

June 11, 2014

Senator Mary Landrieu  
PO Box 50098  
New Orleans, LA 70150

Dear Senator Landrieu:

Having read into the Anwar al-Awlaki situation, I have some serious concerns about the legality of President Obama's decision to launch an aerial attack on a US citizen on Yemen soil. Based on the facts, this constitutes an assassination on an American abroad. This is clearly a violation of both national and international regulations, one that took place on September 30, 2011.

When he was born in New Mexico in 1971, according to the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, Anwar al-Awlaki became a natural citizen. As a citizen of the US, Anwar al-Awlaki had the right to due process for his crimes against America. President Obama's order to eradicate Anwar al-Awlaki by drone without giving him due process, not only abuses Anwar al-Awlaki's rights as a citizen, but also appoints himself as judge, jury, and executioner of this case. One man is not supposed to have this kind of power. Our forefathers created our government the way they did because they knew that too much power given to one man would be too dangerous. If President Obama gives himself the power to exterminate any US citizen that he feels is a threat to the national security of America, then where does he draw the line? How does he decide who deserves due process and who does not? The government was designed the way it was so that the leaders of America, who were appointed by the people to represent the people's best interests, could decide together the best action to take regarding potential terrorist threats to the US.

This leads me to my next point of concern. How does President Obama decide who is a potential terrorist threat and who can be considered collateral damage? As I mentioned earlier, the drone strike that assassinated Anwar al-Awlaki was executed on September 30, 2011. However, there was a second aerial attack within a week of the first that killed Anwar al-Awlaki's sixteen-year-old son, Abdulrahman, who was also a US citizen. The government stated that the second drone strike mistakenly murdered Anwar al-Awlaki's son, but Abdulrahman had set off into the Yemeni Desert to find his father. How can they say his death was an accident if he was not anywhere near where they thought his father would be, should he have still been alive? Is our government system flawed?

I sincerely hope that you, as a government official, would strive to protect us by upholding the constitution and thereby defending our rights as citizens. I look forward to seeing some drastic changes made in the way our government handles situations that deal with national security and constitutional rights, one of the most important ones being due process. The rights of citizens should not be disregarded for any reason. Our nation was built upon liberty, and taking away that liberty would only lead to the deterioration of the United States of American.

Sincerely,