

FLY KITES NOT DRONES

Saturday March 21st sees the second annual world-wide kite flying protest against drones. From Kabul to Sheffield people of all ages will 'fly kites not drones' in solidarity with children who live in fear of drone strikes.

Inwe will be holding an event
at.....from.....

We will also be holding a kite making work-shop on
.....at.....

The first Global Day of Action on March 21st 2014 was inspired by young people in Afghanistan for whom blue skies mean danger, as clear conditions heighten the likelihood of a drone strike. For this kite-loving nation March 21st is their Nao Roz, the Persian New Year. Although the British armed Reaper drone has now left Afghanistan, US drone strikes continue. On February 11th, nine 'suspected militants' were killed in a drone strike in Nangahar province.(1)

The British Reaper drone is now operating in Iraq and Syria along with US armed drones. Israel launched a drone attack in Syria in January. Elsewhere there are ongoing US drone strikes in Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen. In these drone strikes children are being killed, injured, orphaned and traumatised. In the Israeli attack in Gaza last summer, which involved drones, over 400 children were killed, 93 were under five years old. (2)

Reports on the effects of children living under drones in both Pakistan and Yemen describe the effects on communities "Drones hover twenty-four hours a day over communities in north-west Pakistan, striking homes, vehicles, and public spaces without warning. Their presence terrorizes men, women, and children, giving rise to anxiety and psychological trauma among civilian communities" and in Yemen a father of an 8 year old living next door to a house targeted by a drone said "She has been waking terrified from her sleep. She points to the ceiling and says 'people there want me to suffocate'." (4)

It is important that the next generation understand that armed drones now make war perpetual. We do not even need to be in a 'declared war' before drones are deployed. These robot killing machines have completely changed the nature of warfare, whereby anyone considered an "imminent threat" can be 'taken out' with a drone, along with anyone else who happens to be nearby. And yet, those responsible are not held accountable.

(someone from your org)said "We will be flying kites as a message of solidarity with people living with the terror of drone strikes. etc"

As well as our event in.....
there will also be kite flying in Argyle, Axbridge, Bournemouth, Brighton, Dunblane, Edinburgh, Findhorn, Hastings, London, Loughborough, Manchester, Sheffield, Southampton, and Stockport, and at RAF Waddington near Lincoln. (5&6)

The future of this world belongs to the next generation. This Global Day of Action is for them.

end

notes

1. <http://www.pakistanherald.com/news/4372/11-02-2015/nine-suspected-militants-killed-in-drone-strike-near-pak-afghan-border>
2. http://www.btselem.org/publications/summaries/201501_black_flag
3. <http://www.livingunderdrones.org/>
4. <http://www.channel4.com/news/drone-attacks-traumatising-a-generation-of-children>
5. <http://vcnv.org.uk/fly-kites-not-drones/21-march-2015/>
6. #flykitesnotdrones @kitesnotdrones

further information about drones see www.dronewars.net
for more information about this press release contact

