

Good friends,

On the evening of April 4<sup>th</sup>, the fiftieth anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, seven Catholic Worker peace activists calling themselves **the Kings Bay Plowshares** entered the Trident submarine base at Kings Bay, Georgia, the largest nuclear submarine base in the world, to hang banners, string crime scene tape and pour their own blood on facilities at the base.

Beginning in 1980, groups of people in the Plowshares movement have entered weapons facilities around the world to directly disarm weapons and weapons systems. They take their name from the Biblical prophet Isaiah's command to beat swords into plowshares. The Kings Bay group is the 100<sup>th</sup> Plowshares action. They chose April 4<sup>th</sup> to emphasize King's identification of the "giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism," in his ["Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence"](#) speech, given exactly one year before he was killed.

Below is the Kings Bay Plowshares' press release about the action, followed by links to articles and the Plowshares' Facebook page, support suggestions, and more.



Below that is information on activist **John Dear** who is appearing this **Friday, April 20, 7:00 PM** at the **First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1031 S. Euclid Avenue, Sarasota** to discuss his new book ["They Will Inherit the Earth: Peace and Nonviolence in a Time of Climate Change"](#) a reflection on the connection between nonviolence and climate change. Dear, who lives off the grid in the New Mexico high desert, is a Nobel Peace Prize nominee who has spent years acting for peace: protesting, leading retreats, walking through war zones, counseling the

victims at the site of the September 11 attack, and spending time in jails and in soup kitchens. Environmental activist Bill McKibben calls the book “a remarkable testimony summing up a remarkable life: nonviolence is our greatest tool, and here you see it wielded with kindness, firmness, and skill.”

Pax Christi Tampa Bay

## **PRESS RELEASE FOR THE KINGS BAY PLOWSHARES**

Paul Magno 202-321-6650  
Jessica Stewart 207-266-0919  
Brian Hynes 718-838-2636

Seven Catholic plowshares activists were detained early Thursday morning, April 5 at the Kings Bay Naval Base St. Marys, Georgia.

They entered on Wednesday night April 4. Calling themselves Kings Bay Plowshares, they went to make real the prophet Isaiah's command: "Beat swords into plowshares".

The seven chose to act on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who devoted his life to addressing the triplets of militarism, racism and materialism. In their statement, which they carried with them, the group quoted King, who said, “The greatest purveyor of violence in the world (today) is my own government.”

Carrying hammers and baby bottles of their own blood, the seven attempted to convert weapons of mass destruction.

Kings Bay Naval base opened in 1979 as the Navy's Atlantic Ocean Trident port. It is the largest nuclear submarine base in the world. There are six ballistic missile subs and two guided missile subs based at Kings Bay.

The activists went to three sites on the base: the administration building, the D5 Missile monument installation and the nuclear weapons storage bunkers. The activists used crime scene tape, hammers, and banners reading “The ultimate logic of racism is genocide -Dr. Martin Luther King”; “The ultimate logic of Trident is omnicide”; “Nuclear weapons: illegal - immoral.” They also brought an indictment charging the U.S. government for crimes against peace.

The activists at the nuclear weapons storage bunkers were Elizabeth McAlister, 78, Jonah House, Baltimore; Steve Kelly, S. J., 69, Bay Area CA; Carmen Trotta, 55, NY Catholic Worker.

The activists at the Administration building were Clare Grady, 59, Ithaca Catholic Worker; Martha Hennessy, 62, NY Catholic Worker.

The activists at the Trident D5 monuments were Mark Colville, 55, Amistad Catholic Worker, New Haven CT; Patrick O'Neill, 61, Fr. Charlie Mulholland Catholic Worker, Garner NC

This is the latest of 100 similar Plowshares actions around the world beginning in 1980 in King of Prussia PA

A *Washington Post* article about the action is [here](#) . A *National Catholic Reporter* article, which focuses on the religious, legal and moral motivations for the action, is at <https://www.ncronline.org/news/justice/plowshares-activists-arrested-action-georgia-naval-base>

The Kings Bay Plowshares Facebook page is at <https://www.facebook.com/Kingsbayplowshares/> Consult it for more information, pictures, comments from the activists, and updates



This is a reflection by Clare Grady, written in the Camden County Jail:

We say, “the ultimate logic of Trident is omnicide,” and yet, the explosive power of this weapon is only part of what we want to make visible. We see that nuclear weapons kill every day by their mere existence. Their production requires mining, refining, testing, and dumping of radioactive material, which poisons sacred Earth and Water, all on Indigenous land.

We see the billions of dollars it takes to build and maintain the Trident system as stolen resources, which are desperately needed for human needs.

We see nuclear weapons as a cocked gun, the biggest gun, used 24/7 to ENFORCE the many layers of state-sponsored violence and deadly force required to maintain white supremacy, global capitalism, and global domination.

We invite others who have been privileged by these systems to join us in withdrawing consent from their deadly function and purpose. We live with hope for a nuclear-free, decolonized world.

Other ways to support the Kings Bay Plowshares:

1- praying for those resisting Trident and all forms of militarism, white supremacy, and economic injustice and informing one another of the imminent danger and moral impossibility of its continuance.

2- Support can be expressed by mailing standard white post cards with no decorations (available through the Post Office) to the resisters:

Clare Grady 65197

Patrick O'Neill 65205

Elizabeth McAlister 65198

Stephen Kelly 65201

Martha Hennessy 65206

Mark Colville 65200

Carmen Trotta 65203

Camden County Detention Facility, P.O. Box 699, Woodbine, GA 31569.

For specific prisoner support questions please call Beth Brockman: (919) 824-9283 or [brockman.beth@gmail.com](mailto:brockman.beth@gmail.com)

3. Providing financial support for travel and legal support expenses

Donations can be sent to:

Catholic Worker

Memo Kings Bay Plowshares

PO Box 3087

Washington DC 20010

Or through gofundme:

<https://www.gofundme.com/xaajdf-kings-bay-plowshares-support-fund>

4. Organize a vigil or other public solidarity event at Kings Bay or in your area. To connect about this effort call 207.266.0919 or email [jms733@cornell.edu](mailto:jms733@cornell.edu) or Beth Brockman at [brockman.beth@gmail.com](mailto:brockman.beth@gmail.com)

5. Attend court appearances and follow the legal process. To do this like the Facebook page Kings Bay Plowshares or email [jms733@cornell.edu](mailto:jms733@cornell.edu) to get on an email list.

## ***Peace and Nonviolence in a Time of Climate Change***

**An Evening with Rev. John Dear**

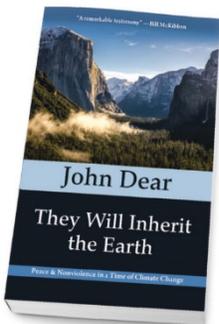
**Friday, April 20, 7:00 PM**

First Congregational United Church of Christ

1031 S. Euclid Avenue, Sarasota.

Activist and Nobel Peace Prize nominee John Dear's new book, "[\*They Will Inherit the Earth: Peace and Nonviolence in a Time of Climate Change\*](#)," is a reflection on the connection between nonviolence and climate change, based on the third Beatitude. Dear connects the way of active nonviolence with solidarity with Creation and shows how our global epidemic of violence and war could only lead to catastrophic climate change. This event is free and open to the public.

In this time of climate chaos, John Dear shares his journey from the Upper West Side of Manhattan to the high desert of New Mexico where he now lives off the grid on a remote mesa. He shares his experience serving as a pastor in the mission church at Yosemite; encounters with New Mexican indigenous women who live at one with the earth while resisting nuclear weapons production at Los Alamos; his experience resisting the pipeline at Standing Rock in North Dakota; reflections on the work of environmental leader Bill McKibben and Pope Francis' monumental encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si*; and ends with suggested steps forward into conscious, mindful solidarity with all creatures and Mother Earth through active, steadfast nonviolence, what he calls, "eschatological nonviolence," walking the earth in the footsteps of the nonviolent Jesus into the Kingdom of God.



For more information: Bill Lewis, 941-355-215, [billatpeac@gmail.com](mailto:billatpeac@gmail.com)