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LATEST NEWS 4th December

No gaol for Peace Pilgrims: sentence

Justice John Reeves has rejected the Crown's call for custodial sentences for the six Pine Gap Peace Pilgrims, sentencing them in the Federal Court in Brisbane today.

Instead, for their acts of non-violent civil disobedience, the Pilgrims have been fined between \$1250 and \$5000, with convictions recorded.

Alice Springs Court finds the Five Peace Pilgrims Guilty.

Ninety submissions for clemency made to Judge by community organisations and individuals



Outside the court after the verdict, the Pilgrims remained resolute, putting on a stirring performance of the peace song: "I'm going to lay down my sword and shield down by the riverside, I ain't going to study war no more".

The jury took just half an hour to finalise their deliberations this morning. They found the five Peace Pilgrims guilty of entering Pine Gap prohibited area on 29 September 2016. This was the verdict of them all.

They also found Andrew Paine guilty of the additional count, possessing a photographic apparatus in the prohibited area. Sentencing submissions will be made this afternoon.

Peace Pilgrim Paul Christie, whose trial was concluded last week, will be sentenced this afternoon.

Sentencing of all six Peace Pilgrims, including Mr Christie, has been set down for December 4. They have been bailed to appear from their respective cities of

residence, Cairns and Brisbane.

In relation to the five whose trial concluded today, the Crown has called for imprisonment as the only appropriate sentence in the circumstances, although Michael McHugh SC pointed out that imprisonment can take different forms, such as suspended sentences with various conditions.

The court broke early for lunch the day that 20-year-old Franz Dowling testified, because he cried on the stand about the people that are being killed by drones.

At the conclusion of the trial, Andy Paine said, "We are not afraid of jail."

Margaret Pestorius added, "People tell us blessed are the peacemakers. We went to that place to pray. I would be very concerned if prayer for peace is shut down."



Scott Ludlam speaking in support of the Five Peace Pilgrims at joint IPAN &

