

MID-DEC 2011

Where's the outrage?

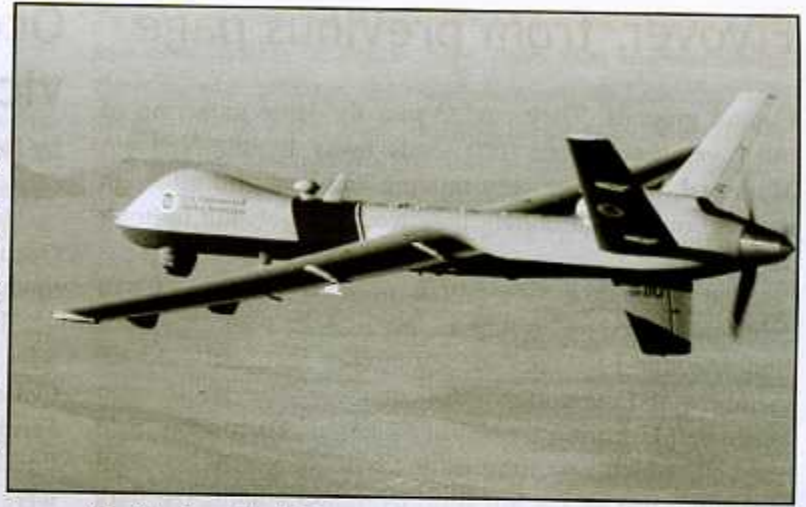
by Bob Heberle

It is tough to exist within the mainstream because I get so agitated over an issue that does not seem to resonate with much of the population. I am deeply troubled over the use of U.S. drones that are killing innocent civilians worldwide. But that leads to the greater issue.

Especially outrageous are not only the administration's orders for "surgical strikes," which include attacking random populations and the execution of U.S. citizens by CIA drones, but the apparent ignorance by Americans of the egregious violation of U.S. and international law in the execution of an American juvenile in Yemen by our drones.

One hundred seventy-five children below the age of eighteen were killed in Pakistan, and over 2,300 civilians were killed in the last five years. About 85 percent of those occurred during President Obama's term, according to journalist Pratap Chatterjee on Amy Goodman's "Democracy Now." "Democracy Now" has devoted substantial time to exploring the criminality of our use of drones and those who oppose such use. Chatterjee, Ann Wright, Glenn Greenwald and Syracuse, N.Y., activist Ed Kinane are among those Goodman interviewed who revealed these disturbing facts.

In the Nov. 6 issue of the "Star Tribune," Clive Stafford



Smith described his personal connection with the recent drone executions of Pakistanis. He heard the truth from a 16-year-old Pakistani, Tariq Aziz. Three days later the teenager attempted to document more drone casualties but was killed by a CIA drone strike along with his 12-year-old cousin, Waheed Khan. Few other reporters have covered this story.

The day following Smith's article, I wrote the "Star Tribune" commending them on the story but questioning why they did not report the killing of Anwar al-Awlake's son. My letter was not printed and I am stunned at how few people know about our country's alleged criminal act. Peter

← Drones, cont'd. next page

Drones, from previous page

Finn and Gregg Miller reported Awlke's son's death in "The Washington Post:" "The teenager, Abdulrahman al-Awlaki, a U.S. citizen who was born in Denver in 1995, and his 17-year-old Yemeni cousin were killed in a U.S. military strike that left nine people dead in southeastern Yemen."

Limited news is out there, but there is no outrage over innocent U.S. children being killed by our government without due process! What was Abdulrahman's crime? It was reported that he was assassinated while attempting to be present at his father's funeral!

Often we hear of demonic rulers like Sadaam Husein, Bashar al-Assad, Hosni Mubarak and Muammar Gaddafi who butcher their own citizens. Aside from numbers, aren't the murders by this administration of our fellow countrymen just as offensive? Isn't it time to express outrage at these unconstitutional executions of our citizens, executions that now include our own children?

An eight-minute documentary highlights these legal issues at www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxmKlIdfL4s. Called "Unmasking the Illusion - Drones on Trial," it presents the Hancock 38, who were charged with disorderly conduct in upstate New York for attempting to deliver people's indictments to officials at Hancock Field, one of the airfields where drone attacks on the Middle East originate.

DOD wants 94,000 sq. miles for drone practice in West

by Frank Fuller

Drone warfare is coming to some of the wide open spaces in the western U.S. where the Pentagon is planning to acquire 60 million acres of public and private land to use for drone war games.

"The proposal is part of a plan to establish the largest Joint Forces Future Combat Systems training site in the world by expanding Joint Forces Special Operations Command air space across northern New Mexico and southern Colorado for robotic warfare development, low altitude flights and testing of high-tech lethal weaponry," writes the group Not 1 More Acre! on its website.

Code Pink adds that this will require the forced relocation of thousands of Coloradans, and that "The flight zone would reach across state lines, across sovereign indigenous nations, across national parks, going as far north as Aspen, Colorado to as far south as Albuquerque, New Mexico."

"The Pentagon and its private contractors are proceeding with plans to displace citizens by condemning fragile public and private lands including the last intact shortgrass prairie in all the American Great Plains while abusing national public disclosure, environmental and cultural protection laws." Not 1 More Acre! also wrote on its website