For more information: Shannonwatch.org VeteransForPeace.org StopTheseWars.org





Respect Irish Neutrality?

Why It Matters







n Sunday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day, former U.S. Marine Corps Major Ken Mayers, 82, and former U.S. Army paratrooper, Tarak Kauff, 77, members of Veterans For Peace, entered the airfield at Shannon Airport. Their intention was to inspect OMNI Air International (tail number N351AX), which they believed was carrying U.S. soldiers and weapons on their way to the Middle East.

Since 2001, U.S. war planes have transported troops and munitions to and from the Middle East in violation of Irish neutrality and international law.

Mayers and Kauff were arrested by the Guardai some 20 minutes later. At their arraignment the next morning an Ennis District Court judge remanded them wiithout bail to Limerick Prison, where they spent the next 12 days.

They were released on €2,500 bail each and their passports were withheld pending trial, which could take years. They cannot leave Ireland and return home.

Since 2001, U.S. war planes have transported troops and munitions to and from the Middle East in violation of Irish neutrality and international law. During their stay in Ireland, they are speaking out about U.S. military violations of Irish neutrality and about U.S. wars of aggression in the Middle East, which have taken the lives of over 1 million children.

Since 2001, nearly 3 million U.S. troops with their weapons have been transported through Shannon to and from U.S. wars. CIA torture rendition flights have also refueled at Shannon—all in direct violation of Irish neutrality and international law, including the Geneva Conventions on War; the Hague Convention V, 1907 on Neutrality; the Nuremberg Principles; the UN Convention Against Torture and the UN Charter.

These planes have not been inspected or investigated by the Irish authorities. In light of this criminal activity, which makes Ireland complicit in U.S. war crimes, Ken Mayers and Tarak Kauff have taken action as U.S. military veterans and as human beings of conscience to bring awareness to this travesty.

