

DENNIS J. KUCINICH
10TH DISTRICT, OHIO

2445 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-5871

14400 DETROIT AVENUE
LAKEWOOD, OHIO 44107
(216) 228-8850

PARMATOWN MALL
7904 DAY DRIVE
PARMA, OH 44129
(440) 845-2707



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

www.kucinich.house.gov

RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY AFFAIRS,
STIMULUS OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT
SPENDING

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE
WORKFORCE

**ENSURE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE U.S.
COMBAT DRONE PROGRAM**

Current signers: Conyers, Holt, Jackson, Jr., Hinchey, Rangel, Stark, Honda, Grijalva,
Lee, Filner

Dear Colleague:

A recent article published in *The Washington Post* revealed that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) have been given new authority that allows them “to fire on targets based solely on their intelligence ‘signatures’ – patterns of behavior that are detected through signals intercepts, human sources and aerial surveillance, and that indicated a presence of an important operative or plot against U.S. interests.” Allowing the CIA and JSOC to conduct drone strikes without having to know the identity of the person they’re targeting is in stark contrast to what the Administration has previously claimed regarding its drone campaign: that they are targeted strikes against suspected terrorists on lists maintained by the CIA and JSOC.

The implications of our use of drones for our national security are profound. They can generate powerful and enduring anti-American sentiment. Such “signature” strikes raise the risk of innocent civilians or individuals who have no relationship to attacks on the U.S. of being killed.

The government has the right and the obligation to protect the citizens of this country. Yet Congress must be given the opportunity to weigh in and demand that there be a minimum of transparency and accountability for our U.S. drone program abroad. Please join us in sending a letter to the President asking that Congress be provided with information on the CIA and JSOCs use of “signature” strikes.

Sincerely,

/s/
Dennis J. Kucinich

/s/
John Conyers, Jr.

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

May XX, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

During a recent speech, top White House counterterrorism advisor John Brennan stated that the United States only authorizes “a particular operation against a specific individual if we have a high degree of confidence that the individual being targeted is indeed the terrorist we are pursuing.”^[1] Yet according to *The Washington Post*, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) has been given new authority that allows them “to fire on targets based solely on their intelligence ‘signatures’ – patterns of behavior that are detected through signal intercepts, human sources and aerial surveillance, and that indicated presence of an important operative or plot against U.S. interests.”^[2] This new authority is in stark contrast to what your Administration has previously claimed regarding its drone campaign: that they are targeted strikes against suspected terrorists on lists maintained by the CIA and JSOC.^[3]

We are concerned that the use of such “signature” strikes could raise the risk of killing innocent civilians or individuals who may have no relationship to attacks on the United States. Our drone campaigns already have virtually no transparency, accountability or oversight. We are further concerned about the legal grounds for such strikes under the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force.

The implications of the use of drones for our national security are profound. They are faceless ambassadors that cause civilian deaths, and are frequently the only direct contact

with Americans that the targeted communities have. They can generate powerful and enduring anti-American sentiment.

As members of Congress, we are deeply concerned about the full impact of drone strikes. Please provide the targeting criteria for "signature" strikes; mechanisms used by the CIA and JSOC to ensure that such killings are legal; the nature of the follow-up that is conducted when civilians are killed or injured; and the mechanisms that ensure civilian casualty numbers are collected, tracked and analyzed.

We look forward to your rapid response.

Sincerely,