such reflection. And my friends ask me the same thing, so I decided to record my thoughts on paper and offer them to everyone, including the FBI. It’s strange how God can turn evil forces into good. Abbie Hoffman allegedly said, “Never be afraid to talk to your enemy. If you are good you can always find out more about them than they can about you. If you are not good keep your mouth shut... Never attribute more intelligence to your enemy than to yourself and your brothers [sic].”

I told the FBI & OSI folk, “...I believe in the power of Love and nonviolence. My hero is Jesus Christ, who would

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never use violence. On the contrary, he advocated healing, peace, forgiveness, nonviolence and even LOVE for your enemies. With no disrespect meant to you individuals, I nonetheless oppose your works of war, and all methods of violence and coercion, such things that you three necessarily support simply by contributing to your employers' goals, even if your personal goals are peaceful...I realize that the four of us are equally committed to our separate causes. I think you trust your organizations/employers too much. The FBI and the U.S. military are enabling a few wealthy, greedy people... to dominate and control the masses of humanity. Thus, your work ultimately thwarts democracy. Your organizations are anti-democratic..." (Another common oddity—US institutions opposing the founding principles of the US government!)

A total of ten were arrested backcountry at VAFB on May 20th. We comprised only half of the entire group of people entering VAFB for the days following M19. Other backcountry activists entered, left signs and banners, and exited the Base without being caught by VAFB security. At the time of this writing, there are five distinct cases of the courts oppressing resisters to VAFB over the past year. People were arrested on October 7th, April 21st, May 19th, May 20th and July 14th. The most famous defendants (including long-time peace activists such as NDE co-founder Fr. Louis Vitale, activist/writer StarHawk & thespian/activist Martin Sheen) were arraigned in June and most will go to trial on December 6, 2001. Except for the backcountry defendants of May 20th facing conspiracy charges and the Greenpeace defendants facing felony charges, all defendants are charged with only a misdemeanor trespass. (I write this during July 2001.) One value held in

common by NDE's board, staff & constituency is the respect for our sacred earth and space. With roots in the 800 year-old Franciscan tradition, Christian pacifism and the Catholic Worker Movement NDE tries to foster respect for all life forms, all of creation—on earth and beyond.

Because the domination system begins with division, cherishing and emphasizing our unity counteracts domination and oppression. The U.S. elite class knows it must discourage intelligent discourse amongst the masses to keep us from exercising our collective power. This exercise — thinking and working to create the new society—certainly does take enormous energy, and is ultimately more fulfilling than the popular alternatives. While entertainment and socialization through personal computer and television activity contribute to our separation from neighbors within North America, the high-tech electronics used for surveillance or long-distance bombing enforces and galvanizes our separation from those victims of warfare in Iraq, Kosovo and elsewhere. The U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Space Command (i.e. future Space Force) are the most adept at maximizing the distance for the sake of committing inhuman atrocities. Military personnel who have no chance to personally face their opponents as they slaughter them from miles away can more effectively dehumanize these victims and be divorced from personal responsibility in the killing. Each of us needs to recognize that all humans are related and everybody is infinitely valuable. As social creatures, we are encouraged when we have good contact with each other.

Love is the only solution: adults need to provide healthy environments for children and we need to create nonviolent solutions for conflicts. Furthermore, both friend & foe need to engage in the dialogue about the systems and technologies that are being used to control the masses and maintain injustice.

Letter of support

Hello,

My name is Oona Buckley. I just read about my brother, Brian Buckley, on your website, <www.nevadadesertexperience.org>.

I thank you very much for giving me insight and so much information as to what it is my brother is fighting for, peacefully. Brian has been transferred to a federal facility in Los Angeles. As a result, my family and I have had less contact with him since July 31. It has been heart wrenching for my parents, my brothers and I to think about Brian and constantly wonder how he is feeling since we cannot hear his voice. We wonder if he is frightened at all or lonely. We have even tried to understand why he is fighting this seemingly endless battle alone and in jail. And then we realize that Brian is not alone and that he is promoting what is right and for what he believes in, ultimate peace. His letters bring us assurance of his thought-filled strength and spiritual solidity.

Brian is strong and believes so intensely on promoting a peaceful world for the betterment of humanity. Know that my brother is not looking for popularity but justice, equality and peace. I support my brother Brian and I thank you for your continuous support. Please pray for him and for peace. I think we all agree that the world would be a better place without war yet we all do not follow this peaceful logic. I often wonder why humans even follow curiosity in space when there is so much curiosity here on earth.

Reading your website and about the causes you are all promoting really touched me and brought me answers today that were worries yesterday. I am grateful for your listening ears and your lending support to my brother. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I pray that there will be peace one day on earth. And I pray for those who say it will never happen.

May God bless us all.
Oona Buckley

but we have been unwilling to pay any significant price for peace. Berrigan has also suggested that we want peace with half a heart and half a life and half a will and that war continues because the waging of war is total but the waging of peace is partial. With these thoughts challenging our resolve, we gathered for our vigil.

On August 5, a group of 10 people gathered at the Nevada Test Site to join our prayers and remembrances with people gathered in Hiroshima. We gathered at 4:15 local time, which was 8:15 Hiroshima time, so that our observances were simultaneous. Following the remembrances, we enjoyed dinner together to build community. Some of our company returned to Las Vegas, while six of us remained in the desert to pray, vigil, and witness to the employees who came to the test site.

On Monday morning, 6 August, we greeted the employees with signs, banners, and friendly waves as they arrived for work between 6 and 7 am. We gathered for breakfast along the fence and faced our first arrest. The sheriff observed that some of our company were on the "wrong" side of the fence and came to take action. Board Member, Erik Thompson, was escorted to the holding pen in handcuffs after refusing to cross back over. Following breakfast and prayers, the rest of us went to the main gate to commemorate Hiroshima. Two were arrested at 8:15 local time. These two were released shortly thereafter, but Erik refused to accept his citation for trespassing and be released. After the third time of declining to accept his citation, he was taken to the jail in Beatty and booked on trespassing charges. This is the first time in many years that trespass charges have been brought in Beatty. Since receiving permits to come and go on Shoshone lands, the sheriff has generally cited people and charges have then been dropped, since apparently the county does not want to enter into jurisdictional disputes.

On Tuesday, August 7, Board Member Mike Niece and a beloved disciple made their way to a point about one-half mile down the road toward Mercury and began a vigil there. The sheriff found them very quickly and they were cited for trespass and released. In the afternoon we continued our vigil and witness to employees leaving work. Three people from Las Vegas and one from Oregon joined us that day.

We had opportunities to talk with Officer Obie Martin several times through the event. Obie issued us a direct challenge. Having heard of the planned Shundahai gathering for October 2002, he challenged us, saying, "We want more numbers. We expect more enthusiasm. You gotta get more people out here." Obie is reported to have dared us to get 60,000 people out here to the test site. This is a challenge all of us should take to heart as we respond to the increasing threats of militarization of space and abdication of existing international treaties.

On Wednesday, August 8, Corbin Harney joined us and led traditional prayers to greet the Creator on a new day and to pray for healing, wholeness, and right relationship with our Mother Earth, who sustains us. We then continued our vigil and five people crossed the line to risk arrest. They were cited and released.

Wednesday afternoon saw our normal vigil by the front gate, followed by closing ceremony. We gathered near the fence, where the ribbon with a thousand peace cranes was draped. We began with readings from Jewish and Christian scriptures. These were followed by prayers from Corbin Harney. As we rolled up the ribbon of peace cranes, we shared with each other the signs of hope that we see in our lives and want to share with the world. We concluded this commemoration at 7:02 with silence and the ringing of a bell, knowing that our silence was at the same time as the silence being observed in Nagasaki at the hour of the nuclear bomb explosion there. The rain clouds, which had been gathering over us, did not produce rain, but they did show us a marvelous sign of hope. What began as one rainbow in the southern sky soon revealed a double rainbow for us to ponder and enjoy. We pray that the double blessings of hope will be transmitted to the rest of the world.



Corbin Harney leads prayers at Closing Ceremony

Easter Desert Witness

by Shauna Farabaugh, NDE volunteer: Spring 2001

So you've heard about Lenten Desert Experience, the NDE's Peace Walk, and August Desert Witness. But have you heard about Easter Desert Witness?

At the conclusion of this year's PeaceWalk, a small group of activists decided that their resistance need not end with the ritual line crossing on Good Friday, with the season of Lent, but that it must always continue, even in the joyous season of Easter.

Hours before dawn on Easter Monday, four nuclear abolitionists entered the Nevada Test Site and hiked through the desert towards Mercury. As dawn lit the sky, they entered the road dressed in white "radiation suits" and held their banner, which read: "Take a break! Nuclearism has no place in this season of life," thus urging the test site employees arriving for work to take a break from the works of death and war. The blockers were shortly apprehended by Wackenhut security and the Nye County sheriffs, cited, and released. Three of those four abolitionists followed the same procedure a few weeks later, this time blocking a line of traffic for over ten minutes before being apprehended by the sheriff. They were again cited and released.

Easter Desert Witness is new to NDE, born as the day is born at sunrise, blossoming with the wild flowers in the desert spring. Yet it is rooted in Nevada Desert Experience's rich tradition. Like the first activists who crossed the line at the NTS, those who participated in the Easter blockades this year faced an unknown outcome, potentially risking arrest and prosecution. Easter Desert Witness reminds us that we must continue to take risks, continue to explore new tactics, continue to do whatever it takes to make nuclearism an issue...until it's no longer an issue. (And then we can all take a break!) Easter Desert Witness reminds us that—whatever the time of year—resistance is always in season.



Easter Desert Witness Activists at Work

Staff Update

NDE's staff has undergone some changes since our last newsletter.

Cindy Pile, active with us since 1987, left her job as our Education Director to be a community organizer with the St. Mary's Center in Oakland, California. **Marcus Page** has also moved on. Marcus was our Las Vegas Office Manager for about 2 years, but has moved to New Mexico to work on issues at Los Alamos National Lab. One of the "Vandenberg 10," Marcus awaits sentencing in Federal Court for that action. Both will be missed greatly by us. We thank them for their many contributions to NDE.

Gary Cavalier has been our long-time bookkeeper and *Desert Voices* Editor. He has given up those duties to devote more time the Las Vegas Catholic Worker. His duties are being incorporated into the Office Manager's job in Las Vegas.

Paul Colbert, engineer, long-time peace activist and NDE volunteer, has become our new Office Manager (Las Vegas office). We welcome Paul and wish him the best in his new position.

Summer Intern, **Edward McLeod**, is a graduate student from Kentucky who came all the way to our Calif. office to be our intern. He assisted greatly with our fund-raising activities, and represented us at events in Northern California. We hope to see him at our future events. Many thanks to Edward!

ADW Grant from A.J. Muste Memorial Institute

We acknowledge and thank the A.J. Muste Memorial Institute for awarding us a \$2,000 grant to support our August Desert Witness public education and outreach. This is the first grant we have received from them, and it has been crucial in our renewal of our ADW events and actions at the Nevada Test Site during the anniversaries of the WWII atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Calendar of Nuclear Abolition Events

September 11-15, 2001: Buddhist Peace Fellowship Retreat, Los Alamos NM. Please Contact Jean Lewis, 505.252.9524 or jeanl@swcp.com

September 25 – 27, 2001: Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) conference at the United Nations, New York NY.

October 6-8, 2001: Nuclear Free Great Basin Gathering. Near Salt Lake City UT. Contact Shundahi Network – 775.537.6088 or visit www.shundahai.org

October 13, 2001: International Day of Protest to Stop the Militarization of Space. Orange County, CA 10am – noon. For more information contact: 714.637.8313. For various other event locations throughout the world, contact: 352.337.9274 or visit www.space4peace.org

December 12, 2001: A Religious Response to the Militarization of Space, held at Sisters of St Joseph, 480 S Batavia, Orange CA. Contact Joyce Georgieff at 714.541.4034 or jgeorgieff@earthlink.net

February 15-17, 2002 (tentative): Lenten Desert Experience, Las Vegas NV. Contact: 702.646.4814 or email nde@peacenet.org

March 24-29, 2002: Nevada Desert Experience Peace Walk from Las Vegas to the Nevada Test Site. Contact: 702.646.4814 or email nde@peacenet.org

October 2002. Dates to be determined. October Gathering by Shundahai. Visit www.shundahai.org for additional details on this planned massive gathering.

Note: Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles is sponsoring a number of talks and events related to nuclear issues and NMD this fall. For further information, contact 310.458.2694

Note: Nevada Desert Experience is offering a series of talks on Monday nights at the Berkeley office of NDE. Guest Speakers will address a wide range of issues relating to nuclear weapons and militarization of space. For more information, contact the Berkeley office at 510.849.1540.

NDE Co-sponsors Buddhist Peace Fellowship Retreat at Los Alamos

NDE is joining the Buddhist Peace Fellowship for several days of prayer and witness at the Los Alamos Labs in New Mexico. The purpose of this interfaith retreat is to silently witness, through presence and contemplative spiritual practice the continuing development and manufacture of nuclear weapons. We will spend these days in the immediate vicinity of the labs with sitting and walking meditation, as well as with prayers and services from the traditions represented. We will eat lunch at the lab cafeteria, which will give us a chance to meet with lab workers. Evenings and nights will be spent at the Ponderosa Campground, located in the Bandelier National Monument. For more information, contact Jean Lewis at 505.232.9524 or by email at jeanl@swcp.com

She Danced

By Marie Molloy

She danced on the stoney surface of the suffering desert, never wincing, ever weaving, gyrating, gesturing to convey her stories in motion, gracefully, clearly. She dripped pale green goop on a painted plastic planet, bowling us over with the impact of that image of Washerwoman God cleaning up our messes. We bowed our heads in shame with good reason—envisioning a pilot's picture of the chicken-poxed desert where our "god-bomb" has defaced the earth's surface, melted down its innards, poisoned its life-giving water, and polluted its clear air about us well with insidiously penetrating alpha particles. Savage sacrilege of our Creator's sacred creations.

(Written after a visit to the NTS where Sr. Mary Ann Kirk danced barefoot during the liturgy on the desert.)

**Vandenberg Action Updates - see page 4
also, visit our website**

www.NevadaDesertExperience.org/M19.html

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**U. S Conducts Nuclear
Weapons Testing**

The Nevada Test Site still plans to detonate another sub-critical test explosion this year.

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Love in Action is a Harsh and Dreadful Thing –

Three days of prayer, vigiling, and camping in the desert.

By Paul Colbert

August Desert Witness took a new form this year. A small group of hearty people camped out in the hot desert from August 5 through 8 to vigil and pray during the days commemorating Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Adapting a quote from Dorothy Day, one of our themes was that “Love in Action is a harsh and terrible thing”. Temperatures were mild for this time of year, topping off at 105°F. However, we all realized that camping in the desert was a challenge and showed how comfortable our lives have become, even for those who live on the margins in solidarity with the poor of this country. We were also inspired in part by words attributed to Daniel Berrigan, who has suggested that we have assumed the name of peacemakers (continued on page 5)



August Desert Witness Participants vigil outside the entrance to the Nevada Test Site.
