

Political Prisoner

Helen Woodson

Charges

On November 12, 1984, Helen Woodson broke into the Whiteman Airforce Base in Missouri and proceeded to dismantel a Minuteman II missile silo with a jackhammer. She was apprehended and sentenced to 12 years in the Administrative Maximum Federal Prison for Women, a small high security unit located on the grounds of Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth, Texas.



Helen was paroled in 1993. The next day, she held up a Chicago area bank with a starting pistol, placed the loot on the floor of the lobby and ignited it, illustrating her statement that condemned the lust for money as the root of all evil. She was sentenced to nine years and seven months. After serving her sentence plus time for parole violation, Helen was released on probation in May of 2004. On her first report to the probation office, Helen poured red paint of the reception desk stating that should could not be complicit with a system that "legitimize[s] nuclear war by protecting the weapons while punishing the resisters".

Currently, Helen is in her 19th year of incarceration with an estimated seven years until release.

Bio

Helen Woodson is an activist with Project Plowshares who takes her motivation for antiwar activism from the Bible's plea to "beat swords into plowshares." She is 63 years old and has two grandchildren who she has never met. Helen has consistantly pursued a path of non-cooperation with the court and 'judicial' system and, on her first conviction, told the judge that she would not accept a sentence reduction unless he chose to resign his position and join her in dismantling missle silos.

Helen is a committed Christian. She opposes abortion, but writes "I realize that this is a sensitive issue, and I do not judge those who make that choice."

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