

# Nov 1 Press Release

## N E W S      R E L E A S E

November 3, 2011

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **UPDATE: Trial Date Finalized for Hancock 38 Drone Resisters:**

#### **Trial Begins Nov 2**

Opening arguments for the Hancock 38 Drone Resisters Trial will begin in DeWitt Town Court (5400 Butternut, East Syracuse) on Wednesday November 2 at 5 pm. The trial was originally scheduled to begin on Tuesday, November 1; instead the evening was spent on arraigning the defendants on a new charge and examining people's abilities to go pro se (defend themselves) on that charge.

Thirty-one people will be going to trial for their die-in at the main entrance of Hancock Air National Guard Base on April 22, 2011, protesting the piloting and maintenance of the hunter/killer Reaper drones at the Base.

Tuesday afternoon, the Hancock defendants and their supporters gathered at the Federal Building in downtown Syracuse, where they enacted a symbolic tableau showing the results of drone attacks in Afghanistan. People then met with Senator Gillibrand's aide and later brought their protest to the main entrance of Hancock Air Base. Court began at 5pm with a packed courtroom of about 85 people.

Defendant Rae Kramer stated, "The drones were sold to Syracuse

as a 'Jobs Program', but they are a poor excuse for jobs. We should have jobs that build the local society rather than draw locals into foreign wars."

The action was sponsored by the Upstate NY Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars, of which the Syracuse Peace Council is a part. The Coalition consists of activists from Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, Ithaca, Rochester, Syracuse and Utica.