

## Drones in U.S. skies



The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has customized its Predator Drones, to carry out at-home surveillance tasks such as: identifying civilians, and tracking cell phones, government documents\* show. Homeland Security's specifications for its drones include: being capable of identifying a human being at night, and use of "signals interception" technology that can capture communications in the frequency ranges used by mobile phones, and "direction finding" technology that can identify the locations of mobile devices or two-way radios.

\*<http://politechbot.com/docs/dhs.uav.drone.specification.0301>

13.html

## Solutions to our plight

So we can plainly see that not only is there a huge waste of U.S. taxpayer money, but a tremendous disregard for human life in a continued predator drone project.

The people of Pakistan and Afghanistan do not want continued drone usage in their countries due to the monumental failure of the predator drones to do more then terrorize the populace. With very few high profile targets eliminated by drones, one must ask, "If these are used on U.S. soil, will we have the same results?"

We must demand our leaders be held accountable for their actions. Petitioning Congress is a place to start. The people united will never be defeated.

## Drone strikes in Afghanistan

The U.S. Military is increasingly relying on drone strikes inside Afghanistan, whos government has complained bitterly about civilian casualties. The strikes sometimes accidentally kill civilians while forcing others to abandon their hometowns in fear, feeding widespread anti-American sentiment. In Afghanistan, the U.N. Has reported that five drone strikes in 2012 resulted in civilian casualties, with sixteen civilians killed and three wounded. In one village a school was leveled in a nighttime airstrike. The strike on the school took place July 17, 2011, in the village of Budyali.

"The conflict continued to have a devastating impact on women and children, "with 1175 women and 555 children killed in 2010, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan said in a report in March. "More women and children were killed and injured that in 2009. Women casualties increased by six percent and child casualties increased by 21 percent from 2009."Over the past 4 years, 8,832 civilians have been killed in the conflict, with civilian deaths increasing each year.

Every Predator Drone in Afghanistan costs U.S. Taxpayers \$4.5 million USD



## Drone strikes in Pakistan

Since 2004 the U.S. government has made hundreds of drone attacks in northwest Pakistan, along the Afghanistan border. The attacks have been led by the CIA's Special Activities Division. These attacks were started by G.W. Bush, have increased substantially under the Presidency of Barack Obama. C.I.A. bombardments have continued at a rapid pace.

According to a just completed study by the New America Foundation, the number of drone strikes has risen dramatically since Obama became President. During his first nine and a half months in office, he has authorized as many C.I.A. aerial attacks in Pakistan as George W. Bush did in his final three years in office.

The Bureau of Investigative Journalism found that between 391-780 civilians were killed out of a total of between 1,658 and 2,597 and that 160 children are reported among the deaths. The Bureau also revealed that since President Obama took office at least 50 civilians were killed in follow-up strikes when they had gone to help victims and more than 20 civilians have also been attacked in deliberate strikes on funerals and mourners, tactics that have been condemned by legal experts.



## Links for relevant information

<http://articles.latimes.com/2011/dec/10/nation/la-na-drone-arrest-20111211>

[http://news.cnet.com/8301-13578\\_3-57572207-38/dhs-built-domestic-surveillance-tech-into-predator-drones/](http://news.cnet.com/8301-13578_3-57572207-38/dhs-built-domestic-surveillance-tech-into-predator-drones/)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drone\\_attacks\\_in\\_Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drone_attacks_in_Pakistan)

<http://www.rawa.org/temp/runews/2013/03/28/afghan-villagers-flee-homes-blame-u-s-drones.html>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/jun/30/us-drone-strikes-somalia>

[http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2009/10/26/091026fa\\_fact\\_mayer](http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2009/10/26/091026fa_fact_mayer)

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