

# WORLD & NATION

## 12 arrested at School of the Americas protest

By Mark Pattison  
Catholic News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — Twelve protesters were arrested in a demonstration held at the Pentagon against the Army's School of the Americas.

The protest, which drew 200 to the U.S. military headquarters complex just outside Washington, featured a costumed Uncle Sam leading a dozen people, each representing a Latin American nation, to the Pentagon's parade grounds, where they were "shot" by a cardboard machine gun.

The protest came near the end of an April 19-29 vigil seeking support for a bill introduced by U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy, D-Mass., to close the School of the Americas, a training ground at Fort Benning, Ga., for Latin American military officers.

As security officers arrested the protesters, and later as they led them away, a loud cheer rose up from the others.

As the protest started, they read aloud a pledge of nonviolent action, vowing "openness, friendliness and respect" to all, including the targets of their protest.

"We stand for life. We stand for nonviolence," said Art Laffin of the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker house in Washington, who began the rally outside the main entrance of the Pentagon as workers silently filed in for another day at work.

"Hear our nonviolent witness on behalf of victims created by the Pentagon, the No. 1 killing institution in the world. We come here in humility and a spirit of repentance," Laffin said.

Maryknoll Father Roy Bourgeois, who started his campaign to shut down the School of the Americas six years ago, said the Pentagon action was one of the "sacred



CNS/Bob Foller

**Police arrest an unidentified man in clericals outside the Pentagon April 28 during a protest by religious groups against an Army military training center. About 200 people gathered to demand the closure of the School of the Americas, located in Georgia.**

moments in the struggle for peace and justice.... We are here to speak for those whose voices have been silenced."

Paddy Inman, one of the organizers, said Bolivia, Nicaragua and El Salvador, the three nations with the highest number of School of the Americas graduates, are also the three nations with the worst human rights records in Latin America.

Graduates target religious leaders, labor organizers, educators and student groups in their home nations, Inman said. "They have left a trail of blood and suffering in every country where they have returned," he added.

Carmelite Sister Mary Ann Foley read a list of School of the Americas graduates, one from each country, followed by some of their activities. The list included former Panama strongman Manuel Noriega, plus

people found responsible for the Washington car-bombing death of Chilean exile Orlando Letelier and the massacre at El Mozote, El Salvador.

"How do you find the defendant?" she asked. "Guilty!" replied the protesters.

As the sky's overcast gradually lifted, the protesters walked most of the way around the Pentagon to its parade grounds.

After the mock executions, some protesters dug up chunks of dirt from the ground and tossed them atop the "executed" to signify their graves.

Phoebe Knopf of Boston, who represented El Salvador during the mock execution, said she has been involved in peace and justice causes for the past 24 years, but turned her attention to the School of the Americas after traveling to El Salvador. There she said she met Rufina Amaya, the

sole survivor of the El Mozote massacre, which took more than 1,000 lives, including that of her husband and four children.

Knopf, 42, told Catholic News Service she is given to anger upon hearing of such deeds, but "I turn my rage over to Jesus."

Tony Vento came to participate from Cleveland, the home town of Jean Donovan and Sister Dorothy Kazel, two of the four churchwomen slain in El Salvador in 1980. Of those tried for the murders, a majority were School of the Americas graduates.

Vento wept as he recounted their stories. He clutched crosses bearing their names and that of Father Ignacio Ellacuria, one of six Jesuits murdered in El Salvador in 1989 along with their housekeeper and her teenage daughter. Again of those held responsible in the deaths, a majority were School of the Americas graduates.

Bills introduced in Congress in past sessions to close down the School of the Americas have gone down to defeat. But Father Bourgeois told CNS, "It's a process. You can't shortcut (it). The School of the Americas has been hidden away for years. But you can't hide in the daylight."

He labeled as "hogwash" the notion that such protests are ineffectual and anachronistic remnants of the 1960s. "When there's an injustice, people respond," Father Bourgeois said. "Why? Because we are people of compassion, people of goodwill."

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**EDITORS' NOTE:** Father Bourgeois will talk about the School of the Americas at 7 p.m. Friday, May 16, at St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, 402 South Ave., Rochester, and at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 17, at the University of Rochester's Interfaith Chapel.

## CALENDAR

### All Dioceses

#### Religious Activities

■ **SAT, MAY 3 — Mass:** to open shrine season; the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs, Auriesville; 4 p.m.; followed Sunday by religious devotions; for information call 518/853-3033.

### Chemung Schuyler

#### Fundraisers

■ **FRI, MAY 2 — Rummage sale:** sponsored by St. Charles Borromeo Altar and Rosary Society; 132 Oakwood Ave., Elmira Heights; 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

#### Meetings

■ **MON, MAY 5 — Seminar:** "Appropriate Care for the Dying: Catholic Ministry Approach"; St. Joseph's Hospital, Cusick Meeting Room, 555 East Market St., Elmira; 7:30 p.m.; free; for reservations, information, call 607/737-7004.

### Monroe County

#### Education

■ **SAT, MAY 3 — Ceremony:** "Generations — A Celebration of Notre Dame"; Holiday Inn

Rochester South; Edward J. Nowak, Sister Patricia A. Schoelles, SSJ, and James P. Goetz will be honored; 5:45 p.m.; for tickets or more information call Gail Burke, 716/248-9682, evenings.

#### Fundraisers

■ **MAY 2-3 — Garage sale:** sponsored by the Aquinas Parents' Association; Aquinas Institute, 1127 Dewey Ave., Rochester; Fri. 4-8 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; for information call 716/458-1820, 716/654-9217 or 716/225-6400.

■ **MAY 3-4 — Garage sale:** sponsored by the Nazareth Academy Parents' Association; Nazareth Academy, 1001 Lake Ave., Rochester; Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; for information call 716/467-0204 or 716/865-3289.

#### Meetings

■ **MON, MAY 5 — Program:** "Creating a Favorable Environment: State Wide Regional Cooperation in Land Use Planning"; Dugan Center at St. Mary's Church, 15 St. Mary's Pl., Rochester; 7:30-9:30 p.m.; Barbara Roberts, speaker; free; refreshments; for more information call 716/232-7140.

■ **WED, MAY 7 — Program:** "First Time Home Buyers and Affordable Housing: It's Happening in Rochester Today"; Dugan Center at St. Mary's Church, 15 St. Mary's Pl., Rochester; 12:10-1:30 p.m.; free program; \$7 reserved lunch; brown bags welcome; for more information call

716/232-7140.

■ **FRI, MAY 9 — Public hearings:** "Mothers in Prison, Children in Crisis"; Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St., 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

#### Religious Activities

■ **THU, MAY 1 — Registration deadline:** for May 8 presentation, "The Potter's House"; Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Ave., Rochester; 7-8:30 p.m.; \$15; Maureen Servas, presenter; for registration or more information, call 716/473-6893.

■ **MON, MAY 5 — Registration deadline:** for May 12 "Evening of Reflection" with Fr. Thomas Green, SJ; Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Ave., Rochester; 7-9 p.m.; \$12; for registration or more information, call 716/473-6893.

■ **TUE, MAY 6 — Presentation:** "In Search of a Just World"; with Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton, auxiliary bishop of Detroit; sponsored by St. Bernard's on the Road; St. Catherine of Siena Church, 26 Mendon-Ionia Rd., Mendon; 7:30 p.m.; \$5 tickets, available at the door.

#### Social Activities

■ **THU, MAY 1 — Reservation deadline:** for May 7 Spring Reunion of St. Mary's Hospital Nurses Alumnae; Logan's Party House,

1420 Scottsville Rd., Rochester; 6 p.m.; for reservations call 716/633-0722.

■ **MAY 14 — Musical:** "Crazy for You"; Bishop Kearney High School; 125 Kings Hwy. South, Rochester; for information call 716/342-4000.

■ **FRI, MAY 2 — Registration deadline:** for PEARL Banquet; May 9, 7 p.m.; with Dr. James H. Evans; Colgate Rochester Divinity School, 1100 S. Goodman St., Rochester; \$15; for tickets call 716/271-1320, ext. 250.

■ **SAT, MAY 3 — Miniature golf:** with the St. Thomas More Singles' Club; Putt-Putt, 3340 W. Ridge Rd., Rochester; 6:30 p.m.; for more information call 716/482-5656.

■ **MAY 3-4 — Concert:** "Festival of Music"; Genesee Valley Orchestra and Chorus; Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 4095 East Ave., Rochester; Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 4 p.m.

■ **SUN, MAY 4 — Celebration:** of 80th year of St. Andrew's Rosary Society; 2 p.m.; St. Andrew's Church, 923 Portland Ave., Rochester; for information call 716/467-7107.

#### Workshop

■ **SAT, MAY 3 — Scrapbook Day:** workshop; sponsored by Creative Memories; St. Mark's Catholic Church, 54 Kuhn Rd., Greece; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; \$20; for more information or to register, call 716/671-1635.

### Seneca Cayuga

#### Fundraisers

■ **SAT, MAY 3 — Bake sale:** sponsored by St. Patrick's Church; Seneca Falls-Waterloo Wal-Mart; 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

#### Meetings

■ **TUE, MAY 6 — Meeting:** Wounded Healers' Bereavement Support Group; St. Joseph's School, 17 Clymer St., Auburn; 7:30-9 p.m.; call 315/252-7661.

### Steuben County

#### Religious Activities

■ **THU, MAY 8 — Prayer:** buffet, Marian Program; sponsored by Court St. Joseph 139, Catholic Daughters of the Americas; Radisson Hotel, Denison Pkwy., Corning; 11 a.m.; for information call 607/936-3663.

### Yates Ontario Wayne

#### Religious Activities

■ **FRI, MAY 2 — Nocturnal Adoration:** St. Mary's Church Chapel, 95 N. Main St., Canandaigua; 7-8 p.m.