

U.S. Worldwide Drone War Status as of May 2015

659 Drone Strikes

US drone strikes remain under the cloak of secrecy, Washington refusing to disclose any details to the press or the concerned state and private bodies both in the United States and abroad. Nevertheless, independent observers, based on corroborated evidence, have evaluated the total number of drone strikes to at least 530 and possibly 659 or more (see Fig.1 and Table 1), of which 417 in Pakistan, from 95 to 206 in Yemen, from 9 to 13 in Somalia, and from 9 to 23 in Afghanistan, since the end of 2014, when the NATO/ISAF intervention was supposed to be through.

The drone assassination program, launched by the hawkish George W. Bush in 2001, and shifted to higher gear by the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize winner and US president Barack Obama, has become a nightmarish quotidian menace for thousands of bystanders around the globe, and the latest and futile concoction of US warmongers. After a series of humiliating military failures, namely in Afghanistan and in Iraq, with the economy wrecked by sky-rocketing military spending, the United States government, unable to get out of the rut, inanely try to fulfill their imperial

ambitions by running faster forward, advised by disciples of Stanley Kubrik's fiction character Dr. Strangelove.

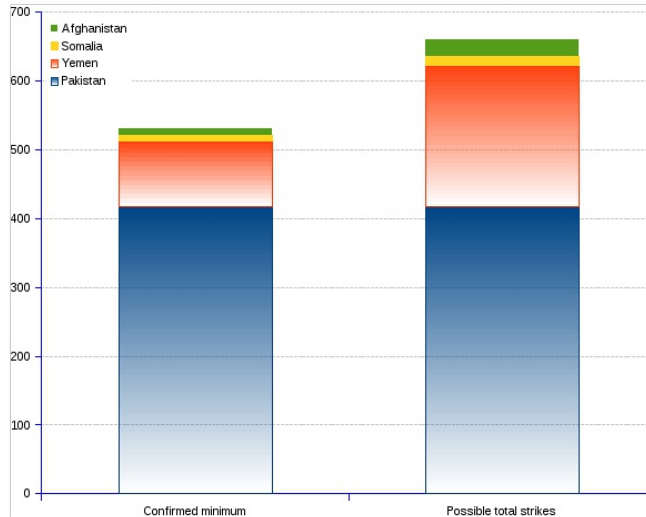


Fig.1: United States confirmed drone strikes as of May 2015.

The Dirty War Trap

Wary of engaging in "limited" wars that, as a rule, not only extend in time and become the longest ones in the military history of the country — the Afghan war is the perfect example thereof —, but also spill over the borders and set whole regions

on fire — the Iraq war unfolded to Syria, Yemen, and Saharan Africa —, Washington executives opted for a form of permanent, global, and unrestricted war, the drone war, which indeed is an avatar of a totalitarian and planet-wide order-enforcing process carried out, without any form of democratic oversight, by a shadowy, omnipotent, and unbridled mercenary corps. Targets spread beyond the enemy's territory, to reach both neutral and even friendly states' homes, and comprises enemy military personnel, unidentified suspects, and also indiscriminated civilian bystanders, including innocent children.

US President: Party, Jury and Executioner

The drone war is not constrained by prerequisites other than an executive decision.

The President and his cronies, the security, legal and military advisers, do not care to encumber themselves with the complications of the rules and procedures of international war law. They deem necessary and sufficient to rely on paper work processed by a restricted number of in-house officials in the rarefied atmosphere of secluded war rooms. For them, there is no need for a formal

declaration of war, or parliament scrutiny, or a vote by the UN Security Council — their dictate is all that matters. It is easy to predict that the drone war medicine will produce more harm than good, and will soon become the next link in the chain of discomfiture that binds the likes of the Iraq, the Afghanistan, the Somalia, the Libya, and the Yemen military adventures. ◻

Children Killing: Error, or Preemptive Action?

By May 2015, the US performed a minimum of 3,004 and possibly 5,378 (Fig. 2 and Table 2) or more state sponsored assassinations, including from 488 to 1,127 civilians, of which 180 to 227 children, and injured from 1,239 to 2,066 people, by means of at least 530 and possibly 659 drone strikes in Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, and Afghanistan.

For countless people, US drone strikes have rapidly become a deadly menace lurking in the night, circling above the heads with a monotonous buzz and nerve-racking apathy, ready to hit, destroy and kill at any instant. Allegedly devised as a method to take down elusive enemy leaders, they soon turned into a vehicle to inspire terror, and to dishearten any form of resistance by

delivering death and annihilation to combatants, relatives, visitors, bystanders, and whomever happens to be found in the neighborhood.

Discriminatory Sensitivities

It is strange that all those who were so vocally outraged by the killings and havoc caused by the September 11, 2001 al-Qaeda attacks in Manhattan remain so discreet regarding the US-triggered drone war. People-wise, they should be reminded that a child is a child, whether white or colored, whether in Yemen, in Somalia, or in New York. Intelligence-wise, they would better review recent history, and understand how vain the US big-stick approach can be against today's Lernaean Hydra, the mythical beast that, for each head cut off, grows a dozen more.

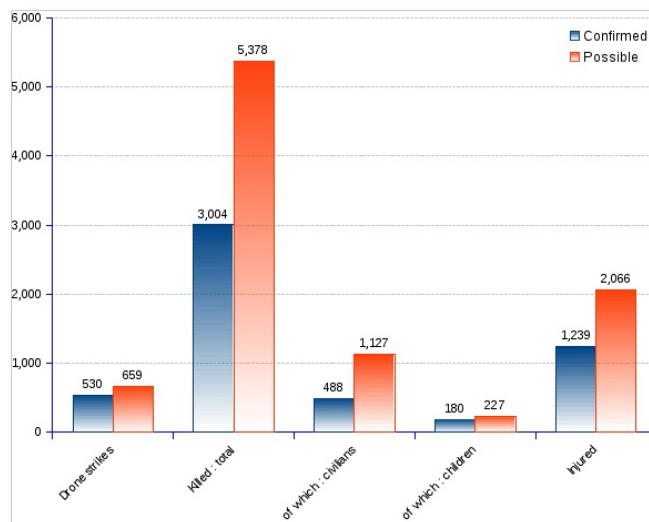



Fig.2: Human losses caused by US drones as of May 2015.

Can't U.S. famed schools provide US leaders with the cognitive capability to grasp that their December 6-17, 2001 Tora Bora battle in retaliation to the September 11 attacks, only gave birth to rebel organizations more

aggressive than al Qaeda, and incubated a wanton war that currently ignites half of the planet, and is penetrating through the pores of the other half? 

| US drone strikes Status as of May 2015 | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| | Confirmed minimum | Possible total |
| Pakistan | 417 | 417 |
| Yemen | 95 | 206 |
| Somalia | 9 | 13 |
| Afghanistan ¹ | 9 | 23 |
| Total | 530 | 659 |

¹ Afghanistan as from January 2015, after the official ending of the NATO/ISAF intervention in the country.

Table 1: United States confirmed drone strikes as of May 2015.

| Casualties US Drone Strikes ¹ Status as of May 2015 | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| | Confirmed minimum | Possible total |
| Drone strikes | 530 | 659 |
| Killed : total | 3004 | 5378 |
| of which : civilians | 488 | 1127 |
| of which : children | 180 | 227 |
| Injured | 1239 | 2066 |

¹ Total for Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia and Afghanistan, the latter as from January 2015, after the official ending of the NATO/ISAF intervention in the country.

Table 2: Human losses caused by US drones as of May 2015.

References :

Bureau of Investigative Journalism [<http://www.thebureauinvestigates.com>].

Sources :

<http://stats.areppim.com/war.htm>