

Support Life . . . No More Drones - a Statement & Petition

9/11, Virginia Tech, Aurora, Newtown, Boston – these are names that sear our memories. Shootings, bombings and other random mass killings have troubled our psyches with apprehension, fear and visions of revenge. Our country has not been spared the level of pain that other parts of the world have been suffering for a long time.

Reports from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the Middle East speak of the psychological terror that our U.S. drones cause on *all* the peoples living below. Our nation's ever-increasing use of lethal drones to attack and kill people whom our government defines as enemy terrorists is a critical reason why hatred towards Americans is increasing. Farmers are kept from caring for their crops and children are kept from attending school or running errands for fear of being hit by drone missiles. Can we begin to identify with the acute insecurity that our drones impose upon these human beings, our world neighbors, who live in fear of death falling from the sky? Many of the victims of this deadly weapon are not unlike the schoolchildren in Newtown or the crowd-participants at the Boston Marathon. The killing of human life and the anguish and anger caused are the same!

We believe there is a better way. Our God is a God of Life and Peace. We are people who strive to follow and live out the teachings of Jesus Christ. In response to the violence that has invaded our world we embrace the teachings of Jesus, to "love your enemies." Instead of more powerful weapons or more deadly methods to destroy the enemy, we strongly urge our nation's citizens to reach out to our enemies in ways of healing and assistance toward developing peaceful communities with a better life for all.

We are adamantly opposed to our nation's use of drones to kill and destroy those whom our government has defined as "our threatening enemy". We believe that all methods of forceful violence that bring harm and death to other peoples is terribly wrong, and that lethal drones are just a newer and particularly callous form for humans to inflict violence upon others.

We whose names appear below urgently implore our nation's leaders to end the use of lethal drones.

This statement is sponsored by the Mennonite Peacemakers. The undersigned have contributed in order that this statement could be published. For further information on Mennonite Peacemakers visit our website at <http://peacemaking.us/mennos/> or email mennos@peacemaking.us .