

WHY DRONES MAKE US LESS SAFE

Unmanned aerial vehicles, commonly called drones, are used for surveillance, targeted assassination and bombing suspicious sites; are used to attack ‘enemies’ who may be Americans, in countries we are not at war with (as well as those we are). Reaper drone aircraft are flown over Afghanistan from Hancock Air Base, which is located right next door in a suburb of Syracuse.

The US is increasingly coming to depend on drones in its "Global War on Terror," from Pakistan and Afghanistan to Somalia and Yemen.

Former Syracuse Congressman, James Walsh, hailed the arrival of drones in our backyard. Not only do they provide a few jobs, but these killers make it possible for a “pilot” to work all morning (attacking targets in Afghanistan, for example), and “then go home for lunch in Camillus.”

So, although they are unmanned robots, the drones do have “pilots.” These pilots are operating in cyberspace from control rooms thousands of miles away from the battleground. But is their location (Syracuse, for instance) now in the legal war zone?



A Drone Pilot can work all day attacking targets in a remote warzone like Afghanistan or Pakistan, and then go home for dinner with his wife and kids.

Five reasons why we must oppose the drones:

- Many of us oppose these wars overseas. But without our consent, drones will make Central New York a part of the battlefield.
- Like many other high-tech weapon systems, drones tend to kill mostly innocent civilians.
- Because many civilians are maimed and killed, the drones stir up deep hatred. This could lead to retaliation against U.S. civilians, not only overseas, but here. The cycle of violence cannot be stopped by more violence.
- Because the “pilots” themselves take no risks and never end up killed in action, drones make it easier to go to war. And they make it easier to escalate the wars we’re already in. This leads to a state of perpetual war. As the Viet Nam War era saying went, “War isn’t good for children and other living things.”
- Drones are cowardly. They are the weapons of rich, powerful nations invading poor, weak nations with few defenses. There is no honor in this.

Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars

Go to <http://upstatedroneaction.org> for a drone news, links to other sites and our blog.

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