



Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action

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17 people arrested at Bangor Trident Submarine Base on Mother's Day in nonviolent direct action to say: "In the name of our mothers, we say 'no' to Trident nuclear death. In the name of our mothers, we say 'yes' to life!"

100 people attend *Mother's Day Action to Abolish Nuclear Weapons* to protest upgrade of Trident subs and arrival of Trident II (D5) nuclear missiles to Puget Sound.

As the Navy is about to face an environmental lawsuit over its violations of environmental protection laws at Bangor, 100 people gathered at the Bangor Trident Submarine Base on Mother's Day to say: "The earth is our mother. Treat her with respect." Coming from western Washington, Oregon, and Canada, mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers—and even a couple great-grandmothers—came to Bangor to demand that nuclear weapons be abolished, for the sake of all children and grandchildren worldwide.

A total of 17 people were arrested for blocking the road that leads to the Bangor base entrance. 16 people blocked the road to Bangor in three separate groups, each group blocking the road with their own bodies and with long banners. One man blocked the road by himself as he sang out a Native American prayer for peace.

The arrests followed a gathering at the gates of the Trident base, which is the Pacific home for 8 nuclear-powered, nuclear-armed Trident submarines. During the gathering, people individually came up to the chain-link, barbed-wire fence and hung "things that mean life" on the wires—photographs of their children...baby clothes...flowers...stuffed animals...an apple...a child's painting...a pair of baby shoes...a packet of seeds...a mother's apron—and spoke one by one of the people and things that nuclear weapons and Trident put in jeopardy every day.

The Trident base at Bangor, located on Hood Canal across from Olympic National Park, is the base for 1,760 nuclear warheads—more nuclear weapons than all of Britain, France, China, Israel, India, and Pakistan combined. Each of the 8 Trident submarines is armed with 192 100-kiloton nuclear warheads on 24 submarine-launched ballistic missiles, representing a destructive force of over 1,000 Hiroshima bombs for each Trident submarine. These missiles and warheads can strike targets anywhere in the world in 15 minutes or less.

The Bangor base is undergoing major transition to accommodate the arrival of new Trident II (D5) nuclear missiles. A coalition of three environmental and three peace organizations on March 8, 2001 filed a 60-day notice of intent to sue under the Endangered Species Act for the Navy's violations of environmental laws designed to protect threatened and endangered Hood Canal salmon species. The suit charges that the Navy, in its construction of new Trident II (D5) missile handling facilities, is damaging critical salmon habitat. The suit further charges the Navy with failing to adequately address the risks of accidental explosion of nuclear missiles in transportation, storage, handling, loading, and unloading. The rocket propellant alone in 24 Trident II (D5) missiles on one Trident submarine has the net explosive weight equal to 3,720,000 pounds of TNT.

The first group of people who were arrested at Bangor were: Jacob Milner (16) Lake Forest Park, Barbara Hill (52) Elbe, Michael Hill (58) Elbe, Shannon Nelson-Deighan (49) Olympia and Joy Goldstein (55) Vashon. They held a fabric banner that read: "*The Earth is our mother. Treat her with respect.*"

The second group consisted of 8 people who stretched a clothes line strung with baby sleepers across the road to Bangor. They were: Debra Morrison (48) Seattle, Shirley Morrison (78) Seattle, Karol Milner (47) Lake Forest Park, Alisa Milner (20) Lake Forest Park, Douglas Milholland (52) Port Townsend, Neva Welton (44) Bainbridge Island, Rosemary Brodie (74) Seattle, and Leslie Smith (33) Seattle.

The third wave consisted of 3 people holding a banner which read: "*Bangor Closed. Trident violates International Law.*" They were Mack Johnson (45) Silverdale, Brenda McMillan (67) Port Townsend, and Laurel Dykstra (34) Tacoma.

The man who blocked the road alone was Raven (51) from Port Townsend.

All of those arrested were booked either by Kitsap County Sheriffs officers or Bangor Security officials and released. It is unlikely that any of those arrested will be charged or prosecuted for their arrest. Kitsap County prosecutors have been unable to get convictions against nonviolent activists arrested at Bangor the last three times they have tried. Juries and judges have found that people arrested at Bangor protests have the legal right to redress grievances under International and US law with nonviolent direct action. Since February 2000, Kitsap County Prosecutors have chosen not to prosecute people for nonviolent direct actions at Bangor, saying that such action "does not constitute a crime" in the eyes of the community.

On Martin Luther King Day 2000, 5 people were arrested at Bangor. On Hiroshima Day August 6, 2000, 8 people were arrested. And on Martin Luther King Day 2001, 20 people were arrested.

The next planned direct action at Bangor will be on Nagasaki Day, August 9, 2001.