

You just witnessed a street theater simulation of a drone attack.

The CIA and US Air Force use drones—unmanned aerial devices—for surveillance, bombings, and assassinations in the war in Afghanistan and Pakistan. These Reaper and Predator drones perform combat missions in these countries, but are flown by USAF pilots in Creech Air Force Base in Nevada and CIA civilians in Langley, VA who are far removed from the realities on the ground.

These drone attacks have devastating consequences for the citizens of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Although exact figures on casualties are impossible due to the secrecy of the program, the strikes have dramatically increased since President Obama took office. In Pakistan alone, estimates are that 700 civilians were killed in 2009 and that for *every* militant target killed, 10 innocent people died. These deaths don't make us more secure—instead, they fuel anti-American sentiments and help recruiters of terrorist groups.

The U.N. has called for transparency and accountability around the drones' targeted killings, demanding that the United States specify the legal justification for “decisions to kill rather than capture” and what measures it is taking to prevent civilian casualties. Our leaders have not done so.

Oppose the Drones! Call Your Members of Congress Today (Switchboard: 1-800-828-0498). Tell them you are very concerned about the moral, legal, and security consequences of our drone attacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Ask them to oppose the \$2.2 billion for drones in the Defense Appropriations request for FY2011 and to call for an end to the war in Afghanistan which marks its 9th anniversary on October 7th.

More on drones at: <http://vcnv.org/> and <http://www.womensaynotowar.org/article.php?id=5100>

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You are campaigning for election in the Rostog district of Afghanistan's Takhar province. While traveling in a six-car convoy, on September 1, 2010, a NATO-led airstrike attacks your car killing you and ten other election campaign workers. Drone surveillance identified you as a high level target, but the village spokesperson says the entire area was peaceful and that there were no insurgents in the district.

You are helping your family by searching for scrap metal on a mountain side in the Manogi District of Afghanistan's Kunar province. A drone mistakenly identifies you and your friends, age six to twelve, as insurgents. On August 26, 2010, NATO aircraft dropped a bomb on you, killing you and your five friends.

You are traveling with your two children in the Pusht Rod district of Afghanistan's Farah province when NATO forces attack the vehicle you are riding in, on August 20, 2010, killing you and your children. NATO acknowledged that you were accidentally killed "when a coalition force air weapons team engaged the insurgents." Drone surveillance is used to identify insurgents in this area.

With your children, you are seeking shelter from precision airstrikes launched by NATO forces on June 19, 2010 when a missile hits the building in which you are huddled, killing you and your children. NATO issues a statement stating that their mission is to protect the population and accepting full responsibility if civilians were unintentionally harmed in this intense fight against insurgents. Drone surveillance identifies buildings where humans seek shelter during aerial bombing operations.

You are a teenage mother with two children riding as passengers with the coffin of a dead relative on the way to the burial site. Eleven of you sway back and forth along the bumpy road, when an aerial bombardment results in everyone's death. August 5, 2010. Nangarhar province, eastern Afghanistan. Drone surveillance mistakenly identified you as an insurgent.

You are a child living in Miranshah, Pakistan. Your house is adjacent to a militant compound. A "kill chain" comprised of U.S. officials mandates that a pilotless drone aircraft should fire on the building where you live. On August 23rd, 2010, a CIA drone-operated Hellfire missile kills you, two other children and four women.

"US Drone strike kills 20 people in Pakistan"

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE67M44U20100823>

You are staying in a house near Miranshah in North Waziristan when an unmanned drone operated by the CIA fires a Hellfire missile. CIA analysts, working at Langley Air Force Base, using drone camera surveillance, suspected that you are a militant. You and three other 'suspected militants' die in the attack June 26, 2010.

“'US drone' kills four in Pakistan border area' <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10423780>

You are a child attending a funeral when three unmanned drones operated by the CIA at Langley Air Force Base, fire Hellfire missiles at the gathering. The CIA analysts, using drone camera surveillance, suspected it was a funeral for a member of the Pakistani Taliban. Earlier that same day, the analysts, using drone surveillance, suspected that a village was a compound used to train Taliban soldiers. They fired Hellfire missiles at the village, killing seven people whom they suspected were militants. The CIA analysts also suspected that among the seven people they killed, they killed a Taliban commander. Furthermore, the CIA analysts suspected that this would-be commander was none other than [Taliban commander] Niaz Walli. You may have believed you were safe to attend a funeral. The CIA suspected that the funeral was for this same Niaz Walli, and took license to kill you and 44 civilians of Najmarai village in the Makeen district of Pakistan. June 24, 2009.

“'US drone' hits Pakistan funeral”

<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/asia/2009/06/20096244230395712.html>