

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

\_\_\_\_\_ February 2017

Contact: Ed Kinane 315) 478-451 home  
Other defendants (see below)

**FIVE DEFENDANTS FACE DEWITT TOWN COURT JURY  
5 PM TUESDAY FEBRUARY 28 FOR THEIR 3/19/15 “**BIG BOOKS**”  
ANTI- WEAPONIZED DRONE ACTION AT HANCOCK AIRBASE**

On March 19, 2015 on the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, seven members of the Upstate Drone Action Coalition were arrested at Hancock Air Base outside Syracuse, New York. They were nonviolently protesting Hancock’s lethal and illegal use of MQ9 Reaper drones over Afghanistan and elsewhere.

The seven deployed huge (7X4 feet) replicas of four books across the main entrance of Hancock, the home of the 174<sup>th</sup> Attack Wing of the NY National Guard – a major hunter/killer Reaper drone hub. The books: *the UN Charter*; *Jeremy Scahill’s “Dirty Wars”*; *NYU and Stanford Law School’s “Living Under Drones”*; & *Reprieve’s human rights report “You Never Die Twice.”*

Five of the seven are charged with Obstructing Governmental Administration (a misdemeanor requiring a jury and carrying a maximum one-year sentence), trespass, and two counts of disorderly conduct. They are being tried in Judge David Gideon’s DeWitt Town Court [5400 Butternut Drive, East Syracuse]:

- ~ Daniel Burns, Ithaca, 607) 280-0369
- ~ Brian Hynes, the Bronx, 718) 838-2636 cell
- ~ Ed Kinane, Syracuse, 315) 478-4571 home
- ~ Fr. Bill Pickard, Scranton, 570) 498-3789 cell
- ~ James Ricks, Ithaca, 607) 280-7794 cell

Originally scheduled for trial in late November 2016, the trial was postponed until February so a new jury pool could be called in order to assure a “jury of his peers” to Ricks, a Black Muslim.

Defendant Daniel Burns stated: *“Drone warfare kills many innocents, including children. As a father of three beautiful children, I’m morally obligated to try and stop drone warfare. People of conscience must do everything in our power to stop such violations of human rights and international law. ”*

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[[drone press release feb 28 big books trial]]