Anti-Drone meeting at AFSC in North Cambridge, March 4 2013, convened by UJP

Organizations present: Arlington UJP, Bill of Rights Defense Committee, Cambridge UJP, Campaign for Digital Fourth Amendment Rights, Code Pink, Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism, member of ACLU, Peace Action, Space Transparency.org, UJP,  UNAC, Veterans for Peace; various individuals

facilitator: Ann; notes, Duncan

I. Reports on anti-drone activity

Formation of national network  -- national conference was called by Medea Benjamin and Code Pink in Spring of 2012.  Coming from this was a solidarity delegation to Pakistan Fall 2012 which generated a lot of publicity.   In December 2012 there was a national meeting in New York City attended by about 35 organizations which formed a national anti-drone network, called Network to Stop Drone Surveillance and Warfare (NSDSW).  Since then local networks have formed in a number of places.   The national network has called for April 2013 actions and a Tribunal in the Fall 2013.

WILPF -- holds anti- killer-drone walk first Saturday every month.

Code Pink -- has played a leading role in initiating anti-Drone work.  Currently is demanding no confirmation of John Brennan as head of CIA until White House fully discloses the relevant memos.

Europe -- Stop the Wars Coalition in UK is active in anti-Drone work, a conference was held in Germany and a meeting is being organized in Belgium.

US --- San Diego is very active with actions directed at General Atomics; Syracuse NY activists have organized Gandhian wave protests re Hancock AFB.

Resolutions have been passed in Charlottesville VA and are pending in a number of places including Berkeley CA, Buffalo, Madison WI, Iowa City.

ACLU -- currently testifying at UN meeting in UK concerning Israeli drones.   Is sponsoring legislation in Mass. state legislature, Privacy Act.

US Congress -- Attorney General Holder has agreed to demands that he testify before House Judiciary Committee as legality of drone strikes is investigated.

II. Drone research and production in Massachusetts (potential organizing targets)

This is concentrated on subsystems providers of software, sensors, photography, guidance systems, electronics.  Very little manufacturing of airframes.  Numerous companies are involved including Northrop, Textron and Raytheon.  A list of companies in Drone Manufacturers Assn. of Massachusetts was passed out.  Universities such as MIT and BU are involved.  Technology development moves very fast; currently working on projects such as facial recognition software and Autonomous Drones.

III. April Actions

The group agreed on organizing 3 actions for April 2013:

April 6 -- propose to WILPF to join their monthly march with possible die-in at Park St.

April --   working group will begin to research MIT's drone involvement and take first step such as writing a letter to the President of MIT asking for information about MIT drone research programs.  The group will continue working for well-prepared actions later on in the year.

April 26-27 -- form group to join Hancock Air Base protest near Syracuse, NY for weekend of activities

IV. Creating listserves, formation of network proposed

The formation of an Eastern Massachusetts Anti-Drone Network was proposed and the mission statement of the National Drone Network was read out loud.  Listserves will be created to facilitate network communications.

list serve name = no-drones-e-mass@googlegroups.com

V. Next meeting is March 18, Monday,  7 pm at AFSC, 2161 Mass Ave., North Cambridge

useful websites:

DronesWatch.org

[www.KnowDrones.com](http://www.knowdrones.com/)

nodrones@lists.riseup.net