**Nuremberg Actions** 65 Eckley Lane Walnut Creek, CA 94596

# Nuremberg Actions



**Concord Campaign** 

"If more people had sat on the tracks in front of trains taking people to death camps forty-five years ago, six million people would not have died." —The Rev. Jesse Jackson

(September 5, 1987 at the Concord Naval Weapons Station)

#### Nuremberg Actions: Sustained Nonviolent Resistance

Since June 10, 1987 Nuremberg Actions has kept a daily vigil at the railroad tracks in front of the main gate of the Concord Naval Weapons Station.

Freedom of Information Act requests reveal that this base has sent to El Salvador demolition bombs which have destroyed hundreds of villages, fuse extenders which cause shrapnel to fly in all directions, white phosphorus rockets which burn through flesh, and ammunition for General Electric machine guns that fire 100 bullets per second from helicopter gunships.

During the first week, in demonstrations sponsored by the Pledge of Resistance involving 2,000 people, 387 were arrested for nonviolently protesting the arms shipments from Concord to Central America.

Throughout the summer people gathered every day at the tracks to protest these death trains. On August 21 Brian Willson sent a letter to the Naval Weapons Station stating that he and others would be fasting and blocking the munitions trains on the tracks starting September first. On that day a train with orders not to stop came through at three times the 5 mile per hour speed limit and ran Brian over, causing the loss of both his legs and a severe head injury.

The world was horrified. On the following Saturday 10,000 people came to the tracks to protest not only his maiming but the ongoing maiming and killing of the Central American people.

Since September 1, the vigil at the tracks has continued 24 hours a day. People have come, as on pilgrimage, to the site to gather to protest, vigil, and tell each other stories that inspire peacemaking.

Since that infamous event, with the exception of one train which was allowed to pass by a prayerful silent witness, every single train going down those tracks has had to stop until the strong arm of the state removed nonviolent protesters. The sheriffs tactics have varied, including using pain holds and breaking two people's arms in November, but the nonviolent witness has persisted.



By our sustained vigil and nonviolent actions we seek to create a moral crisis and arouse the conscience of North Americans regarding violations of international law committed by the United States.

As U.S. citizens we cannot stand by in idle complicity while our government continues to act criminally. We must act to prevent the continuing violations of the Nuremberg Principles, the United Nations Charter, Geneva Conventions, and the Organization of American States Treaty.

When we sit on the tracks or block a truck carrying munitions or walk onto the base, we are not disobeying the law; rather we are attempting to stop violations of the law in a nonviolent way. We call our actions "civil obedience" to international law and spiritual law.

By taking personal responsibility for stopping these crimes, we are challenging the militarization of our society and U.S. domination over other nations. Through inward personal transformation and nonviolent social revolution we aim to fundamentally change U.S. policies and institutions to truly reflect freedom, equality, and justice for all. We want real democracy and a just distribution of the world's resources and wealth. We are committed to resolving conflicts nonviolently.

We see the Nuremberg Actions in Concord as a living example of an active notiviolent community where we speak with our lives and bodies to create effectively justice and peace---in ourselves, in our country, in Central America, and in the world.

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#### "Every train that goes through means people are going to die in El Salı

# Nuremberg Actions Non-Violence Covenant

As a Participant in the Nuremberg Actions at the Concord Naval Weapons Station, I commit to the following nonviolent discipline, and as part of the actions, I will reflect on these commitments:

- 1 We will regard each individual as a human being and our attitude will be one of openness and respect toward all whom we encounter as we engage in our actions against U.S. intervention in Central America.
- 2 We will use no violence, physical or verbal, toward any person. We will refrain from insulting remarks.
- 3 We will not damage property.
- 4 We will not run, use threatening motions, or jump suddently on or off the tracks or roadways.
- 5 As members of these nonviolent actions we will follow the directions of the designated coordinators. In the event of a serious disagreement one should remove oneself from the action.
- 6 We will carry no weapons.
- 7 While not denying feelings, we will harbor no hate. Should others express violence toward us, we will submit to that expression without returning the violence. We will also protect others from insults or attack.
- 8 We will not bring drugs or alcohol other than for medical purposes.
- 9 We will show respect for the police.
- 10 We will not evade the consequences of our actions.
- 11 We will be alert to the people around us and will be aware of when others need assistance. We will support each other in needs for peacekeeping.

#### NONVIOLENCE TRAINING

All who wish to take part in Nuremberg Actions are urged to take a day-long introduction to the philosophy and methods of nonviolence. In addition, all who are considering blocking trains or trucks need to attend a special training for these actions. Please call (415) 933-7850 for more information.



#### Since June 10, 1987

\* The average number of trains leaving the weapons station weekly dropped from over 30 to 2. The number of trucks is down from hundreds to dozens.

\* The Concord Naval Weapons Station is now well known throughout the Bay Area and the nation for its role in the wars in Central America.

\* Tens of thousands of people around the nation and world have written and called expressing their determination to do more in their personal lives to work for peace.

\* Thousands of Central Americans have expressed their sense of greater hope because North Americans are willing to put themselves on the line for them.

\* A renewed model of sustained nonviolent resistance is inspiring groups around the country to consider initiating similar efforts in their communities.

"...They are not worth less-we are not worth more." (Brian Willson in his let

#### or and Nicaragua...."

## Nuremberg Principles

As Formulated by the International Law Commission June-July 1950, at the request of the United Nations General Assembly.

- Any person who commits an act which constitutes a crime under international law is responsible therefor and liable to punishment.
- II. The fact that internal law does not impose a penalty for an act which constitutes a crime under international law does not relieve the person who committed the act from responsibility under international law.
- III. The fact that a person who committed an act which constitutes a crime under international law acted as Head of State or responsible government official does not relieve him from responsibility under international law.
- IV. The fact that a person acted pursuant to an order of his Government or of a superior does not relieve him from responsibility under international law, provided that a moral choice was in fact possible for him.
- V. Any person charged with a crime under international law has the right to a fair trial on the facts of law.
- VI. The crimes herinafter set out are punishable as crimes under international law:
  - a. Crimes against peace:

 (i) Planning, preparation, initation, or waging of a war of aggression or a war in violation of international treaties, agreements, or assurances;
(ii) Participation in a common plan or conspiracy for the accomplish-ment of any of the acts mentioned under (i).

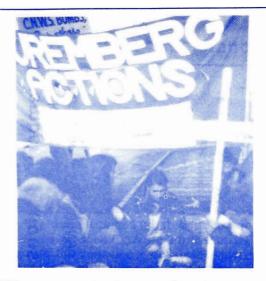
b. War crimes: Violations of the laws or customs of war which include, but are not limited to, murder, ill-treatment or deportation to slave labor or for any other purpose of civilian population of or in occupied territory, murder or ill-treatment of prisoners of war or persons on the seas, killing of hostages, plunder of public or private property, wanton destruction of cties, towns, or villages or devastation not justified by military necessity.

c. Crimes against humanity: Murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, and other inhuman acts done against any civilian population, or persecutions on political, racial, or religious grounds, when such persecutions are done or such persecutions are carried on in execution of or in connection with any crime against peace or any war crime.

VII. Complicity in the commission of a crime against peace, a war crime, or a crime against humanity as set forth in Principal VI is a crime under international law.

Aug. 21 to the CNWS)

\*Labor Donated\*



#### Please contact me about:

Participating in the vigil

- Participating in Nonviolence Training
- Organizing a similar campaign in my area
- Sponsoring a houseparty
- Volunteering in the office
- Providing support for the vigil
- \_\_\_ Put me on the mailing list
- Working with a committee
  - (Legal, Outreach, Fundraising, Vigil, etc.)

### Enclosed is a contribution of

\_\_\_\_\$25 \_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\$10 \_\_\_Other Please make checks payable to:

Nuremberg Actions

Name			
Address			#
City			
State/Zip			
Day Phone (	)	-	
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Please return this form to: Nuremberg Actions 65 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 (415) 933-7850