



Nevada Desert Experience

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Press Release

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Peace activists concerned about US military drone attacks against Pakistan are assembling daily to vigil at the gates to Creech Air Force Base in Indian Springs, Nevada. The group, calling itself “Ground the Drones,” began a vigil yesterday which will continue until April 10th. They assemble during morning and early afternoon hours.

“We recognize the urgency of the present moment,” said Brian Terrell, of Maloy, Iowa. “The drone attacks are exacerbating tensions right now, in Pakistan.” Peter Ediger of Las Vegas added, “We are here to declare our belief that peace will come through human interaction using negotiation, dialogue and diplomacy, and not through reliance on robots armed with missiles.”

Creech Air Force Base is home to the latest high tech weapons that use unmanned aerial systems (UASs) to carry out surveillance and increasingly lethal attacks in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq. Since many civilians are killed along with any intended targets, these missions are succeeding in their intent to provoke a violent response, even as they fail to pacify or demoralize the target communities. Once Unmanned Aerial Vehicles become airborne in places like Afghanistan and Pakistan, teams inside trailers at Creech Air Force base begin to control them. The MQ-1 Predator and MQ-9 Reaper drones both function to collect information through surveillance and both can carry weapons. The MQ9 Reaper drone, which the USAF refers to as a “hunter-killer” vehicle, can carry two 500 pound bombs as well as several Hellfire missiles.

The activists are representing the Nevada Desert Experience, Pace e Bene, Voices for Creative Nonviolence, Strangers and Guests Catholic Worker Farm in Maloy, Iowa and the Des Moines Catholic Worker.

On Thursday, April 2nd, two members of the group, Fr. Louis Vitale and Kathy Kelly, will be featured at an event in Las Vegas at The Box Office, 1129 S. Casino Center Blvd. (at California), 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Many articles and reference sources about the Predators and Reapers are available at the Nevada Desert Experience website, <http://NevadaDesertExperience.org>

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