

Protesters released, won't be sent to jail

By Hon Walker
Emerald Associate Editor

All 29 demonstrators charged for their El Salvador protest activities at the Federal Building Monday have been released from federal custody.

Representatives from the local U.S. Marshal's office, as well as federal protective officers who made the arrests, would not give out information about the citations, arrests or demonstration.

The arrested protesters were charged with unlawfully obstructing a federal building entrance, said assistant federal attorney Deborah Dealy-Browning.

Of those arrested, 12 were arraigned and 14 were cited. All 29 protesters were released Monday afternoon. Charges against two minors will not be pursued. The 12 who were arraigned will be sentenced Dec. 7.

The maximum punishment for the offense is six months imprisonment or a \$500 fine.

Civil rights attorney David Atkin said the protesters were cooperative and peaceful when they were arrested.

"In true Gandhian style, they felt it was important to get arrested and take the consequences," Atkin said.

Federal officials indicated Monday that they would not ask for the protesters to spend time in jail, Atkin said. Instead, he said, protesters might be able to carry out their penalties by performing community service, in the form of work for a government or nonprofit agency.

Don Clark, spokesman for the General Services Administration in Seattle, said the 29 demonstrators were charged after failing to disperse at the request of a federal officer, and 17 of them were then released.

The remaining 12 were held in custody until Monday afternoon because they had refused to divulge their names and addresses to authorities, Clark said.

The demonstrators were among 300 who began their vigil Sunday afternoon. A number of them spent the night in a shantytown in front of the Federal Building, and they planned to block doors to the building Monday morning.

Federal authorities knew about the protest, and the entrances to the building were kept locked, which is a normal procedure in such cases, Clark said.

Although city police officers also knew of the protest and were on standby Monday morning, they made no arrests, said Public Safety Department spokesman Tim Birr.

"We were advised there would be a protest and civil disobedience," Birr said. However, he added that federal protective officers of the General Services Administration made all arrests.

"The protest was on federal property, it was a federal matter, and federal authorities elected to take on the matter themselves," Birr said.

A bill supported by Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) passed on the floor of the House Monday, a bill that would end U.S. aid to the El Salvadoran government and send money instead to independent relief organizations, said Matthew Kimble, Washington press secretary for DeFazio.

DeFazio also has cosponsored a bill introduced in the House Monday, which calls for an end to U.S. aid to El Salvador unless a number of conditions are met, including government and judiciary reforms as well as a cease fire in the civil war, Kimble said.

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going to make that hazard go away."

The University delayed announcing that chemical dumping possibly occurred on the research park site because the claims were only rumors, Williams said.

The western end of the research park, which is leased to the Eugene Water and Electric Board, the soccer field, and the Silva Orchard area are among several areas to be assessed.

EWEB reportedly uses PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) oils

and creosote to treat power poles on the property, Williams said.

The Silva Orchard, near the east end of the site, may have herbicide or pesticide residue from its previous use as a commercial fruit orchard, Williams said.

The soccer field is where Williams said holes were dug and glass and metal containers were deposited by the chemistry department.

Williams said the first phase of the project would cost about

\$60,000, and could last three or four months.

A source for funding the study has not yet been determined, he said.

Investigators from L.R. Squier Associates, Inc. will take water and soil samples and make visual inspections of adjacent properties as part of their analysis during the first phase.

A report will be prepared on what action the University should take if chemical substances are discovered on the research park site.

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