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Upside-down flag symbol of distress, Piecemakers say

Head of Costa Mesa group says country is 'in big trouble.'

By NIYAZ PIRANI

COSTA MESA – Hidden among the branches and leaves of towering trees is a small symbol that makes a big statement. The American flag at Piecemakers is flying upside down.

"The flag flying upside down is a sign that our country is in distress," said Marie Kolasinski, the 87-year-old head of the craft-selling commune known as Piecemakers.

"It seems like (the story) is the flag, but it's not that," she said. "It's more than that. Everybody should know our country is in big trouble and if they don't know, there's something wrong with that."

Kolasinski said the flag has been upside down, paired with a "Don't Tread On Me" flag, for nearly two years. About six months ago the flag began to disappear overnight and after a bit of a stakeout, the Piecemakers caught the flag bandit – a veteran who was angry that the flag was upside down.



Marie Kolasinski, 87, of the Piecemakers in Costa Mesa has been hanging an American flag upside down to raise awareness that the country is in distress.

"If I were him, I would be disgusted at what happened to this country that he fought for," Kolasinski said. "He thinks it's all right to steal our flag because we don't cater to his whims."

She said the reason most haven't noticed the flag sooner isn't because it is shrouded by foliage, but because an awakening is only now beginning.

"I think that most people realize what that flag stands for, but it's more than that," she said. "People are spiritually awakening because we're all dead. We're waking up. Isn't that kind of exciting?"

She continued by saying that the flag would have a different configuration if the country doesn't change. "If America does not awaken, the next time you come, our flag will be at half mast because we would have lost everything."

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Marie Kolasinski 87 of Piecemakers in Costa Mesa shows off her upside down American flag and Her "Don't Tread on Me" flag. Both hang from the flagpole in front of Piecemakers Store which mainly sells crafts and trinkets.