

TRANSFORM NOW PLOUGHSHARES

1pm - 4pm , Saturday January 23rd, Birmingham



Come and hear Sister Megan Rice speak about how, along with two other Christian peace activists, she caused "The biggest security breach in the history of the [USA's] atomic complex" (The New York Times), shut down a nuclear weapons plant for two weeks, and what it was like to spend two years in prison as a result.

"The Holy Spirit guided us" – Sister Megan Rice

**at Parish Hall, Sts John and Martin Catholic Church,
George Street, Balsall Heath, Birmingham B12 9RG**

Sr Megan Rice is coming to Birmingham as part of a European Speaking Tour. Public transport details are available from contact below.

Event Organised by:

Birmingham Catholic Worker, and Pax Christi

Contact: Martin Newell:

martin_newell1967@yahoo.co.uk

mob: 07985 738 464

home: 0121 772 7933



In July 2012, 3 Christian peace activists calling themselves the ‘**Transform Now Plowshares**’ entered the secure area and ‘deadly force zone’ around what was supposed to be the most secure building in the USA, and probably the world, at the Y2K "Highly Enriched Uranium Facility" in Oakridge, Tennessee. Once there, they hammered on the cornerstone of the building, which houses the world's largest store of nuclear weapons grade uranium, enough for 10,000 warheads. According to Wikipedia, "The National Nuclear Security Administration has [called] the security breach "unprecedented." Independent security contractor, WSI, has since had a week long "security stand-down," [and] a halt to weapons production."

The three activists, all associated with the Catholic Worker movement, were Sr Megan Rice (82), Greg Boertje-Obed (57) and Michael R Walli (62). Following the tradition of active non-violence and the ‘Plowshares movement’ , they took responsibility for their actions, were arrested, tried in court and initially sentenced to between 3 and 5 years in prison. However after serving two years, in September 2015 they were released on appeal on the basis of 'time served', with 2 years probation.

The Plowshares Movement

The Plowshares (or Plowshares, US spelling) movement started in 1980, and there have been approaching 100 such actions by now. They involved symbolically disarming, with household hammers, military equipment, and so enflashing the Biblical prophecies of Isaiah and Micah, "they shall hammer their swords into plowshares." This mostly Christian movement initially focused on nuclear weapons, but has broadened out to major weapons systems in general. Activists always take responsibility for their actions, and seek to argue their case in court, risking long prison sentences. The most recent Plowshares action at this point is the ‘No Muos’ Plowshares action in Italy.

For more info see: <https://transformnowplowshares.wordpress.com/>
http://www.democracynow.org/2015/5/19/how_an_85_year_old_nun
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plowshares_Movement
<http://tridentplowshares.org/the-plowshares-movement/>