

# Top Obama Adviser: Awlaki's 16-Year-Old Son "Should Have Had a More Responsible Father" If He Wanted Us Not to Kill Him

By [John Glaser](#)

Global Research, October 25, 2012

[antiwar.com](http://antiwar.com)

**Robert Gibbs said if US citizen Abdulrahman al-Awlaki didn't want to be killed he "should have a far more responsible father"**

When Robert Gibbs, former White House Press Secretary and a senior adviser to the Obama campaign, was asked why the administration killed the 16-year old son of suspected al-Qaeda member and US citizen Anwar al-Awlaki via a drone strike last year, he said [it was the boy's fault for having a father like Awlaki](#).



Abdulrahman al-Awlaki, 16-year old son of Anwar al-Awlaki, was killed in a US drone strike last year

Anwar al-Awlaki was killed last year in a drone strike in Yemen ordered by the Obama administration. The killing made headlines particularly because Awlaki was an American citizen, but his constitutional rights to due process were thrown out the window in favor of simply assassinating him.

Awlaki's 16-year old son, Abdulrahman al-Awlaki, was also a US citizen and was killed in a separate drone strike in Yemen weeks after his father's death. Abdulrahman had not been accused of being a member of al-Qaeda or of any act against the United States that could conceivably motivate a US strike.

When pressed by reporters and independent journalists, Gibbs responded to questions about the Obama administration's killing of the American boy by dismissing his life as virtually worthless and blaming his father, Anwar, for his son's death by presidential decree.

"I would suggest that you should have a far more responsible father if they are truly concerned about the well being of their children," Gibbs said. "I don't think becoming an al Qaeda jihadist terrorist is the best way to go about doing your business."

Gibbs dodged any further questioning on the issue, but in his answer defended the killing of a 16-year old American boy "not by arguing that the kid was a threat," [writes](#) *The Atlantic's* Conor Friedersdorf, "or that killing him was an accident, but by saying that his late father irresponsibly joined al Qaeda terrorists."

"Killing an American citizen without due process on that logic ought to be grounds for impeachment," Friedersdorf adds.

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