Drones of America: Yes or No

Dear Senator Vitter:

The use of drones to kill American citizens who have committed the act of treason is severe. As U.S. citizens, we have the right to due process. Why should we allow some people the right to due process, yet deny that right for others? How do we draw that line in the sand? True justice dictates that we treat all of our citizens equally. An investigation needs to be carried out concerning the legalities of the president’s decision concerning al-Awlaki. We need to take the moral high road and better contain the drone’s destructive area.

Just because al-Awlaki was a monster, why did we have to stoop to his evil actions? Al Awlaki was officially an American citizen, but he was denied his rights as an American. The president decided to use a drone to eliminate al-Awlaki’s existence. Al- Awlaki did commit treason and murdered hundreds of innocent American civilians, which is akin to a serial killer, but so was Charles Manson. Charles Manson is believed to have carried out some thirty-five killings, yet he still got the benefit of a fair trial. What is different about these two crimes? Why did al-Awlaki not get a fair trial, also? We should be a more humane society, but because of 9/11, we now do to others what is done to us.

Why use something so catastrophic that causes such loss of innocent civilian casualties? Drones are planes that are operated by someone miles away. The drones carry bombs to drop onto the target in order to completely destroy said target. When the bombs explode, they destroy thousands of innocent humans. Additionally, drone warfare eliminates the human factor, which allows those initiating the attack to further separate themselves from the mass murder. As stated on the drones.procon.org website, “…drone strikes create more terrorists than they kill.” Hence, those operating the drones should have a mechanism that allows them to see the havoc that they are creating. Even though Al-Awlaki killed thousands of innocent people, and we only murdered one innocent person, innocent lives were lost, and collateral damage is not acceptable. Drones cause more destruction than necessary. The government should test the bombs that go into the drones more rigorously, so they can estimate the catastrophic the results. If the government worked harder and studied deeper, they might save multiple lives by calculating how major the destruction will be.

Even though security is of utmost importance, the way that drones are being used today is unnecessary. In our society, we have the ability to be more humane, and we now have the technology to lessen the destruction that drones and their bombs cause. If we use drones for mass destruction simply because someone else destroyed our citizens en masse, we are no better than they. In fact, we have become that which we despise most: murderers who kill in order to gain revenge. We must rise above and become the example.