

Voices For Creative NonViolence

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Kathy Kelly Reports:

A villager who survived a drone attack in North Waziristan explained that even the children, at play, were acutely conscious of drones flying overhead. After a drone attack, survivors trying to bring injured victims to a hospital were dumbfounded when a driver stopped, learned of their plight and then sped away. Then it dawned on them that the driver was afraid the drone would still be prowling overhead and that he might be targeted for associating with victims of the attack.

The U.S. drone aircraft can see Pakistan - their pilots in air-conditioned Nevada trailers see the terrain even though they are physically thousands of miles away.

On Tuesday, June 23rd, U.S. drones launched an attack on homes in South Waziristan. Locals rushed to the scene to rescue survivors. The U.S. drone then launched more missiles at them, leaving a total of 13 dead. The next day, local people were involved in a funeral procession when the U.S. struck again. **Reuters reported that 70 of the mourners were killed.**



Drone operators and their commanders at Creech Air Force Base will become increasingly well informed about the movements of Pakistani people, but meanwhile the U.S. people will have lost sight of war's human costs in Pakistan.

Now, we're hearing of imminent army operations in South Waziristan that have already forced about 45,000 people to flee the region, joining about two million men, women, and children displaced by fighting in the Swat Valley and other areas.

People from Waziristan who flee from their villages, trying to save their lives, trying not to be seen by the omnipresent drones, will likely join the unseen, the displaced people whose lives and hopes escape international notice as they die slowly.

With [drones bringing] less risk to the lives of U.S. soldiers and hence to the popularity and careers of politicians, the deaths of 'enemy' noncombatants by the thousands are counted acceptable.

The illusion that war can be waged with no domestic cost dehumanizes both us and our enemies. It fosters a callous disregard for human life that can lead to even more recklessness on the part of politicians."

Call your Congressman
202 224-3121

No More Drones
No More War on
Civilians

DRONES: MURDER FROM AFAR



Villagers in Chota Janikhel, Pakistan, gathered Monday at the site of a missile attack believed to have come from a remote-controlled American drone aircraft. At least four people were killed.

Imagine being in your home with your family when suddenly a missile comes through your roof!

WE are funding these murders with our tax dollars.

Beyond the abject immorality of these attacks, they can hardly be expected to bring peace or stability to the Afghanistan/Pakistan region, nor any good results to the American people.

What is a Drone?

Drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), are remote-controlled aircraft that usually carry cameras to gather intelligence and missiles to kill. Most famous are the Predators and Reapers – the missile-wielding planes that have been used to attack citizens in Afghanistan and Pakistan and whose pilots are often a world away, on bases in Arizona and Nevada.



Drone Operators at Creech Air Force Base, Nevada

Predator: Used for surveillance. Air Force official acknowledge that more than a third of their unmanned Predator spy planes — which are 27 feet long, powered by a high-performance snowmobile engine, and cost \$4.5 million apiece — have crashed, mostly in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Reaper: surveillance and attack, called "hunter-killer vehicle" has a wingspan of 66 feet and is equipped with Hellfire missiles and 500-pound bombs and has a price tag of \$17 million.

In a sign of growing US support for drones, all branches of the military – as well as the CIA – are adopting the technology.

The military spent \$880 million buying such planes in 2007 and is now spending \$2 billion a year on them.

How cowardly to strike at people who have no way of defending themselves, from the safety of 7000 miles distance. Shame!

View from Pakistan:

By Chibli Mallat, The Daily Star law editor.

...In an interview last month, senior British judge Lord Bingham of Cornhill drew the world's attention to the grave phenomenon of killing by drones, **"so cruel as to be beyond the pale of human tolerance."**

Bruce Riedel, a US national security specialist, wrote last week that drones typically kill 10 civilians for each targeted victim. **Even more tragically, behind drones is a decision to take a person's life by remote control, outside any judicial process.**

Who takes the decision and under what authority?

In practice, the scheme is frighteningly simple: some obscure informant tells a foreign intelligence contact of the presence of an alleged enemy in a particular remote location. The relay passes the information on to some regional headquarter unit, which decides, in "real time," to take the target out by sending a teleguided miniature plane full of explosives. The informant may be ill-advised, or corrupt, often he's settling scores. The information could be totally wrong. The relay is typically a young intelligence field officer, with haphazard understanding of the Pakistani scene. The unit to whom the information is relayed has a list of "bad" guys and its commander has a few minutes, at best a few hours, to issue the death warrant. ***This is extrajudicial execution in pure form in an essentially domestic context, and prevents the exercise of any effort to arrest the person targeted.***

It is a remote shoot to kill policy.

Bombing for a More Just World?

By JEAN BRICMONT

During the past decade, the world has looked on helplessly as innocent civilians were murdered by American bombs in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. It has been a helpless bystander of the murderous Israeli onslaught on Lebanon and Gaza. Previously, we have seen millions of people perish under American firepower in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos; and many others have died in American proxy wars in Central America or Southern Africa. **In the name of those victims, shall we say: never again!**

Despite claims to act on behalf of principles such as freedom and democracy, US intervention has repeatedly had disastrous consequences: not only the millions of deaths caused by direct and indirect wars, but also the lost opportunities, the "killing of hope" for hundreds of millions of people... But that is not all. ***Every aggressive action led by the United States creates a reaction. Bombing civilians – whether deliberately or by so-called "collateral damage" – produces more armed resistance, not less. more violence, hatred and death, not less.***

The viewpoints expressed here are shared by millions of people in the "West". This is unfortunately not reflected in our media. Millions of people, including American citizens, reject war as a means to settle international conflict. They adhere to the goals of the non-aligned movement of international cooperation within the strict respect for national sovereignty and equality of all peoples. They risk being denounced in the media of their own countries as being anti-Western, anti-American or anti-Semitic. **Yet, they are the ones who, by opening their minds to the aspirations of the rest of mankind, carry on what is genuinely of value in the Western humanist tradition.**

Jean Bricmont teaches physics in Belgium and is a member of the Brussels Tribunal.