



## **NATIONAL WAR TAX RESISTANCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE (NWTRCC)**

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### **May 2020**

Friends,

In January 2020, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists moved the hands on their Doomsday Clock to 100 seconds to nuclear midnight; the closest we have ever been to nuclear annihilation since the clock was created in 1947.

100 seconds. Less time than it will take you to read this letter.

100 seconds. A few breaths in and out.

Of course, the Bulletin made this decision before the global pandemic took hold, killing more than a hundred thousand people, shutting down economies throughout the world, and giving a boost to autocrats everywhere.

As I write this in mid-April 2020 in southeastern Connecticut, the tulips are starting to bloom, green buds cluster on branches, and the birds feel free to perch on every available spot. The world—my world, at least—is fairly quiet and breathtakingly beautiful.

But, while schools and stores and most businesses are closed and people are committed to physical distancing, the war machine grinds on. In my community, Electric Boat and its parent company General Dynamics continue to design and build nuclear powered nuclear armed submarines. The United States has a fleet of more than 60 submarines of various classes; each submarine carries the power of 5,000 bombs like the one that destroyed Hiroshima.



**Frida and her daughter  
Madeline Vida show off their WRL  
Track Club sweatshirts!**

Electric Boat was awarded a \$22 billion contract late last year to build nine more submarines for the Navy, and they are hard at work even in the midst of the pandemic outbreak. That the company is hell-bent on keeping their production lines going even as their workers get sick and die is just one example of how the pandemic is shining new light on the fundamental flaws in our national priorities. There is money for more nuclear submarines, but not for life-saving personal protective equipment and a public health infrastructure that can be resilient and responsive in the face of this virus. There is money for weapons manufacturers, but not for the people who continue to work in grocery stores, hospitals, and manufacturing at grave risk. There is money for big business

bailouts, but not for local economies hit hard by this outbreak.



This is why my husband and I are war tax resisters. It doesn't seem like much in the midst of all our country and our world are dealing with right now, but there is something empowering about organizing our lifestyle and our wage earning in such a way that our household doesn't "owe" the government anything. This work enlivens and makes real that old adage "live simply so that others may simply live." [NWTRCC helps connect us to each other, share our stories, and learn from one another and these days that is an essential service, isn't it? We support NWTRCC and I hope you will too.](#)

And while so much has changed, some things just continue, like the Kings Bay Plowshares—who finally have sentencing dates at the end of May (Check out <https://kingsbayplowshares7.org/> for more info), more than two years after their nonviolent transformation of swords into plowshares at a Georgia Trident base.

And as the pandemic shines a bright light on the worst of disaster capitalism, it is also calling forth the best in all of us—our human need to connect even at a compassionate distance, our commitment to empathy and solidarity and resistance: one great example of this is the creative car actions at jails and detention facilities across the country.

Yes, we resist, we celebrate beauty, we stay human, we create; for the next 100 seconds, for the next generation, for our suffering world, for a lifetime... however long that ends up being.

Peace,

*Frida Berrigan*

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