

ANNE HALL'S TESTIMONY IN FEDERAL COURT IN TACOMA ON APRIL 1, 2016
Re: Action on August 10, 2015, at Naval Base Kitsap/Bangor

- 1) *Describe for the court your position in the Lutheran Church and how your calling has shaped you.*

I am an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and served churches in the Seattle area for 20 years before I retired in 2014. I have been a follower of Jesus all my life, and have tried my best—most often not very successfully—to live as Jesus would have me live. Since I was a child I have known that Jesus told us to love our enemies, to do good to those who persecute us, to turn the other cheek, and to put down our swords, for those who live by the sword will die by the sword. He called on us to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. In the story of the Good Samaritan he taught that there are no national boundaries that define who our neighbors are, and that our neighbors are especially those whom we have been taught to despise.

- 2) *How did your calling as a Christian influence your actions at Naval Base Kitsap/Bangor on August 10, 2015?*

I have asked myself how Jesus would act in the face of the horror that is nuclear weapons. This is a man who gave his life on a cross that justice and peace might come on this earth. It is clear to me that if Jesus were alive today, he would do everything in his power to eliminate these weapons. Surely he would be disrupting places where the weapons are deployed, just as he overturned tables and drove money changers out of the temple. He would be stopping trains carrying missiles, praying by bunkers where they are stored, calling on workers to abandon their work that makes the deployment and potential use of nuclear weapons possible. And so, as Jesus' follower, I am called to do these things as well.

- 3) *What has been your experience of communicating with workers on Naval Base Kitsap/Bangor?*

I have leafleted, vigiled and participated in nonviolent resistance at the base for more than 30 years. For a number of years I leafleted once a month at one of the gates early on a weekday morning when base personnel were driving in to work. At the height on Ground Zero's leafleting campaign, over 600 drivers would pull over before reaching the gate, stop, roll down their windows, and take a leaflet. These leaflets showed up on bulletin boards and in restrooms all over the base. There were both civilian and military personnel who left their positions at the base in response to the call to conscience that Ground Zero initiated.

- 4) *What indications have workers given you recently about how they react to your message?*

Since 9/11 our ability to leaflet has been severely curtailed. However, when we vigil beside the road with signs that call for the abolition of nuclear weapons, at least one driver in ten gives us a thumbs up. Since I understand that about 10,000 people work on the base, I have to think that if one tenth of those—1000 people—went on strike and refused to support the deployment of nuclear weapons, what a powerful step that would be in the ongoing movement to abolish these weapons of mass destruction.

- 5) *What actions did you take on the morning of August 10, and what message were you hoping to communicate by these actions?*

On that morning I crossed onto base property, and after Michael lay down in the roadway, I outlined his body in chalk dust. We chose this action because we wanted to provide a stark reminder of what nuclear bombs do to human beings. We wanted the drivers who drove over our outlines to remember that when our country dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the heat of the bombs, which equaled the heat of the sun, vaporized people, and only their shadows remained. We wanted to remind the base workers—and ourselves—of the babies, school children, nursing mothers, parents and grandparents who were horribly burned that day, and of those who died immediately and afterward of radiation sickness. Too many

people today—including some of our candidates for president—talk blithely of “nuking” the enemy, forgetting what these weapons do to human beings, including civilians who have nothing to do with the decisions made by their leaders.

6) *What makes the reality of nuclear weapons particularly close to home for you?*

My husband, Dr. David Hall, is past president of both Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility and national Physicians for Social Responsibility. Since its inception, physicians in PSR and its affiliate, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, have worked tirelessly to alert the world that there is no cure for nuclear war, and that our only chance is prevention.

7) *Why did you feel it was essential to continue to communicate this message?*

Through the work that my husband does, I am aware that we are closer to nuclear war now than we have been at any time since the height of the cold war, and possibly even closer than we were then. On August 10, I acted to bring before the workers on the base, ourselves, and the public at large, the crisis that we face. I wanted to sound the alarm that:

- * Today our country is poised to modernize our entire nuclear weapons complex at a cost of \$1 trillion over the next 30 years. Because we are modernizing, every other nuclear armed country, including Russia and China, are modernizing their nuclear weapons as well.

- * Today our country and others are developing miniaturized nuclear weapons with “dial a yield capacity,” raising the possibility that these weapons could be used on the battlefield.

- * Russia is angry and resentful, especially at NATO expansion, and its leaders have made nuclear threats and innuendos.

- * Relations between China and the U.S. are increasingly tense.

- * Even if Mutually Assured Destruction ever made sense, it no longer does now that there are multiple players in the nuclear scene and suicidal terrorist sects against whom nuclear weapons would be useless.

- * Keeping all these factors in mind, I wanted to communicate to base workers, the public and ourselves that the only way to avert the increasing risk of nuclear war is to work with every ounce of our strength both domestically and globally to outlaw nuclear weapons and to put in place comprehensive safeguards so these weapons will be dismantled and abolished forever.