

Drones and the Law

The US drone attacks in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia, as well as other countries, are the result of the decisions taken by the Bush, Obama and Trump Administrations to ignore provisions of international law that forbid summary execution and assassination, as well as violation of national sovereignty.

The drone attacks also violate the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, ratified by the United States, for example Article 10: "Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him. "

Further, the attacks violate several provisions of the Geneva Conventions and the U.S military's own Rules of Engagement that demand that the enemy be positively identified, and they must be given an opportunity to surrender. Targeting of first responders is strictly prohibited, yet the U.S. has frequently sent in a second Hellfire missile just as people are coming to render aid.

"... Obama's first year in office was marked by an aggressive embrace of assassination as a centerpiece of US national security policy." (Jeremy Scahill - Dirty Wars)



"Revelations that top (US) officials are targeting people to be assassinated abroad, including American citizens, are only the most recent, disturbing proof of how far our nation's violations of human rights has extended.. As a result, our country can longer speak with moral authority on these critical issues. "

Former President Jimmy Carter, Op-Ed - New York Times, June 24, 2013

"Do the United States and its people really want to tell those of us who live in the rest of the world that our lives are not the same value as yours?"

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Letter to the New York Times, February 12, 2013

Germany's involvement in the drone war of the USA

The US Air Force Base Ramstein, located in the southwest of Germany, serves the US government in important key functions of its worldwide war. As a relay station, the Ramstein Air-Base is of central importance for the drone war in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and in the countries of the Middle East and in Africa.

In Ramstein, about 650 employees constantly analyse and update the



monitoring data of the supposed target persons and then forward their data. Ramstein is a central hub for the preparation

and implementation of wars of aggression contrary to international law.

Ramstein Tower US ID: DFSD0412914



Last summer the Bundestag unfortunately approved the purchase of armed drones without discussing the ethic aspects of the drone war, as previously promised. For over one billion euros, 5 Israeli Heron TP drones will be leased. This could draw the federal government into the drone war, which is contrary to international law.

Since 28 January 2019, the Bundeswehr has been practicing in Israel with armed Heron TP drones.

Ask your MPs to discuss the international and constitutional law, security policy and ethical aspects of the use of armed drones, as decided by the Bundestag in 2013 (see sample letter in folder).

