

# THE WHITE ROSE NEWSLETTER

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Dear friends,

As we now enter the last two years of the 1980's and approach the final decade of the 20th century, we are at a critical moment in history. The survival of planet earth, indeed the survival of the human species, is at stake. The Pentagon is rapidly completing its long-sought, full-scale nuclear first-strike arsenal, the ultimate means of securing U.S. dominance of global resources. The completion of this nuclear arsenal, primarily through the Trident II missiles and the Navstar satellites, will make nuclear world war (by design or accident) far more likely than ever before. Indeed, nuclear war will be nearly inevitable unless key systems are stopped before final deployment in the early 1990's.

It is of the greatest urgency for each of us to meet this challenge: we must dramatically increase nonviolent resistance to first-strike nuclear war preparations.



*Katya Komisaruk graduated from U.C. Berkeley with an MBA in 1982. She lived in San Francisco until taken into federal custody Jan. 11, 1988. The "White Rose Action" drew support from thousands worldwide, including Dr. Helen Caldicott, founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility, who calls Katya a "national hero."*

## The White Rose Action

On June 2, 1987, Katya Komisaruk brought her hammer and drill to Vandenberg Air Force Base to dismantle the crucial navigation system of the nuclear arms race, Navstar. This ultra-sophisticated tracking system can guide U.S. sub-launched nuclear missiles towards Soviet silos and command centers with precise accuracy, making feasible the Pentagon's plan to launch a first strike attack.

## The Trial

Katya succeeded in dismantling the Navstar computer and was quickly brought to trial. In a kangaroo court, which over 100 of us watched in disbelief, Katya was forbidden to explain her motive, or mention U.S. nuclear policy, or mention the Nuremberg



Principles (an international treaty, signed by the U.S., which upholds every citizen's right to intervene against their government when it is preparing for a war of aggression, a crime against humanity.) Katya's expert witnesses were also forbidden to testify — including Robert Aldridge, a Trident engineer who quit his "defense" job when he discovered its hidden purpose; and Michio Kaku, preeminent nuclear physicist and author of *To Win A Nuclear War: The Pentagon's Secret War Plans*.

Why was Katya not allowed to defend herself? Why were her expert witnesses not allowed to testify? Why did American media choose to ignore Katya's trial, which was front page news in Europe, Asia and Australia?

Clearly the U.S. government doesn't want its citizens to know about Navstar and secret Pentagon war plans. They don't want U.S. first-strike policy to be put on trial (as it violates international law). As for American media, owned by corporations with enormous military investments, covering this story would be a conflict of interest.

Katya, gagged in court and forbidden to tell the jury her story, was convicted and sentenced to five years in federal prison. She was immediately taken into federal custody on Jan. 11, 1988 at the L.A. Federal Courthouse.

## Prison/Legal Update

Katya is now incarcerated at Geiger State Prison in Spokane, WA. Her case is being appealed, and her lawyers will argue that she was denied her right to speak freely in court, and that the first-strike computer she took apart was illegal "contraband," not government "property." Arguments should take place this summer before a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit. A motion to release Katya on bail pending appeal was denied 2-1.

## Who is the White Rose Collective?

We are a group of citizens who formed in support of Katya after her "White Rose Action." There currently are two White Rose groups — based in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The L.A. White Rose group is focusing on educational outreach on U.S. first-strike policy.

The S.F. White Rose group (1716 Felton St., S.F. 94134; (415) 334-2734) is focusing on Katya's legal appeal, personal support for Katya, and prison support and education.

## What is our purpose?

Our purpose is threefold:

First, to alert fellow citizens to Katya's situation and attempt to gain her release from prison.

Second, to awaken citizens to the immediate threat of nuclear war due to U.S. first-strike development.

Third, to do whatever we can, using non-violent means, to prevent a U.S. first-strike attack and a nuclear war.



## Why do we call ourselves the "White Rose Collective"?

Katya's "White Rose Action" was named after a courageous group of German students who, calling themselves "The White Rose," chose to resist Hitler. They tried to alert their fellow citizens to the atrocities being committed in their name, calling on people to stop obeying, to stop allowing unspeakable crimes to take place. They were executed — quite legally — after a trial by the German government.

## "How Can I Help?"

There are many ways that each of us can make a difference. Here are a few suggestions:

(1) **Become an active member** of the White Rose Collective. Come to our next meeting. Make friends, participate, take action!

(2) **Educate yourself** about U.S. nuclear strategy, civil disobedience, legal issues, etc. Form a study group. See the suggested reading list (over).

(3) **Circulate a petition** calling for Katya's release pending a fair trial and demanding an end to development of all nuclear first strike systems. (We will provide the petition.)

*(continued on reverse side)*



## "How Can I Help?"

(continued from reverse side)

(4) **Host a "house party"** (in your living room or community center) featuring a video of Katya discussing her case. Our volunteers can bring the video and provide information, or you can do it yourself.

(5) **Help us inform the media** (radio, TV, magazines, newspapers) about Katya's situation and U.S. first-strike development.

(6) **Protest local defense contractors** who develop nuclear first-strike systems. (Contact us for organized protest actions.)

(7) **Help pay for Katya's appeal** (a good legal defense is expensive, even when the lawyers are working pro bonos) and for educational outreach (ie., this newsletter, postage, leaflets, phone bills, etc.) Make a donation/help us raise funds.

(8) **Write a letter to Katya** (she would really appreciate it). Send it to Susan Katya Komisaruk, P.O. Box 19121, Spokane, WA 99219.

(9) **Participate in local events.**



*Meetings held 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, 12-2 p.m., in Santa Monica.*

**DIRECTIONS:** Taken 10 Fwy west. Exit on 4th St. (just before the ocean). Turn left on 4th St., going south. Cross Pico Blvd. (lights). Cross Ocean Park Blvd. (divided street). Turn right onto Hill St. Go two blocks to 2nd Street. Church in Ocean Park is at corner of 2nd and Hill St. We meet downstairs.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**March 11-20:** Nevada Test Site occupation and blockade (civil disobedience optional). A critical action at the site of all U.S. nuclear weapons testing. If Katya weren't in prison, she would be here. Call So. Cal. Sane/Freeze (213) 938-2344.

**March 12:** Legal demonstration at Nevada Test Site, with 5,000 expected. Non-violence training and transportation available.

**March 20:** White Rose meeting, 12-2 p.m.

**April 3:** 12 noon sharp! Human peace symbol for global disarmament will be formed. Westwood Federal Bldg., 11000 Wilshire Blvd. (at 405 Fwy). Call (213) 399-1000.

**April 9:** Coalition '88 March and Rally in downtown L.A. Join thousands to kick off the biggest voter registration and turnout ever in L.A. Protest allocation of precious resources to weapons instead of people. 11 a.m. at Pershing Square, 6th and Olive Streets. And 1 p.m. at L.A. City Hall. (213) 470-6537, (714) 499-1801.

**April 15-17:** Santa Cruz, CA — Regional strategy conference to stop first-strike preparations. (213) 452-5068, (408) 297-2299.

**April 17:** White Rose Meeting, 12-2 p.m.

**April 18:** Santa Cruz, CA. Nonviolent resistance action to shut down Trident II facility. (See April 15-17 above.)

**April 29:** L.A. area protest at local military facility, part of national weekend of protests sponsored by the Pledge of Resistance, (213) 660-4457.

**April 30-May 1:** Mass demonstration in S.F. (4/30/88) and Concord Naval Weapons Station (5/1/88) to stop arms shipments to El Salvador. (415) 655-1177.

**May 1:** White Rose Meeting, 12-2 p.m.

**May 15:** White Rose Meeting, 12-2 p.m.

**June 5:** White Rose Meeting, 12-2 p.m.

**June 19:** White Rose Meeting, 12-2 p.m.

**July 1988 and beyond:** Call (213) 281-1150 to confirm date and location of White Rose meetings.

**July 18-21:** Atlanta, GA. The Democratic National Convention. Proposed national action to demand an end to continuing nuclear weapons development and U.S. first-strike policy. (408) 427-0322.

**1989:** Proposed formation of a full-time, peace army. With hundreds of "sponsored" participants to wage a sustained campaign of nonviolent resistance and direct nuclear disarmament at key first-strike facilities. (408) 427-0322.

## Suggested Reading

*Some good ways to stay aware of resistance groups and actions in your area:*

### SUBSCRIBE TO:

- Grassroots Peace Directory, (203) 928-2616. Listings of peace groups nationwide. \$3-\$8, depending on region.
- L.A. Peace Directory. A listing of over 100 L.A. area organizations. Call (213) 478-8906 or send \$6 to L.A. Peace Directory, 1355 Westwood Blvd., Suite 201, L.A., CA 90024.
- The Nuclear Resister, P.O. 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733.
- Peace Conversion Times, c/o Alliance for Survival, 200 N. Main st., Suite M-2, Santa Ana, CA 92701. (714) 547-6282.



**BOOKS RECOMMENDED** — All available through mail or in person from Midnight Special Bookstore, 1350 SM Mall, Santa Monica, CA 90401, (213) 393-2923, or any good independent bookstore can order these for you:

- *Swords Into Plowshares: Nonviolent Direct Action For Disarmament*, edited by Arthur Laffin and Anne Montgomery. Describes the rich spiritual background of nonviolent resistance, and the practical issues involved in taking such action. Highly recommended by Katya and others.
- *First-Strike: The Pentagon's Strategy For Nuclear War* by Robert Aldridge, unflinching logic and an insider's knowledge.
- *To Win A Nuclear War: The Pentagon's Secret War Plans* by Michio Kaku and Daniel Axelrod, with a foreword by Ramsey Clark.
- *Nuclear Battlefields* by William Arkin. The status of nuclear weapons in the U.S. and all over the world. Includes a list of peace organizations.
- *The People's Guide to National Defense* by Sheila Tobias.
- *The Wizards of Armageddon* by Fred Kaplan.

## Yes! I'd like to help!

- Please put me on your mailing list.
- I'd like to help pay for legal and other costs. Enclosed is:
  - \$5  \$10  \$25  \$50  \$100
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Here's what I can do to help:
  - Join the White Rose Collective.
  - Educate myself, join a study group.
  - Distribute petitions/newsletters/leaflets
  - Host a "house party."
  - Help inform the media.
  - Help raise money.
  - Participate in protests.

Make checks payable to:  
**White Rose Collective**  
 P.O. Box 1873, Venice, CA 90294  
 (213) 281-1150

### Now Available from White Rose Collective

Qty.	Item	Price Each
___	Leaflet: Katya interview in L.A. Weekly . . . . .	10¢
___	Leaflet: Navstar and First Strike by M. Kaku . . . . .	10¢
___	Leaflet: First Strike — What Can We Do? . . . . .	10¢
___	Leaflet: Int'l Law/Nuremberg Principles . . . . .	10¢
<i>Please include self-addressed stamped envelope.</i>		
___	Cassette: Katya's interview on KPFC, 90 min. . . . .	\$10.00
___	T-Shirt: "The White Rose" w/purple rose in prison. . . . .	\$10
Specify size: _____		

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_