In the matter of *Jones vs/ the National Security Agency*, the Supreme Court finds that usages of drones and GPS on cellular phones to observe Americans are unconstitutional.

The idea that the government, without first obtaining a warrant, may track an individual’s location using the GPS on her phone violates the Fourth Amendment. The Fourth Amendment states that people must “be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects.” This amendment does not protect simply a person’s private residence or personal items, but the person herself. A person has the right to be in a public place but wish for their actual location to be unknown. Similarly, Justice Potter Stewart said, “But what he seeks to preserve as private, even if an area accessible to the public, may be constitutionally protected.” The cell phone is a personal article which an individual would wish particularly to protect as private. Today a person is rarely separated from her cell phone, so much so that tracking a cell phone would translate to tracking its owner twenty-four hours a day. Phones contain so much personal information: pictures, credit cards, fingerprints- all that the government could access as well. If a judge does not issue a warrant to limit the government’s actions, are we assured that the government will not steal this information, directly affecting the person’s security?

If the government of the United States allows the use of drones to record activities in private residences, essentially spying on US citizens, then the government violates the Fourth Amendment. Drone surveillance is the equivalent of police officers entering uninvited into a home. This infringes upon a person’s expectation of privacy because there is a generally acknowledged claim of going unobserved in one’s private moments. Additionally, should the government have enough evidence of suspicious activity to resort to drones, then there must be sufficient probable cause to acquire warrant. Without a warrant, these actions are criminal. The lack of approval by an impartial third- party judge is disturbing, and it implies that more insidious intent could take place.

The Fourth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America guarantees certain protections for each of this great nation’s citizens. If the government takes these rights into its own hands, they strip the people of the only distinguishing factor between their freedom and slavery. Invasion of this most basic right of privacy, when unchecked by search warrants, robs people of their humanity. It ends here.