

The Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Upstate Drone Action Reps to Visit Senators' Offices Week of Feb. 2 Seven Offices will be visited throughout NYS

February 2, 2015 Members of the Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars are meeting with the staffs of Senators Schumer and Gillibrand throughout the state to express concerns about the use of weaponized drones. Syracuse's Hancock Airbase, home to the 174th Attack Wing of the Air National Guard, pilots drone missions and provides training for pilots, sensor operators and maintenance technicians; the 107th Air Wing at the Niagara Falls air base is being groomed for a similar mission.

Peg Gefell stated that, "We vehemently oppose our government's policy of drone warfare. No one's safety is assured by the slaughter of innocent children and civilians. Our continuing campaign over the last four years occurs both at the Hancock Airbase gate and at many subsequent courtroom trials in the Dewitt Town Court. We come to ask you to be accountable to the laws and treaties that govern the use of lethal force and war. Extrajudicial killings, the killing of civilians, wars of aggression and violating due process and national sovereignty are crimes against peace and violate the UN Charter."

The activists will bring a letter from Afghani Raz Mohammed requesting that the U.S. courts protect his family and village from drone attacks. His brother-in-law and four of his friends had been killed in a drone attack.

The Senators will be asked to sponsor legislation prohibiting the use of militarized drones when the U.S. has not declared war, in all cases when civilians are at risk and that Congress be fully informed and authorized to monitor such deployment.

The offices to be visited are in Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, New York City, Peekskill, Rochester, Syracuse and Washington, D.C.

For more information about this event and our campaign against weaponized drones see: upstatedroneaction.org