

# Drones Fly, Children Die:

Compassion for All Victims of Weaponized Drones



*A button is pushed thousands of miles away and a bomb drops, turning a Yemeni wedding party into a funeral for a dozen civilians.*

*An unmanned Reaper drone buzzes for hours above villages in Afghanistan, causing stress and fear in children and their families.*

*A drone operator stationed in the United States suffers PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) from having witnessed through high-tech sensors the broken bodies of the young Pakistani victims of his attack.*

ALL of these people, victims of drone attacks, deserve our compassion.

ALL of the children are precious. ALL of the parents - of Afghan children, of U.S. emotionally wounded pilots - grieve for the hurt their children suffer. What we feel as we see this grief is compassion. It's that sense of sharing the suffering as if it were our own. It is hard to do - to let ourselves feel this pain, simply as fellow human beings.

Our compassion must move us to act - to prevent the unnecessary suffering caused by the bombs, and the fear that destroys the future of people here at home and abroad.

(please turn over)

# Drones Fly, Children Die:

Compassion for All Victims of Weaponized Drones



*A button is pushed thousands of miles away and a bomb drops, turning a Yemeni wedding party into a funeral for a dozen civilians.*

*An unmanned Reaper drone buzzes for hours above villages in Afghanistan, causing stress and fear in children and their families.*

*A drone operator stationed in the United States suffers PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) from having witnessed through high-tech sensors the broken bodies of the young Pakistani victims of his attack.*

ALL of these people, victims of drone attacks, deserve our compassion.

ALL of the children are precious. ALL of the parents - of Afghan children, of U.S. emotionally wounded pilots - grieve for the hurt their children suffer. What we feel as we see this grief is compassion. It's that sense of sharing the suffering as if it were our own. It is hard to do - to let ourselves feel this pain, simply as fellow human beings.

Our compassion must move us to act - to prevent the unnecessary suffering caused by the bombs, and the fear that destroys the future of people here at home and abroad.

(please turn over)

## Weaponized Drones are Not the Answer

*"When you drop a bomb from a drone...you are going to cause more damage than you are going to cause good...The more weapons we give, the more bombs we drop, that just...fuels the conflict."*

- Former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Lt. General Michael Flynn (retired)

Drone strikes are extremely unpopular on the ground, thereby *"strengthening an armed group's bonds with the population, radicalizing an insurgent group's remaining leaders, creating a vacuum into which more radical groups can enter...."*

- CIA report leaked in late 2014. Thousands of drone strikes have **targeted** Afghanistan since 2001, with hundreds of civilians being maimed or killed. The United State has become viewed as the terrorist.

### What can we do?

- Are you local to Syracuse? Visit <http://upstatedroneaction.org>, the website of Upstate (NY) Drone Action Coalition. Our work is focused on Hancock Air Base, Syracuse's local weaponized drone base.
- Do you live further away? Visit <https://bankillerdrones.org> the website of The Ban Killer Drones Network to learn more and connect to a group in your area.
- Learn more. Read *Living Under Drones: Death, Injury, and Trauma to Civilians from US Drone Practices in Pakistan*, by the Stanford and NYU Law Schools. It's available on-line.
- Write a letter to the *Syracuse Post-Standard* at [syacuse.com](mailto:syacuse.com).

## Weaponized Drones are Not the Answer

*"When you drop a bomb from a drone...you are going to cause more damage than you are going to cause good...The more weapons we give, the more bombs we drop, that just...fuels the conflict."*

- Former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Lt. General Michael Flynn (retired)

Drone strikes are extremely unpopular on the ground, thereby *"strengthening an armed group's bonds with the population, radicalizing an insurgent group's remaining leaders, creating a vacuum into which more radical groups can enter...."*

- CIA report leaked in late 2014. Thousands of drone strikes have **targeted** Afghanistan since 2001, with hundreds of civilians being maimed or killed. The United State has become viewed as the terrorist.

### What can we do?

- Are you local to Syracuse? Visit <http://upstatedroneaction.org>, the website of Upstate (NY) Drone Action Coalition. Our work is focused on Hancock Air Base, Syracuse's local weaponized drone base.
- Do you live further away? Visit <https://bankillerdrones.org> the website of The Ban Killer Drones Network to learn more and connect to a group in your area.
- Learn more. Read *Living Under Drones: Death, Injury, and Trauma to Civilians from US Drone Practices in Pakistan*, by the Stanford and NYU Law Schools. It's available on-line.
- Write a letter to the *Syracuse Post-Standard* at [syacuse.com](mailto:syacuse.com).