"Anyone can just go in there and kill someone, but you can't get information from a corpse." SEAL motto http://www.specialoperations.com/Focus/quotes.html

See Newsletter on Drones.

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Glenn Greenwald: Excuses for assassination secrecy
JustForeignPolicy, 7-12-12. The notion that we should trust the President with secret and
unaccountable power to kill runs completely contrary to the spirit of the Constitution. 
http://www.salon.com/2012/07/12/excuses_for_assassination_secrecy/

*Action: Urge John Brennan to Tell the Whole Truth about CIA drone strikes in Yemen and Pakistan*

On Monday, White House counterterrorism adviser John Brennan claimed that "the United States government conducts targeted strikes against specific al-Qaeda terrorists." What Brennan didn't say was that the CIA has launched drone strikes in Pakistan and Yemen without knowing who would be killed, against people who are not on any list of "suspected terrorists," on the basis that according to U.S. intelligence, their behavior fits a profile of "suspected terrorist." U.S. officials have said that these "signature strikes" increase the risk of killing civilians, as well as the risk of killing people who have no dispute with the United States. Law professor Bruce Ackerman has argued that such strikes in Yemen are not legal under the 2001 AUMF, contrary to Brennan's claims.

Urge John Brennan to tell the whole truth about CIA drone strikes in Yemen and Pakistan by signing our petition. We will hand-deliver the petition when Brennan speaks at the Fordham University commencement in New York City on May 19. 
http://www.justforeignpolicy.org/act/brennan-petition

*Alexander Cockburn*

**Awlaki Assassination Puts Obama Above the Law** (Covert Ops, US Wars and Military Action)

Welcome to the Drone Empire, in which the president's executioners can kill without legal restraint. http://www.thenation.com/columns/beat-devil

Secret US Memo Made Legal Case to Kill a Citizen


The report begins: "The Obama administration's secret legal memorandum that opened the door to the killing of Anwar al-Awlaki, the American-born radical Muslim cleric hiding in Yemen, found that it would be lawful only if it were not feasible to take him alive, according to people who have read the document."


“A Dangerous Precedent”


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*Listen to Rep. Ron Paul deliver this address.*

According to the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, Americans are never to be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. The Constitution is not some aspirational statement of values, allowing exceptions when convenient; rather, it is the law of the land. It is the basis of our Republic and our principal bulwark against tyranny.
Last week’s assassination of two American citizens, Anwar al-Awlaki and Samir Khan, is an outrage and a criminal act carried out by the president and his administration. If the law protecting us against government-sanctioned assassination can be voided when there is a “really bad American,” is there any meaning left to the rule of law in the United States? If, as we learned last week, a secret government committee, not subject to congressional oversight or judicial review, can now target certain Americans for assassination, under what moral authority do we presume to lecture the rest of the world about protecting human rights? Didn’t we just bomb Libya into oblivion under the auspices of protecting the civilians from being targeted by their government? Timothy McVeigh was certainly a threat, as were Nidal Hasan and Jared Lee Loughner. They killed people in front of many witnesses. They took up arms against their government in a literal way yet were still afforded trials. These constitutional protections are in place because our Founders realized it is a very serious matter to deprive any individual of life or liberty. Our outrage against even the obviously guilty is not worth the sacrifice of the rule of law. Awlaki has been outspoken against the United States, and we are told he encouraged violence against Americans. We do not know that he actually committed any acts of violence. Ironically, he was once invited to the Pentagon as part of an outreach to moderate Muslims after 9/11. As the U.S. attacks against Muslims in the Middle East and Central Asia expanded, it is said that he became more fervent and radical in his opposition to U.S. foreign policy.

Many cheer this killing because they believe that in a time of war, due process is not necessary — not even for citizens, and especially not for those overseas. However, there has been no formal declaration of war and certainly not one against Yemen. The post-9/11 authorization for force would not have covered these two Americans because no one is claiming they had any connection to that attack. Awlaki was on a kill list compiled by a secret panel within President Obama’s National Security Council and Justice Department. How many more Americans citizens are on that list? They won’t tell us. What are the criteria? They won’t tell us. Where is the evidence? They won’t tell us.

Awlaki’s father tried desperately to get the administration to at least allow his son to have legal representation to challenge the “kill” order. He was denied. Rather than give him his day in court, the administration, behind closed doors, served as prosecutor, judge, jury, and executioner. The most worrisome aspect of this is that any new powers this administration accues will serve as precedents for future administrations. Even those who completely trust this administration must understand that if this usurpation of power and denial of due process is allowed to stand, these powers will remain to be expanded on by the next administration and then the next. Will you trust them? History shows that once a population gives up its rights, they are not easily won back. Beware.


Read more by Rep. Ron Paul

- Let’s Get Out of the Middle East – and the UN – September 26th, 2011
- Foreign Occupation Leads to More Terror – September 12th, 2011
- Mission Accomplished in Libya? – August 29th, 2011
- The Illusion of Safety – August 22nd, 2011
- Let’s End TSA Abuses and Failures – July 5th, 2011

Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control

$16.00
Drone Warfare is a comprehensive look at the growing menace of robotic warfare, with an extensive analysis of who is producing the drones, where they are being used, who “pilots” these unmanned planes, who are the victims and what are the legal and moral implications. In vivid, readable style, the book also looks at what activists, lawyers and scientists are doing to ground the drones, and ways to move forward.

In reality, writes Benjamin, the assassinations we are carrying out via drones will come back to haunt us when others start doing the same thing—to us.

Foreword by Barbara Ehrenreich

“In this remarkably cogent and carefully researched book, Medea Benjamin makes it clear that drones are not just another high-tech military trinket. Drone Warfare sketches out the nightmare possibilities posed by this insane proliferation.” —Barbara Ehrenreich, author of Nickel and Dimed

Drones Warfare is a comprehensive look at the growing menace of drone warfare, with an extensive analysis of who is producing the drones, where they are being used, who are “piloting” these unmanned planes, who are the victims and what are the legal and moral implications. But this book is also a call to action, with a look at what activists, lawyers and scientists are doing to rein in the drones, and ways to move forward.

“Activist extraordinaire Medea Benjamin has documented how the U.S. government’s use of drones to murder hundreds of innocent civilians in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen has increased the danger to our national security. Benjamin’s Drone Warfare is the first book that reveals the vocal international citizen opposition that challenges the legality and morality of America’s extrajudicial execution drones before they kill here at home.” —Ann Wright, U.S. Army colonel (ret.) and former deputy chief of mission for U.S. embassies in Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and elsewhere

Weeks after the 2002 American invasion of Afghanistan, Medea Benjamin visited that country. There, on the ground, talking with victims of the strikes, she learned the reality behind the “precision bombs” on which U.S. forces were becoming increasingly reliant. Now, with the use of drones escalating at a meteoric pace, Benjamin has written this book as a call to action: “It is meant to wake a sleeping public,” she writes, “fulled into thinking that drones are good, that targeted killings are making us safer.”

Pre-order here!

To bring author Medea Benjamin to your city or local book store for a book event please contact Alli at alli[at]codepink.org.

BILL MOYERS’ EARLIER HISTORY OF UNCONSTITUTIONAL PRESIDENCY:
REAGAN  [Moyers’ PBS film was turned into a book 1988.]

The Secret Government PBS 1987 Bill Moyers - YouTube
www.youtube.com/watch?v=jiRBxDEGDqw Jun 19, 2011 - 87 min - Uploaded by
Great documentary with information you don't see much anymore. Enjoy.

1. More videos for Moyers Secret Government »

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Bill Moyers, Secret Government, PBS (Public Broadcasting Service) 1987. Moyers: "The Secret Government is an interlocking network of official functionaries, ...

3. Bill Moyers. 'The Secret Government: The Constitution in Crisis' PBS ...

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Nov 5, 2007 – Watch the video "The Secret Government: The Constitution in Crisis", a 1987 TV program hosted by Bill Moyers examining the Iran-Contra affair ...


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Apr 5, 2002 – BILL MOYERS: Eileen Welsome learned just how hard it is to find out what government doesn’t want us to know. She won a Pulitzer Prize for ...

5. Bill Moyers - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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7. The Secret Government by Bill Moyers

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The Secret Government by Bill Moyers. Seven Locks Press, 1988. Introduction / Iran-Contra 1987 / The Cold Cold Warriors · Send in the CIA · The Shredding of ...

8. The Secret Government - Part I

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Feb 26, 2012 – Host Bill Moyers exposes the inner workings of the secret government. Though originally broadcast in 1987, it is even more relevant today.