

NUKEWATCH

**NRC (Nuclear 'Racism'
Commission) Targets Native
Land — see back page**

PATHFINDER

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News & Information on Nuclear Weapons, Power, Waste & Nonviolent Resistance



Bombings Recalled with Nonviolent Resistance

By Molly Mechtenberg-Berrigan

Antinuclear activists from across the country gathered at four major nuclear weapons sites and dozens of other places to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Nonviolent protests ended in a total of 239 arrests.

An August 9 rally at Lawrence Livermore featured Dr. Satoru Konishi, a survivor of the Hiroshima bombing. Out of a total of 100 demonstrators, 54 were arrested for blocking an entrance to the lab. The civil resistance followed an August 6 rally in which 300 people marched to the gate and planted sunflowers. The lab currently stores 880 pounds of weapons-grade plutonium, enough to make 300 warheads.

On August 6, at Oak Ridge, some 1,500 activists carrying signs and beating drums marched to the gates of the Y-12 nuclear weapons factory, where uranium was supplied for the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Fifteen people were arrested including Nukewatch staffer Bonnie Urfer and volunteer John Heid. They were held for three days, along with nine other protesters, in the Anderson County jail before being sentenced to time served. The event was the largest protest ever held in the city of Oak Ridge.

A three-day conference and retreat focused on the Nevada Test Site — location of 1,000 U.S. Bomb tests — drew 450 people. In a mass action shortly after midnight August 6, 170 people walked

onto the test grounds and were detained. They were all later charged and released.

At Los Alamos, New Mexico, more than 500 people gathered August 6 to protest its weapons research. The lab continues to design, promote and develop new nuclear weapons.

Among dozens of anniversary demonstrations around the U.S. was an August 8 action at Alliant Techsystems, headquartered in Edina, Minn., where 13 people were arrested. Another 12 were arrested August 6 at weapons giant Lockheed Martin in Valley Forge, Penn.; three were jailed at Peterson AFB, headquarters of Space Command, outside Colorado Springs; and in St. Petersburg, Florida, six were arrested — two for carrying signs onto private property, and another four for blocking the squad car. On Nagasaki Day, eight were arrested at the Army Corps of Engineers in New York City (where the Manhattan Project got its name), and two were cited the same day at weapons merchant Raytheon in Andover, Mass.

Seventy people gathered at the gates of the Bangor Trident submarine base in Puget Sound, Washington on August 8, and 19 were arrested for blocking a road to the base, shutting it down for 45 minutes. In Washington, DC, 40 people gathered at the Pentagon on Nagasaki Day, August 9. Seven protesters were arrested and handled roughly by the Pentagon police for blocking an entrance.

Thanks to The Nuclear Resister for details on some reports.