Dear Senator Vinner,

In the past years, the question of morals has been brought up due to a serious and vital event for further insuring the safety of the United States. In 2011, the United States military launched an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle attack at an alleged high ranking member, Anwar al-Awlaki of the terrorist group, Al Qaeda. They killed Anwar al-Awlaki and his sixteen year old son who, according to the *New York* Times, had no evidence of affiliation with Al Qaeda. The *New York Times* alsoreported that Anwar al-Awlaki and his son were U.S. citizens. This means that they were entitled to a trial by jury by the sixth amendment in the Bill of Rights. Society asks you to call for an investigation into former President Obama’s decision and to revise the United States drone policy.

Every U.S. citizen is granted rights no matter what the act of malfeasance was. The sixth amendment states that every citizen of the United States is guaranteed a right to a speedy and public trial. This was not represented when the US government sent a drone to target and destroy the vehicle carrying al-Awlaki and his son. They received no impartial judgment and were not given the right to a lawyer. The Obama administration acted as the judge, jury, and executioner, deciding the fate of al-Awlaki and his son, far from what our founding fathers had fought so hard to obtain. A policy that reviews all possible options and removes collateral damage is one the American people can stand behind.

Drones have several drawbacks as well. Although they have been extremely successful in combat, they have eliminated approximately three to four thousand jihadists, while one thousand civilians have been killed as “collateral damage”, as the U.S. government calls it. The United States Department of Defense spends approximately $4.457 billion on drones. These weapons of war have changed the landscape of aerial combat, although their conception originally produced a weapon far different from the machine we know today. They are cheaper to run, extremely accurate, and best of all, unmanned. A drone pilot can be thousands of miles from the target, completely eliminating pilot risk. However, they can be hacked into and stolen, as is evident when Iran took control of and captured a drone in 2011. They then reverse engineered it, in order to improve their own drone technology, and mounted it in the city square of Tehran as a show of victory against the United States.

In conclusion, even with the ground breaking technologies the U.S. incorporates into its drones, they still have collateral damage and vulnerabilities to hackers. This is unacceptable in the eyes of the world. When a target is destroyed at the cost of innocent, human life, it cannot be considered a successful mission. If the U.S. wishes to win over the hearts and minds of the people in the countries that they perform missions in by claiming it a necessity of national security, they must seek the approval of the local government and pursue an investigation.