

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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FOR INFORMATION:  
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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR CAUSES PEACE ACTION: 14 ARRESTS AT CREECH AIR FORCE BASE**

**Indian Springs, NV** - Late this afternoon, fourteen peace activists were arrested at Creech Air Force Base in Indian Springs, Nevada. The arrests occurred during a ten-day vigil whose goal is to raise public awareness of the increasing use of unmanned drones in the war in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Air Force personnel based at Creech AFB pilot the Predator and Reaper drones being used in Central Asia.

The 14 people walked through the open main gate shortly after 3:00 p.m. Air Force security personnel stopped them after they walked into the base. They were seeking to engage in dialogue with the Air Force service members controlling the Predators and Reapers used in Central Asia. In a gesture of good will, they offered to break bread and share Passover pizza with Air Force personnel.

The Nevada State Highway Patrol responded, as did the Las Vegas Metro Police Department. Police officers and Air Force security rejected the dinner offered by the 14 activists. Meanwhile, 20 other activists continued the vigil. The 14 were arrested on the charge of trespass and transported to the Clark County Detention Facility, from where 13 were booked and released by 7:30 the following morning.

One priest refused to sign his paperwork, and expects to be arraigned before April 15<sup>th</sup>. This Jesuit (named Steve Kelly), says he's disappointed he'll miss today's prayer-action of the Stations of the Cross at Creech AFB, "It's inconvenient for all of us, we're disturbing the war and I'll be pleading 'not guilty'." The other 13 will be arraigned on June 9<sup>th</sup> 2009.

### Those arrested include:

Fr. John Dear, S.J. (New Mexico)	Brad Lytle (Chicago, Illinois)
Dennis DuVall (Arizona)	Elizabeth Pappalardo (Crystal Lake, Illinois)
Renee Espeland (Des Moines, Iowa Catholic Worker Community)	Sister Megan Rice, SHCJ (Nevada Desert Experience, Las Vegas, Nevada)
Judy Homanich (Binghamton, New York)	Brian Terrell (Strangers & Guests Catholic Worker, Maloy, Iowa)
Kathy Kelly (Chicago Illinois, she has been nominated twice for the Nobel Peace Prize)	Eve Tetaz (Washington, D.C.)
Fr. Steve Kelly, S.J. (California)	Fr. Louis Vitale, O.F.M. (Oakland, California)
Mariah Klusmire (Trinity House Catholic Worker, Albuquerque, New Mexico)	Jerry Zawada, O.F.M. (Tucson, Arizona)