

Why we should #EndDroneWarfare

The Interfaith Working Group on Drone Warfare is a coalition of faith-based groups that share concerns about the United States' use of armed drones.

- 1 Drone strikes kill civilians.** Noncombatants, including children, have died in U.S. strikes. Civilian casualties are significantly underreported—CIA strikes are undertaken covertly, and civilian deaths in military strikes are often misreported as combatant deaths.
- 2 Drones lower the threshold for use of violent force.** By insulating U.S. personnel from physical harm, drones remove both policymakers and ordinary Americans from the true moral and emotional costs of taking a life. This makes it easier for the U.S. to resort to lethal force as a response to perceived threats around the world.
- 3 Drone strikes in places where the U.S. is not involved in armed conflict violate international law.** These include countries like Somalia, Yemen, and Libya. Even in Afghanistan and Iraq, U.S. drone strikes may be illegal when they fail to properly identify people who can be targeted under the laws of war.
- 4 Drone strikes harm U.S. national security interests.** An increase in anti-American sentiment occurs when communities associate the United States with the destruction of their communities, death of civilians, and fear.
- 5 Targeting decisions are unethical and lack transparency.** Strikes are often undertaken without specific knowledge of what, if any, threat may be posed by the targeted individual. CIA strikes and related casualties are not publicly reported.
- 6 Drone strikes negatively impact communities on the ground, making it more difficult to build lasting peace.** Strikes de-legitimize national governments in affected areas, contributing to political instability. Constant fear of imminent drone strikes leads people to avoid community spaces.
- 7 Drones hurt U.S. service members.** While drones are understood by policymakers and the public as a way to protect U.S. personnel from physical harm, drone operators suffer moral and psychological injury as a result of their work. Many have been diagnosed with PTSD.

We call on the U.S. government and military to:

- **End the CIA's authority to carry out drone strikes**
- **Ban the development and use of lethal autonomous weapons systems**
- **Study the long-term impacts of drone warfare**



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