Dear Kathy Kelly

You may not have heard of the Marrickville Peace Group – but our group knows a little about you! In particular we know that you are in jail as a consequence of your opposition to the use of drones, and that is the thing that we have in common. We applaud your efforts in trying to bring the use of drones to an end.

Our group has been expressing its opposition to drone warfare for several years. We approach the matter with an Australian perspective, i.e. in the firm belief that Australia is implicated in the guidance and control of US-owned drones, through the ‘joint facility’ at ‘Pine Gap’ in Central Australia. No-one in the Australian government has ever admitted that Pine Gap has this role, but information leaked by Edward Snowden makes it almost certain. So although Australia may seem a long way away from the action, that action could not take place without the support of our government. This we deplore.

We feel for you and think about you. None of us has had any experience of jail, so we can only imagine how it might feel. We hope that it is not too unbearable. The contrast between you serving a prison term, whilst those who order and conduct drone attacks are treated as if they provide a valuable public service, is stark.

Above all, we hope that you will not be weakened by your stay in jail, but will have the energy and commitment to continue to speak out against these atrocious weapons afterwards.

We are with you in spirit and offer our warm (although distant) support!

With love

Marty Morrison, Jo Errey, Joyce Fraser, Malcolm Fraser, Jon Atkins, Nick Deane
(Members of Marrickville Peace Group)