



UK: Government Ministers Risk Murder Prosecution for Drone Strikes against Civilians

Par [Felicity Arbuthnot](#)

Mondialisation.ca, 10 mai 2016

Région : [Europe](#)

Thème: [Militarization and WMD, US NATO War Agenda](#)

An influential Committee of Parliamentarians has today (Tuesday) called on the British Government to “urgently” clarify its legal position on drone strikes, warning that its policy: “may expose...Ministers to the risk of criminal prosecution for murder.”

A new Report from the Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR) also states that the Defence Secretary, Michael Fallon in evidence given to the Committee, demonstrated a “misunderstanding of the legal frameworks that apply” to the use of armed drones outside of warzones.

The Report entitled: “The Government’s policy on the use of drones for targeted killing”, warns that the UK’s own policy of targeted killing -announced as a “new departure” by the Prime Minister last year, may: “end up in the same place as the US policy”, despite Ministers’ claims to the contrary.

The US covert drone programme, undertaken by secretive agencies such as the CIA, has proved controversial as it is also carried out in countries where America is not at war.

The programme is estimated to have resulted in the deaths of hundreds of civilians, but is shrouded in secrecy to the point where the US Government has yet to acknowledge its existence officially. General Michael Flynn, the former head of the Defense Intelligence Agency under President Obama has described it as a “failed strategy.”

Last September, David Cameron announced that a “targeted strike” had been carried out in: “a country where we are not involved in a war” and admitted that this was “the first time in modern times” that this had happened.

The British Government has since sought to distance itself from any suggestion that it is following the US model of “targeted killing”, however they have refused to answer repeated questions by MPs and the Committee as to whether, like the US, was maintaining its own ‘Kill List’ of individuals set for targeting.

The Committee says that it is “disappointed...by the Government’s failure to answer a number of important questions”, criticizing: “contradictions and inconsistencies in the Government’s account of its policy, which have given rise to confusion.”

Jennifer Gibson, a staff Attorney at the influential UK based international human rights NGO Reprieve who gave evidence to the Committee, said: “This report is a wake-up call. Not only

does the committee raise troubling questions about whether the Government 'misunderstood' the legal frameworks that apply, but it warns they may be at risk of prosecution for murder as a result.

"The UK's silence in the face of repeated questioning by the Committee only further reinforces the very real danger that the UK is following the US down the slippery slope of kill lists and targeted killings. This is alarming, given the CIA's secret drone war has killed hundreds of civilians and been described as a 'failed strategy' by Obama's own former Head of Defence Intelligence."

La source originale de cet article est Mondialisation.ca
Copyright © [Felicity Arbuthnot](#), Mondialisation.ca, 2016

Articles Par : [Felicity Arbuthnot](#)

Avis de non-responsabilité : Les opinions exprimées dans cet article n'engagent que le ou les auteurs. Le Centre de recherche sur la mondialisation se dégage de toute responsabilité concernant le contenu de cet article et ne sera pas tenu responsable pour des erreurs ou informations incorrectes ou inexactes.

Le Centre de recherche sur la mondialisation (CRM) accorde la permission de reproduire la version intégrale ou des extraits d'articles du site [Mondialisation.ca](#) sur des sites de médias alternatifs. La source de l'article, l'adresse url ainsi qu'un hyperlien vers l'article original du CRM doivent être indiqués. Une note de droit d'auteur (copyright) doit également être indiquée.

Pour publier des articles de [Mondialisation.ca](#) en format papier ou autre, y compris les sites Internet commerciaux, contactez: media@globalresearch.ca

[Mondialisation.ca](#) contient du matériel protégé par le droit d'auteur, dont le détenteur n'a pas toujours autorisé l'utilisation. Nous mettons ce matériel à la disposition de nos lecteurs en vertu du principe "d'utilisation équitable", dans le but d'améliorer la compréhension des enjeux politiques, économiques et sociaux. Tout le matériel mis en ligne sur ce site est à but non lucratif. Il est mis à la disposition de tous ceux qui s'y intéressent dans le but de faire de la recherche ainsi qu'à des fins éducatives. Si vous désirez utiliser du matériel protégé par le droit d'auteur pour des raisons autres que "l'utilisation équitable", vous devez demander la permission au détenteur du droit d'auteur.

Contact média: media@globalresearch.ca