

# Hancock Nativity Tableau Charges Dismissed

Press Release

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478-4571 home

contact: Ed Kinane 315)

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John Amidon 518) 312-6442 cell

CHARGES DISMISSED AGAINST 12/23 "NATIVITY FOUR" HANCOCK REAPER DRONE PROTESTERS FOLLOWING LAST WEEK'S JURY ACQUITTAL OF THE "BIG BOOKS" HANCOCK DRONE PROTESTERS

In a surprise move, DeWitt Town Court Judge David Gideon dismissed charges against all four\* Upstate Drone Action activists protesting the hunter/killer MQ9 Reaper drones piloted over Afghanistan by the 174th Attack Wing of the NY National Guard at Hancock AFB just north of Syracuse NY.

The four had staged a December 23, 2016 "Nativity tableau" in front of Hancock's main gate, at 6001 East Molloy Road in the Town of DeWitt. The four protesters were charged with trespass, disorderly conduct and obstruction of government administration. (OGA). OGA is a misdemeanor requiring a jury and carrying up to a year's sentence.

Judge Gideon explained last night's dismissal by noting that the accusatory documents provided by Hancock repeatedly referred to the 12/23 "Nativity" arrests as occurring on Federal property – which the Judge declared outside his jurisdiction.

In a three-day trial culminating on March 2, 2017, also before Judge Gideon, a six-person jury, after deliberating about a half hour, acquitted all defendants of the same charges for

their "Big Books" action at Hancock on March 19, 2015

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- John Amidon, Albany, 518) 312-6442, [jajaja1234@aol.com](mailto:jajaja1234@aol.com)
- Ed Kinane, Syracuse, 315) 478-4571 home;  
[edkinane340@gmail.com](mailto:edkinane340@gmail.com)
- Jules Orkin, Bergenfield, NJ, 201) 566-8403,  
[julesorkin@yahoo.com](mailto:julesorkin@yahoo.com)
- Bev Rice, New York City, 646) 335-2404, [nycbev85@aol.com](mailto:nycbev85@aol.com)

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