

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Pakistan Witness on Trial in DeWitt for Drone Resistance**

**January 15, DeWitt Town Court, 5400 Butternut Drive, East Syracuse, NY  
PRESS CONFERENCE at 3:30 PM; Jury selection begins at 4:30 PM.**

*DEWITT, N.Y.* Beginning at 4:30 on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> Bonny Mahoney, will defend herself against charges of Obstructing Governmental Administration, a misdemeanor, and Disorderly Conduct in the DeWitt Town Court for nonviolently protesting the piloting of MQ9 Reaper Drones at Hancock Air Base. Ms. Mahoney, a resident of Syracuse, will appear before Judge David S. Gideon, *pro se* (acting as her own attorney) to present her case to a six person jury.

On April 28, 2013, Ms. Mahoney was arrested when she joined 27 others in a die-in outside the front gate of Hancock Air Base, to protest their piloting of Reaper drones. Six months earlier Ms. Mahoney had traveled Pakistan to meet with families of drone victims. She stated:

“I was ashamed to say I live in a country that participates in terrorizing and killing of innocent people; where the killing of children is viewed as collateral damage.”

Ms. Mahoney’s intention was to uphold International Law, under which indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks on civilians are illegal; and the US Constitution which embraces International Law as the “supreme law of the land”. Her meetings with the families of drone victims made this a very personal mission in response to the pain and suffering caused to innocent victims and their families and communities.

A recent report in *Der Spiegel* says that largely unreported drone strikes are a daily event in Afghanistan, with a list of targets with up to 750 names on any given day. \* An Op-Ed published on *Salon.com* by a retired drone imagery analyst says that pilots were encouraged to fly even when no targets were available, and performance evaluations for drone pilots highlighted enemy kills.\*\* Worldwide, US drone strikes continue at an unprecedented rate.

Hancock Air National Guard Base is a center for piloting lethal drone missions over Afghanistan and elsewhere, training pilots and mechanics and testing Reaper drones over Lake Ontario, adjacent communities, and the Adirondacks.

Since 2010 there have been more than 150 arrests at Hancock leading to over 65 people going to trial and more than 25 citizens jailed for peacefully exercising their first amendment rights outside the gates of Hancock Base ... so far.

\*<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/secret-docs-reveal-dubious-details-of-targeted-killings-in-afghanistan-a-1010358.html>

\*\*[http://www.salon.com/2014/09/16/confessions\\_of\\_a\\_drone\\_veteran\\_why\\_using\\_them\\_is\\_more\\_dangerous\\_than\\_the\\_government\\_is\\_telling\\_you/](http://www.salon.com/2014/09/16/confessions_of_a_drone_veteran_why_using_them_is_more_dangerous_than_the_government_is_telling_you/)

\*\*\*[http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2011-08-04/news/bs-ed-afghan-violence-20110804\\_1\\_drone-strikes-drone-operators-protest-bombing](http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2011-08-04/news/bs-ed-afghan-violence-20110804_1_drone-strikes-drone-operators-protest-bombing)

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