



PRESS RELEASE

Fasting and pilgrimage for nuclear disarmament

Montreal, July 17, 2019 – In the United States, four women and three men, all Catholics, are charged with trespassing for entering a military base in the hopes of drawing attention on the threat that the very existence of nuclear weapons represents for the survival of humanity. Their act took place on April 4, 2018, on the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's assassination. All are subject to a 25-year sentence in jail. Three have been held in custody since last year and the others have been granted bail with conditions.

The Social Action Office of the Catholic Church of Montreal, following the example of many groups and personalities, asks the Attorney General of the United States to immediately dismiss the charges against the accused and to release them. Along with the *Échec à la guerre* coalition, it encourages the population to sign the international petition on this issue.

Moreover, standing in solidarity with the fast and vigil taking place in Georgia (GA) on August 6 to 9, the Social Action Office invites everybody who can to fast for 24 hours as of August 5, at 7:15 p.m., the moment at which the Hiroshima bomb was dropped, taking into account the time difference.

One can fast at home, at work or on vacation. People are invited to fast together and to visit places of significance in Montreal, namely the Japanese Garden *Espace pour la vie*, attending the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony on August 5 at 7:00 p.m.. Some fasters will be at Mary Queen of the World Cathedral, to attend the Mass for the Feast of Transfiguration on August 6 at 12:10 p.m.; and shall visit the John Lennon and Yoko Ono bed-in exhibition in the hall of Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel in the afternoon.

As Louise Royer, director of the Social Action Ministry Office says: "I acknowledge the courage of the people from Plowshares in the United States. I want them to know that in the greater Montreal area, many people share their vision of a world free from the nuclear threat. This is what the social teaching of the Church's vision is, as well as ours."

For more information or an interview, please contact:

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Helpful links:

Kings Bay Plowshares 7 website with the English petition:

<http://kingsbayplowshares7.org/>

Reference to the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*:

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/justpeace/documents/rc_pc_justpeace_doc_20060526_compendio-dott-soc_fr.html#Le%20d%C3%A9sarmement

Exhibition at Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel: <https://www.fairmont.fr/queen-elizabeth-montreal/promotions/bedin-50th-anniversary/>

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony, at the Botanical Garden:

<http://calendrier.espacepourelavie.ca/hiroshima-peace-memorial-ceremony-864362>

Information in French: <https://echealaguerre.org>

Petition calling for the withdrawal of charges: https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/signez-la-petition-mondiale-pour-le-rejet-des-accusations-contre-les-militant-e-s-anti-nucleaires-de-lorganisation-plowshares-qui-risquent-25-ans-demprisonnement?source=direct_link