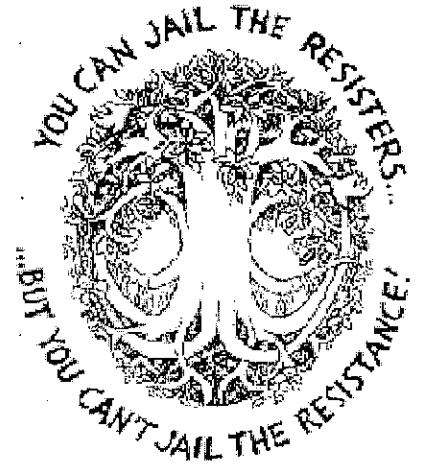


Chronology of SOA Prisoners of Conscience

1983 - 1990 - 1994 - 1995 - 1996 - 1997 - 1998 - 1999 - 2000 - 2001 - 2002 - 2003 - 2004 - 2005

Nonviolent Direct Action has been the backbone of the movement to close the SOA. Countless actions have taken place in this country as well as in **Chile, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Austria, France, Germany** and other countries around the world. Hundreds have put their bodies on the line, fasted and vigiled and many have gotten arrested for speaking out against the violence perpetrated by the SOA and US foreign policy.

Among these are people who took action at the **Pentagon**, 30 SOA Watch activists who spent up to five days in jail after being arrested in a civil disobedience action against the **IMF/World Bank** meetings in Washington DC; nine people who reenacted a massacre of Latin American peasants by SOA graduates in the street in front of Philadelphia's City Hall on the first day of the 2000 Republican National Convention; eight people who refused to leave Senator Peter Fitzgerald's office in Chicago until they would get an appointment with him; 31 people who erected a **Global Village** in front of the gates of Fort Benning and engaged in jail solidarity. SOA Watch activists were arrested at the headquarters of the **Monsanto** corporation, locked down in the **Sikorsky Black Hawk** helicopter conference and for dozens acts of civil disobedience on the military base Fort Benning, GA (see history of SOA Watch).



The following chronology lists those who have been sentenced to federal prisons across the United States for acts of nonviolent civil disobedience calling for a more just world.

August 1983:

While the US-fueled war in El Salvador was raging, three activists, dressed as high-ranking military officers, walked onto Fort Benning to the barracks of the Salvadoran soldiers who were receiving combat training. As it became dark and the lights went out, the three scaled a tree next to the barracks and with a boombox blasted Archbishop Oscar Romero's last homily into the night. Oscar Romero called in this homily onto the people of the Army to disobey their superiors who tell them to kill their own people (*excerpt*). Oscar Romero was killed by graduates of the SOA. Linda Ventimiglia, Father Larry Rosebaugh and Father Roy Bourgeois were arrested and sentenced to federal prison.

- Linda Ventimiglia: 15 months
- Fr. Larry Rosebaugh: 15 months
- Fr. Roy Bourgeois: 18 months.

November 1990:

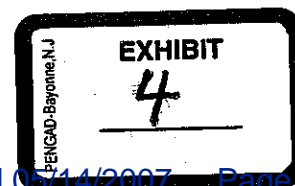
Father Roy Bourgeois and brothers Charlie and Patrick Liteky entered the "Hall of Fame" inside the SOA headquarters and poured blood on photographs of SOA graduates and instructors. The "Hall of Fame" featured SOA graduates including military dictators, convicted torturers and murderers like Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez, **Gen Rafael Molina**, Gen Hernan Jose Guzman Rodriguez, Gen. Manuel Jaime Guerrero Paz, and others.

- Charlie Liteky: 9 months
- Patrick Liteky: 9 months
- Father Roy Bourgeois: 14 months

November 1994:

Five activists were arrested at SOA headquarters for chaining doors and passing out leaflets to Latin American soldiers:

- Fr. Bill Bichsel, SJ
- Louie DeBenedette
- Br. Fred Mercy, SJ
- John X. Linnehan



- **Steve Jacobs:** 46, Columbia, Missouri. member of the St. Francis Catholic Worker, veteran and folksinger.
One year
- **Rebecca Kanner:** 43, Ann Arbor, Michigan. environmental educator, UAW member.
6 months, \$500 fine
- **Joel Kilgour:** 24, Duluth, Minnesota. baker in cooperative bakery, member of Loaves and Fishes Catholic Worker.
1 month
- **Richard John Kinane:** 51, Boulder, Colorado. teacher and contemplative psychotherapist.
6 months, \$500 fine
- **Sr. Elizabeth Anne McKenzie:** 71, St. Paul, Minnesota. Retired teacher, Sister of St. Joseph.
6 months
- **Karl Meyer:** 63, Nashville, Tennessee. member of Nashville Greenland Community, activist with Catholic Worker movement for 44 years, defended himself pro se.
6 months
- **Lois Putzier:** 69, Tucson, Arizona. union organizer, married.
6 months
- **Eric Robison:** 21, Spokane, Washington. social justice activist.
6 months, \$500 fine
- **Sr. Miriam Spencer:** 76, Bellevue, Washington. Member of Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, actively retired, 75.
6 months
- **Kathryn Temple:** 28, Asheville, North Carolina. Artist, writer, feminist.
2 years probation, \$500 fine
- **Hazel Tulecke:** 77, Yellow Springs, Ohio. Retired, mother of four, wife of William Houston.
3 months
- **Mary Alice Vaughan:** 68, White Bear Lake, Minnesota. retired elementary school teacher, former Sister of St. Joseph of Peace.
6 months, \$150 fine

April 2001

Hundreds of protesters gathered at the Pentagon and planted crosses at the Parade Grounds. Ten were arrested for spilling blood on government property, and blocking entrances to the building. Two were prosecuted.

- **Ally Styan:** 18, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
3 days
- **Eric Robison:** 21, Spokane Washington
3 days

November 2001

A federal prosecutor filed charge against 43 SOA Watch activists who were among 10,000 who gathered in November 2001 to call for the closure to the School of the Americas/Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. Charges against six of the 43 were dropped. Thirty-seven stood trial. one defendant was found not guilty, while all others received sentences ranging from six months of probation to six month in prison.

- **Rev. Charles Booker-Hirsch** Ann Arbor, MI 41, Presbyterian minister at Northside Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor. Married (to UCC pastor). One child, age 4. Works with Central American refugees. Member of Presbyterian Peace Fellowship and PNAODA (Presbyterian Network of Alcoholism and Other Drug Abuse).
Sentenced to three months in federal prison, \$500 fine
- **Jonna Cohen** Denver, CO 20, MacAllister College student. Student of Maharaji, an Indian spiritual teacher.
Sentenced to three months in federal prison, \$500 fine
- **Brigid Conarchy** Grayslake, IL 23, Originally from Waukegan, IL. Degree in Theology and Philosophy from St Norberts College: Catholic worker with Little Flower CW in Goochland, VA.
Sentenced to six months probation, \$500 fine
- **Kenneth Crowley** Houston, TX 60, Parent educator. Catholic. Member of Pax Christi.
Sentenced to six months in federal prison, \$1000 fine
- **Sue Daniels** Pembroke, VA 41, a doctoral student in avian conservation biology, currently forming a local chapter of the Colombia Support Network, also active with AWOL (go-awol.org), the Coalition for Justice, Amnesty International, the New River Valley Greens, and the Living Wage Campaign. A participant in a beautiful Reclaim the Streets action in NYC during the WEF (the World Economic [Exploitation] Forum). Lead organizer to bring Vandana Shiva, Ed Herman, and Cecelia Zarate-Laun of the Colombia Support Network to Blacksburg and the Virginia Tech community this Spring.
Sentenced to three months in federal prison, \$500 fine

for Peace. Member of Pax Christi.

Sentenced to three months in federal prison

- **Abi Miller** Harrisonburg, VA 23, Degree in Biology from James Madison University. Works at a restaurant in the process of collectivizing. Involved in a community center project, community garden organizing, and tutoring english as a second language.
Sentenced to three months in federal prison, \$500 fine
- **Summer Nelson** Missoula, MT 26, Environmental and social justice activist working with the Buffalo Field Campaign and Wild Rockies Earth First. Visual artist who uses art in activism. Aspiring wilderness survivalist and sustainable community builder doing trail work, organic farming and wilderness therapy programs.
Sentenced to three months in federal prison, \$500 fine
- **Fr. William O'Donnell** Berkeley, CA 72, member of the **San Carlos Foundation**
Sentenced to six months in federal prison, \$1000 fine
- **David O'Neil** Elkton, VA
Sentenced to six months probation, \$500 fine
- **Mike Pasquale** Syracuse, NY 33, Catholic. Program Director at Family Center. Director of International House at LeMoyne College.
Sentenced to six months in a federal prison, \$1000 fine
- **Leone Reinbold** Oakland, CA
Sentenced to six months probation, \$500 fine
- **Rich Ring** is 33 years old and lives in Atlanta, where he is a human rights investigator. He grew up in Washington County, New York, and went to Earlham College. He has been an ecologist with The Nature Conservancy, and a Catholic Worker at St. Martin de Porres House in Harrisburg, PA. He is a member of Pax Cristi USA, Pennsylvania Abolitionists, and Georgians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. He learned about the SOA in 2001 from travels in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala and the Autonomous Zones of Chiapas, Mexico. (Click to read his testimony -in Word format- from Georgia.)
Sentenced to three months in federal prison, \$500 fine
- **Maxwell Sadler Edwards** Waterville, ME
Sentenced to six months probation, \$2500 fine
- **Kathy Shields Boylan** Washington DC 58, Catholic Worker with Dorothy Day CW in Washington DC. Plowshares activist. Mother of 5. Grandmother of 3.
Sentenced to three months in federal prison
- **Michael Sobol Golden**, CO 18, Graduates HS in May. Plans to defer college for a year to work in Guatemala with street children.
Sentenced to three months in federal prison, \$500 fine
- **Lee Sturgis** Elkton, VA
Sentenced to six months probation, \$500 fine
- **Fr. Louis Vitale**, San Francisco, CA Franciscan priest. Pastor of an inner city parish in San Francisco. Working with marginalized children and the homeless.
Sentenced to three months in federal prison
- **Fr. Jerry Zawada** Cedar Lake, IN 65, Franciscan priest and Ecumenical. Just back from Palestine. Affiliated with Voices in the Wilderness.
Sentenced to six months in federal prison

Charges were dismissed against:

- **Sr. Rufina Cordova** San Ysidro, CA 68, Dominican nun. Preschool teacher in Tijuana. Entered base because of invitation by SOA/WHISC for protesters to attend a presentation at the SOA/WHISC.
- **Anna Lisa Gross** N. Manchester, IN 19, Student at Earlham. Member of Church of the Brethren. Arrested when she, and other Earlham students, accidentally drove on base.
- **Brook Kramer** Richmond, KY 22, Student at Earlham College. Member of St. Thomas Lutheran Church and Jubilee Partners. Arrested when she, and other Earlham students, accidentally drove on base.
- **Peg Morton** Eugene, OR 71, Three grown daughters, three grandchildren. Quaker with a faith based nonviolent philosophy. Spent time in Guatemala doing accompaniment of returned refugees. Member of CISCAP and War Resisters League. Entered base because of invitation by SOA/WHISC for protesters to attend a presentation at the SOA/WHISC.
- **Jesse Rutschman** Chicago, IL 20, Mennonite. Student at Earlham College. Arrested when he, and other Earlham students, accidentally drove on base.
- **Ned Smith** Wilkes-Barre, PA Catholic Worker from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Massage therapist.

The SOA 37

On November 21, 2005, 40 people were arrested for acts of civil disobedience calling for the closure of the School of the Americas. Three of these people, Donna Coustantineau, Wendy Dwyer and Mike Murphy, were arrested by Columbus City Police, held overnight in jail, charged with "failure to disperse," found guilty and sentenced to time served and a \$200 fine.

Thirty-seven people were arrested by military police on Fort Benning property. One person, Ed Lewinson, 73, a professor emeritus, crossed onto the base for a third time. Again this year, Ed was not charged -- probably because the government fears the bad publicity associated with prosecuting a person who is blind. Ed's courage and persistence sets an example for all of us.



When the remaining 36 individuals were arraigned in federal court after spending a night in jail, 34 of them pled not guilty and were ordered to return to court for trials beginning on January 30, 2006. Two people, Christine Gaunt and Don Nelson, pled guilty at arraignment. Chris, who served three months in 2003 for an SOA action, was sentenced to six months and elected to begin serving her sentence immediately. Don was sentenced to 90 days in prison and self-reported to federal prison on January 17, 2006.

Three individuals opted not to post bond but to remain in custody awaiting their trials. They were Priscilla Treska of Ohio, Fr. Louis Vitale of San Francisco and Fr. Jerry Zawada of Indiana. On January 31st, Priscilla was found guilty and released on "time served." That same day, Fr. Louis Vitale was sentenced to six months in prison, although his sentence was later reduced by 18 days.



On April 10, 2006, twenty nine SOA Watch human rights advocates from around the United States were incarcerated for one to six months sentences for their acts of nonviolent civil disobedience opposing the controversial U.S. Army's School of the Americas (SOA/ WHINSEC). They joined four others already serving prison time for the same action.

"People speaking out for justice and accountability go to prison this week," said Fr. Roy Bourgeois, founder of SOA Watch, "while the SOA and its graduates continue to commit human rights abuses with impunity."

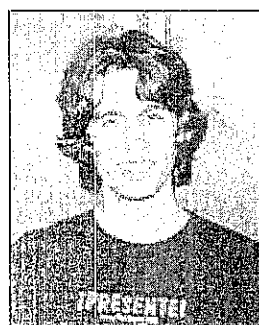
The 32 defendants, members of the legal team and the many supporters held a press conference before the trial in Columbus, Georgia. **Watch and listen to a slide show of that press conference.**



Read the **press release from Wednesday, February 1** for more information about the January trials. Read the **full report of the civil disobedience actions from the SOA Watch Legal Collective** from more information about the actions in November that put folks on trial this year.

The SOA 37 have all completed their sentences, with the exception of Jonathan Robert, who remains in custody pending resolution of other outstanding charges.

ADJUDICATED DEFENDANTS (In alphabetical order)



Buddy Bell, 23, is a student at DePaul University in Wood Dale, Illinois. The first time Buddy learned of social justice was in third grade. His Catholic-school teacher encouraged each student to go without sweets for a while so they could have money to give to children around the world without enough food to eat. He wondered why every affluent person didn't give their excess money to the poor to eliminate poverty and hunger.

Fifteen years later, Buddy's knowledge of the world has widened, but he's always held on to the idealistic will to stand in oppression's way. As a college student majoring in Education, Buddy has a philosophy that says nurturing the conscience of generations to come is the path to both their own personal empowerment and the transition to a world where people are finally valued more highly than materials. **Read Buddy's sentencing statement.**

"No, your honor," she told him. "You can force me to go to jail, but you can't force me to pay bail." His jaw dropped, according to an onlooker. Read Priscilla's sentencing statement.

After serving 72 days in the Muscogee County Jail, Priscilla was found guilty and released on "time served" in late January.



Fr. Louis Vitale, 73, is a Franciscan Priest from San Francisco, California. Fr. Louis is a retired pastor of an inner city church in San Francisco.

Fr. Louis was sentenced to 162 days in prison (six months minus 18 days). In November at his arraignment, Fr. Louis opted not to bail out of jail in solidarity with those who can't afford to make bail. He completed his sentence and was released in May.



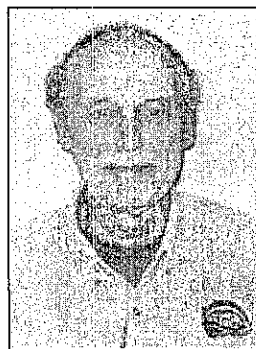
Jamie Walters, 41, lives in Columbia, Missouri. Nearly five years ago, at 37 years of age, Jamie sat wearily upon the steps of St Francis House in Columbia, an economically displaced person with nowhere to go. He was taken inside, fed and clothed. There began the healing of the spiritual wounds he suffered through years of living in a cycle of homelessness, poverty, hunger and desperation on the streets.

At the Catholic Worker he was loved without qualification, and learned to love likewise, in kind. Thereafter he became an active member of the Catholic Worker community, participating in the humble work of performing the Works of Mercy (Matthew 25), and

developing his skills as an advocate for the less fortunate. In the fall of 2003, with his friend and fellow Catholic Worker and lawyer/activist, M. Ruth O'Neill, Jamie founded St Brigid's Peace House to promote social justice.

Around this same time, Jamie established Peacestreet Theater, a troupe of local activists that have performed street theater on occasions at gatherings, festivals, marches, at the local armed forces recruitment center, Congressman Hulsof's office, and at the state capitol.

Jamie was sentenced to one year of probation and a \$1,000 fine.



Frank Woolever, 72, is from Syracuse, New York. The middle child of Frank and Francis Woolever, Frank entered the seminary in Rochester, New York and was ordained a Catholic priest in 1959. After working as an associate parish priest for six years, he became the director of Inner City Development under Catholic Charities. In 1971, Frank resigned from the active ministry, completed a masters degree in Public Administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University, and married Mary E. Schmalzl. They have two daughters.

Frank also has a doctorate in Pastoral Counseling from Colgate Rochester Divinity School. During the past 45 years, Frank has worked and volunteered in service to his community in his home state of New York. He has been to Nicaragua five times, first during the Contra War and later connecting with his parish's sister church. Also, Frank has been involved in Pax Christi since 1978. His Syracuse chapter is the longest local chapter with regular meetings in the nation!

Frank served three months in prison and was released on July 7.



Jerome Zawada, 68, has been a Franciscan priest for over 50 years. He's based out of Cedar Lake,