

Hancock Air Base Defendants' (Expired) Orders Of Protection Re-Issued

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DE WITT, NY JUDGE RE-ISSUES HANCOCK AIR BASE DEFENDANTS'
EXPIRED ORDERS OF PROTECTION, SUPPRESSING THEIR FIRST
AMENDMENT RIGHTS TO PROTEST DRONE WAR CRIMES THERE**

In 2012 on October 25, seventeen U.S. Americans, as part of Upstate Drone Action's ongoing campaign to expose the extensive killings of innocent civilians by weaponized Reaper drones piloted from Hancock Air Base, were arrested as they protested outside the base, blocking its three entrances.

Upon arraignment that day in the DeWitt, New York town court, the 17 were given year-long Orders of Protection (OOP), at the request of Col. Earl A. Evans, forbidding their return to Hancock, home of the 174th Attack [sic] Wing of the NY Air National Guard.

Typically a court uses an OOP to protect vulnerable women and children from domestic violence. In this case, according to defendant Ed Kinane of Syracuse, "the court is bastardizing the OOP to suppress our First Amendment right to petition our government for redress of grievance." On Oct. 25, 2012 the defendants had unsuccessfully attempted to bring a citizens' war crime indictment to Hancock.

Last night (Oct. 30) DeWitt court Judge David Gideon renewed the expired OOP until April 30, 2014, or until the conclusion of the 17's trial for Trespass and Disorderly Conduct, now finally scheduled for **5 pm December 12.**