

# Protesters Speak Out at Hancock (Video)

Hancock is a Reaper Drone hub on the US mainland which is focused on training drone pilots and technicians, and flies deadly Reaper drone missions over Afghanistan and Pakistan. Hancock is scheduled to increase it's personnel by half over the coming year. Upstate Drone Action members have been engaging in civil resistance at Hancock since 2011.

On September 26th, activists delivered a People's Indictment to the base and stood in the inbound lane of the main entrance to Hancock with signs and images of the ongoing holocaust caused by drone killing. After about an hour the activists were arrested and charged with Trespass and Disorderly Conduct.

*Heriberto Rodriguez filmed the following series of interviews with activists at the base shortly before their arrests.*

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## Hancock Litany for Good Friday

*Written by Jack Gilroy...[www.bensalmon.org](http://www.bensalmon.org)*

### Good Friday Prayer for 174th Attack Wing

Video by *Judy Bello*

Men of the 174th Attack Wing, **Stop the Killing**

Women of the 174th Attack Wing, **Stop the Killing**

Men & Women of the 174th Attack Wing, **Stop Drone Crucifixions**

Men & women of the 174th Attack Wing, **—Leave the Military**

People of Iraq

**Forgive us our Killer Drones**

People of Afghanistan

**Forgive us our Killer Drones**

People of Pakistan

**Forgive us our Killer Drones**

People of Syria

**Forgive us our Killer Drones**

People of Yemen

**Forgive us our Killer Drones**

People of Libya

**Forgive us our Killer Drones**

People of Somalia

**Forgive us our Killer Drones**

People of Gaza

**Forgive us our Killer Drones**

Our Tax Dollars for Death

**Forgive Us**

Slaughtered Native Americans

**Forgive Us**

Teaching Hate

**Forgive Us**

Our Sins against our Black brothers and sisters

**Forgive Us**

Tortured people of the Philippines

**Forgive Us**

United States invasions of Mexico

**Forgive Us**

United States invasions of Haiti

**Forgive Us**

United States invasions of Nicaragua

**Forgive Us**

United States imperialism in Latin America

**Forgive Us**

United States killings in the Great War

**Forgive Us**

60 Million dead in World War II

**Forgive Us**

Calling 60 Million dead a 'Good War'

**Forgive Us**

Believing War can be Just

**Forgive Us**

Christian Churches' Silence in Nazi Germany

**Forgive Us**

German Catholic Bishops' silence

**Forgive Us**

Lutheran Church Silence

**Forgive Us**

Dresden Fire Bombed

**Forgive Us**

Hiroshima Incinerated

**Forgive Us**

Nagasaki Destroyed

**Forgive Us**

Nagasaki Cathedral Ground Zero

**Forgive Us**

All Christian Crews Do Bombing

**Forgive Us**

38,000 Americans Died in World War II

**Forgive Us**

1 Million North Korean Soldiers & Civilians Killed

**Forgive Us**

United States Kills 3 Million Vietnamese

**Forgive Us**

58,000 American Troops Killed in Vietnam

**Forgive Us**

Dow Chemical's Agent Orange Devastates People and Land of Vietnam

**Forgive Us**

American Napalm Burns Vietnamese Children

**Forgive Us**

Trillions Spent on Nuclear Weapons & War Preparation

**Forgive Us**

United States Supports El Salvador Death Camps

**Forgive Us**

United States CIA Helps Assassinate 250,000 People in Guatemala

**Forgive Us**

United States Creates a Torture & Assassination School at Fort Benning, GA

**Forgive Us**

Graduates of the School of the Americas Kill Peasants and Union Leaders

**Forgive Us**

Graduates of the School of the Americas Kill Priests & Nuns

**Forgive Us**

US Troops IN 180 Countries Around the World

**Forgive Us**

US Led Sanctions Kill 500,000 Iraqi Children

**Forgive Us**

United States Slaughters Fleeing Iraqi Soldiers

**Forgive Us**

US Troops Stationed in Muslim Countries

**Forgive Us**

Invasion and Occupation of Afghanistan

**Forgive Us**

Shock and Awe Bombings of Iraq Kill Civilians by the Thousands

**Forgive Us**

Two Million People Flee American War Making in Iraq

**Forgive Us**

American Violence Spreads Throughout The Middle East

**Forgive Us**

Refugees Die in the Deserts & on the Sea Fleeing Wars Promoted by the United States

**Forgive Us**

United States Rejects Middle East Refugees

**Forgive Us**

Islamophobia Sweeps the Nation

**Forgive Us**

United States Drones Assassinate People in Seven Muslim Nations

**Forgive Us**

One Half Our National Spending is for Death & Weapons

**Forgive Us**

Weapons Are Our Largest Export

**Forgive Us**

United States in Year 2017 Will Cut Assistance to the Poor & Children's Programs

**Forgive Us**

Building Walls Instead of Empathy and Generosity

Forgive Us

Our Bloated Military Budget Will be Increased \$54 Billion This Year

**Forgive Us**

Republicans & Democrats Praise Trump for Killing Syrians

**Forgive Us**

**Aaaaa men....Aaaaaa men...Amen Amen Amen**

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# **War Crimes Indictment for Good Friday**

**WAR CRIMES INDICTMENT**

[WAR\\_CRIMES\\_INDICTMENT\\_Good\\_Friday\\_2017.pdf](#)

Indictment read by Matt Ryan, recorded by Judy Bello:

[http://upstatedroneaction.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/Audio/Good\\_Friday\\_Indictment-Matt\\_Ryan.mp3](http://upstatedroneaction.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/Audio/Good_Friday_Indictment-Matt_Ryan.mp3)

To President Donald Trump, to Secretary of Defense Secretary James Mattis, to the full Military Chain of the Command, including Command Chief Michael Will, to all Service Members and civilian staff of Hancock Air Base, and to the local police and Sheriffs Department of the Town of Dewitt, NY:

Each one of you, when you became a public servant, serving in a government position or when you joined the United States Armed Forces or police, you publicly promised to uphold the United States Constitution. We take this opportunity to call your attention to Article VI of the US Constitution, which states:

*“This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.*

This clause is known as the Supremacy Clause because it provides that the Constitution and laws of the U.S., including treaties made under authority of the U.S. shall be supreme law of the land.

The Supremacy Clause provides part of the Supreme Law of the Land.

One Treaty duly ratified by the U.S. is the United Nations Charter. It was ratified by a vote of 89 to 2 in the U.S. Senate, and signed by the President in 1945. It remains in effect today. As such, it is part of supreme law of the land.

The Preamble of the U.N. Charter states that its purpose is

to “save future generation from the scourge of war” and it further states, “all nations shall refrain from the use of force against another nation.”

This Treaty applies both collectively and individually to all three branches of government, on all levels, U.S. federal, state and local governments, starting with the executive branch: the U.S. President and the executive staff; the judicial branch: all judges and staff members of the judiciary; the legislative branch: all members of the U.S. Armed Forces and all departments of Law Enforcement and all civilian staff, who have sworn to uphold the Constitution, which includes Article VI.

Under the U.N. Charter and long established international laws, anyone—civilian, military, government officials, or judge—who knowingly participates in or supports illegal use of force against another nation or its people is committing a war crime.

Today you must recognize that when you promised to uphold the Constitution, you promised to obey Treaties and International Law – as part of the Supreme Law of the Land and furthermore, under the Uniform Code of Military Justice of the U.S., you are required to disobey any clearly unlawful order from a superior.

Based on all the above,

*WE, THE PEOPLE, CHARGE THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENT, DONALD TRUMP AND THE FULL MILITARY CHAIN OF COMMAND*

*TO COMMAND CHIEF MICHAEL WILL, EVERY DRONE CREW, AND SERVICE MEMBERS AT HANCOCK AIR BASE, WITH CRIMES AGAINST PEACE & CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, WITH VIOLATIONS OF PART OF THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND, EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS, VIOLATION OF DUE PROCESS, WARS OF AGGRESSION, VIOLATION OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, AND KILLING OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS.*



We charge that the Air National Guard of the United States of America, headquartered at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base, home of the 174th Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard, under the command of the 174th Fighter Wing Commander, Command Chief Michael Will, is maintaining and deploying the MQ-9 Reaper robotic aircraft, called drones.

These drones are being used not only in combat situations for the purpose of assassinations but also for killings far removed from combat zones without military defense, to assassinate individuals and groups far removed from military action.

Extra judicial killings, such as those the U.S. carries out by drones are intentional, premeditated, and deliberate use of lethal force to commit murder in violation of U.S. and International Law.

It is a matter of public record that the US has used drones in Afghanistan and in Iraq for targeted killings to target specific individuals which has nearly always resulted in the deaths of many others.

There is no legal basis for defining the scope of area where drones can or cannot be used; no legal criteria for deciding which people can be targeted for killing, no procedural safeguards to ensure the legality of the decision to kill and the accuracy of the assassinations.

In support of this indictment, we cite the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, who has said that the use of drones creates “a highly problematic blurring and the law applicable to the use of inter-state force.... The result has been the displacement of clear legal standards with a vaguely defined license to kill, and the creation of a major accountability vacuum.... In terms of the legal framework, many of these practices violate straightforward applicable legal rules.”

See [United Nations General Assembly Human Rights Council Study on Targeted Killings](#), 28, May 2010.

The drone attacks either originating at Hancock or supported here are a deliberate illegal use of force against another nation, and as such are a felonious violation of Article VI of the US Constitution. By giving material support to the drone program, you as individuals are violating the Constitution, dishonoring your oath, and committing war crimes. We demand that you stop participating in any part of the operations of MQ-9 drones immediately, being accountable to the people of United States and Afghanistan.

As citizens of this nation, which maintains over 700 military bases around the globe, and the largest, most deadly military arsenal in the world we believe these words of Martin Luther King still hold true, "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today is my own government".

There is hope for a better world when WE, THE PEOPLE, hold our government accountable to the laws and treaties that govern the use of lethal force and war. To the extent that we ignore our laws and constitution and allow for the unchecked use of lethal force by our government, allowing the government to kill who ever it wants, where ever it wants, how ever it wants with no accountability, we make the world less safe for children everywhere.

We appeal to all United States citizens, military and civilian, and to all public officials, to do as required by the Nuremburg Principles I-VII, and by Conscience, to refuse to participate in these crimes, to denounce them, and to resist them nonviolently.

Signed by: THE UPSTATE COALITION TO GROUND THE DRONES AND END THE WARS

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# **Press Release: Hancock Drone Base Gates Closed, Drones Kill Children**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Date:** September 21, 2015

**Contacts:** John Amidon: 518-312-6442

Ellen Grady: 607-279-8303

**Drones Kill Children**

**Hancock Drone Base Gates Closed**

**FIVE ARRESTED HOLDING HUGE “DRONES KILL CHILDREN” BANNERS**

**ACROSS HANCOCK REAPER DRONE BASE MAIN ENTRANCE**

This morning, September 21, the U.N.-designated World Day of Peace, five members of the grassroots human rights coalition, Upstate (NY) Drone Action [[upstatedroneaction.org](http://upstatedroneaction.org)], were arrested as they held aloft three large banners together spanning the Hancock's main entrance and exit driveways.

Hancock is on East Molloy Road in the town of DeWitt just north of Syracuse, NY. It hosts the 174<sup>th</sup> Attack Wing of the New York Air National Guard, home of the “hunter/killer” [the Pentagon's phrase] MQ9 Reaper drone.

Reapers are unmanned robotic assassins flying missions 24/7 over Afghanistan and other Islamic nations.

One of those arrested noted,

*“The Reaper not only kills and maims humans, it destroys homes, and displaces and terrorizes whole communities. U.S. taxpayers pay for such terrorism which perpetuates violence and generates enormous ill will against the United States.”*

Today’s event at Hancock’s main gate is only one incident there in Upstate Drone Action’s persistent nonviolent campaign to expose the Hancock war crime. Since 2010 there have been over 165 anti-war-crime arrests at the base, resulting in extreme bails, maximum fines, incarcerations, and Orders of Protection...as well as some acquittals.

Those arrested: **Bonny Mahoney, Ed Kinane & Julienne Oldfield** of Syracuse and **Dan Burgevin and James Ricks** of Ithaca. All were detained but released by Onondaga County Sheriffs around noon with appearance tickets charging them with trespass and disorderly conduct. Their court date is 6 p.m., October 14, in the DeWitt (NY) Town Court.

**###**

## **DRONES KILL CHILDREN – DRONES FLY, CHILDREN DIE**

The United Nations General Assembly has declared today, September 21, 2015, as International World Day of Peace. As we stand here at the main gate of Hancock Air Base, its “hunter/killer” MQ9 Reaper Drone arrogantly patrols Afghan skies 24/7–killing innocent children there and likely elsewhere.

We, US citizens and taxpayers, look on with horror at the millions of refugees fleeing airborne terror and are shamed by our unconsented complicity. Too many drone victims are precious and beloved children. We bring their images and their silenced voices to Hancock today.

As members of the Upstate Drone Action Coalition/To Ground the

Drones and End the Wars, we come to this War Base—home of the Reaper and the 174th Attack Wing of the NY National Guard—seeking to prevent the murder of these innocents, both on this day and for all days.

Our intent is to uphold law, both domestic and international. Our intent is to bring the images of their victims both to the Hancock chain of command and to the US public.

Specifically, our intent is to day NO to the maiming, murder and terrorizing of children.

Since 2010, this grassroots Coalition has sought to expose state-sponsored drone war crime. This crime is multi-layered. It includes extrajudicial execution/assassination, contempt for due process, the undermining of international law and national sovereignty, the murder of the undeniably innocent—both within and beyond any recognized zone of war.

Unjustified on any level, save “might makes right,” such terrorism prepares fertile ground for perpetual conflict. This criminality benefits few besides war-profiteering corporations.

To the extent that WE, THE PEOPLE ignore our laws and our Constitution—allowing our government to kill whomever it wants, wherever it wants, however it wants—we make the world less safe for children here and everywhere. We demand that the Hancock chain of command and the United States STOP THE KILLING!

Upstate Drone Action Coalition/  
To Ground the Drones and End the Wars  
Town of Dewitt, New York  
21 September 2015

For more information on the Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the wars can be found at <http://upstatedroneaction.org/>.

Coverage in Syracuse Post Standard:  
[http://www.syracuse.com/crime/index.ssf/2015/09/five\\_anti-dron\\_e\\_protesters\\_arrested\\_at\\_hancock\\_airfield.html](http://www.syracuse.com/crime/index.ssf/2015/09/five_anti-dron_e_protesters_arrested_at_hancock_airfield.html)

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## Prosecution Rests in Hancock Trial

*June 25, 2015, DeWitt, NY:* Four concerned citizens are on trial before Judge Joseph Zavaglia in the DeWitt Town Court for their action at Hancock Drone Base, a suburb of Syracuse, NY, on April 28, 2013. The four are Jules Orkin of Bergenfield, NJ, Ellen Barfield of Baltimore, MD, Beverly Rice, and Joan Pleune of NYC.

Jury selection was yesterday. The jury of six and two alternates, were chosen from the Town of DeWitt. One of the jurors said he thinks Edward Snowden should be executed and that weaponized drones are good.

The Assistant District Attorney, Peter Hakes started his case today, with only one witness taking the stand. After a full day of questioning of the witness, Chief Master Sergeant Ramsey, the prosecution rested their case.

The four defendants are facing four charges, Obstruction of Governmental Administration, Trespass, and two Disorderly Conducts. If found guilty the activists could be sentenced to a year.

On April 28, 2013, 31 people were arrested as they tried to bring to the base an image of what a drone strike could look like. The defendants participated in the action.

The Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones and Stop the Wars along with colleague organizations Veterans For Peace and the Granny Peace Brigade to which the defendants belong, believe the killing is immoral and illegal, violating the United Nations Charter, and international treaty laws which under Article 6 of the US Constitution are part of the supreme law of the United States and supercede local and Federal law.

Since 2010 anti-drone activists have experienced nearly 200 arrests and numerous jail sentences at Hancock for scrupulously-nonviolent protests, as part of a national campaign to resist drones at a number of bases.

The trial will continue with the defense starting it's case on Friday morning. Please come support the defendants.

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