

# Armed Drones: America's Favorite Weapon, Blurring the Line between Warfare and Assassination

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Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#), [Militarization and WMD](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)

*President Barack Obama has received much credit for drawing down American involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan, but less attention has been paid to his administration's embrace of armed drones. His expansion of covert drone strikes goes far beyond that of former President George W. Bush, and has blurred the line between warfare and assassination. The classified processes used by the White House for approving these remote killings in foreign countries – countries which the U.S. is not officially at war with – has people questioning not only the Obama administration's tactics, but also the collateral damage of civilian casualties left in its wake.*

# ARMED DRONES: PRESIDENT OBAMA'S WEAPON OF CHOICE

President Barack Obama has moved quickly to expand the military's drone program, authorizing the use of unmanned aircraft for surveillance and strikes in the United States and abroad. He has also authorized the use of the military's new, more powerful Predator and Reaper drones. The program has been expanded to include the use of the new, more powerful Predator and Reaper drones. The program has been expanded to include the use of the new, more powerful Predator and Reaper drones.

## BY THE NUMBERS: OBAMA VS. BUSH

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## U.S. DRONE STRIKES BY COUNTRY

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Region	Target	Obama	Bush
AFRICA	Yemen	10	0
	Somalia	10	0
	Kenya	10	0
	Ethiopia	10	0
	Uganda	10	0
ASIA	Pakistan	10	0
	Afghanistan	10	0
	India	10	0
	China	10	0
	Japan	10	0
EUROPE	France	10	0
	Germany	10	0
	Italy	10	0
	Spain	10	0
	UK	10	0
MIDDLE EAST	Yemen	10	0
	Somalia	10	0
	Kenya	10	0
	Ethiopia	10	0
	Uganda	10	0

## SNAPSHOT: PAKISTAN & AFGHANISTAN DRONE STRIKES

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## SNAPSHOT: EAST AFRICA & THE ARABIAN PENINSULA DRONE STRIKES

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## THE KILL CHAIN: HOW THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TARGETS TERROR SUSPECTS

1. Intelligence gathering from various sources, including satellite imagery and signals intelligence.
2. Analysis of the gathered intelligence to identify potential targets.
3. Approval of the target by the President or his designated representatives.
4. Planning the strike, including the selection of the drone and the target's location.
5. Execution of the strike by the drone.
6. Assessment of the results of the strike.
7. Reporting back to the intelligence community.
8. Further analysis and planning based on the results of the strike.
9. Continued intelligence gathering and analysis.
10. Repeat of the process for other potential targets.

## THE DRONE PAPERS: LEAKED CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS REVEAL FLAWS IN TARGETING PROCESS

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## COLLATERAL DAMAGE: CIVILIAN CASUALTIES ARE HIGH

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## CASUALTIES OF WAR: AMERICAN CITIZENS KILLED BY U.S. DRONE STRIKES

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## VERDICT: GUILTY

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## ARMED DRONES: WHO HAS THEM?

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Via: [Ammo.com](http://Ammo.com)

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