

EYE IN THE SKY Distorts the Reality of Targeted Killing by Armed Drones



The film *Eye in the Sky* builds drama through excruciating minutes ticking by as politicians debate the legality and morality of sending Hellfire missiles into a house in Nairobi Kenya where tiny surveillance drones show figures strapping on suicide vests, just as a young girl unwittingly sets up shop nearby. She is full of life, and would be likely killed.

The premise that the American and British targeted killing programs are operated on absolute certain identification of combatants and observe strict protocols avoiding civilian casualties is Hollywood reality. But the drone operations of the U.S. military and CIA are secret, and there is no generally recognized definition of "civilian." Our government uses the term "militant" to mean: all military-age males – in some cases as young as 12 -- in a strike zone, unless there is "explicit intelligence posthumously proving them innocent."

Human rights investigators on the ground have learned that hundreds of children have been killed in U.S. "signature strikes," where, for instance, sim cards in cell phones were used to locate targets. Wedding parties have been destroyed because faulty intelligence targeted large gatherings. The Obama administration has so far used drones in and bombed seven predominantly Muslim countries, (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, Libya, Iraq, Syria). >>>>

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