

Forum: General Assembly 1

Issue: Regulations imposed to limit the use of Drones for Military purposes to a certain extent in modern conflict.

Student Officer: Ayesha Dhall

Position: Deputy Chair of the First General Assembly

Introduction

Since the first drone strike was carried out by the United States of America in Afghanistan in October 2001 Drones are transitioning into the heart of modern warfare.

According to [BBC](#), Drones are “unmanned Aerial Vehicles or remotely piloted Aerial systems and are “used in situations where manned flight is considered too risky”. This dynamic piece of technology is slowly underway to replace fighter jets since they offer ability to deliver bombs, missiles, and bullets with no risk whatsoever to the lives of the forces that use them, eliminating the danger and casualties the air force pilots would otherwise face during a strike. They also come at a much lower cost as compared to traditional manned aircrafts making UAVs attracting to countries. Although, one of the key aims of the general assembly being to promote international cooperation, drones pose a significant threat to undermine international law by disrupting peace between all the nations, especially those in discord if not utilized in an ethical manner that is agreed upon by all nations.

Drones are not only capable of mass destruction, but also of targeted killings that could interim create conflicts between nations and result in a country believing it to be a just cause for declaring war. The murder of high-ranking officials has often seen animosity resulting in war such as the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand causing the outbreak of the First World

War. Drones allow forces to track the individual and use precise for targeted killings. A recent incident being, the killing of the Iranian general, Qassem Soleimani in Iraq through a drone strike, for which the United States of America claimed responsibility.

The solution to the appropriate usage of drones is beyond the UN charter as the United States clearly violated it when launching the drone strike in Iraq. Greater, more harsh regulations need to be put into place in order to judiciously make use of them.

Definition of Key Terms

Air Force

The Air Force is a military branch of soldiers that are responsible for defending a country in the sky as well as aerial warfare. They carry out operations known as “air operations”

Ammunition

Ammunition is all the armament used to conduct warfare.

Casualties

Casualties refer to as the people that have been killed or injured in a war or accident

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

An unmanned Aerial vehicle is the synonym for a drone. It is an aircraft that is maneuvered without a human pilot on board. It is controlled by a human operator or through computers.

Manned Flight

A manned flight is a vehicle that has a human on board and is controlled by the people that are directly on board the flight.

Air Strike

A manned flight is a vehicle that has a human on board and is controlled by the people that are directly on board the flight.

Fighter Jets

A fighter jet is a military aircraft that is primarily designed for either air to air combat. However, they can also be used to carry armament such as bombs.

Targeted Killings

The United Nations described Targeted Killings as “the intentional, premeditated and deliberate use of lethal force, by states or their agents acting under color of law, or by an organized armed group in armed conflict against a specific individual who is not in the physical custody of the perpetrator”

UN charter

The UN charter is an international treaty with 192 member states involved.

Drone Strikes

It is an attack by one or more unmanned drone

Key Issues

Targeted Killings

Drones have been used for targeted killing by many nations due to the precision and tracking abilities that they offer. Drones make the process of targeted killings much easier by going into another country's airspace. These killings cause major conflicts and lead to greater retaliation.

Motivation for War

Through the ease of targeted killing made available with drones, it may create just reasons to go to war with the attacking nations. Due to the drones ability to kill people that are located far from any zones of conventional hostility not only is a cause of concern in terms of security but also If a

high profile general is targeted and killed, the country will retaliate since it is a matter of national dignity to not let the government-administered killing be left alone. The ease of targeted killings increases the prospects of war.

Civilian Casualties

Drones are associated with a large number of civilian casualties through the strikes conducted. A study that was conducted of combat operations in Afghanistan found that strikes that involved drones were more likely to result in more civilian deaths. According to the bureau of investigative journalism, the amount of civilian deaths caused by drone strikes through US actions ranges from 910-2,200.

In both Pakistan and Yemen, drone strikes as well as signature strikes have accounted for civilian casualties. These have been justified as a counter insurgency action in order to support government forces during an internal armed conflict.

Bringing Warfare outside the Battlefield

The civilian casualties that have so far occurred due to Drone strikes is when the drone strikes are carried out on non-battle-field conditions. During these conditions, there are major disputes over who the genuine target is. Through drones aiding with the killing of targeted civilians outside the battlefield, armed forces are brought into specific areas and countries that would otherwise be avoided. As compared to a manned aircraft, drones have a much less invasive feature. Therefore, the killing of individuals is possible in countries where conventional military operations would not normally be underway.

Gateway for illegal activities

Drones are designed in such a way and has modern features that has the ability to break international law. This technology has created a whole new era for modern warfare for the air forces of country's through its ways of concealment and compactness but equivalent ability of traditional manned vehicles.

Its design and characteristics allow for countries and organizations to conduct illegal acts with a way of not being accountable and finding loopholes.

Use of Drones in an unaccountable manner

The usage of drones can be conducted in a discreet manner. Thus, a country can conduct drone strikes in another country in an unaccountable way with a possibility where it may be extremely difficult to know which country or organization administered the strike. This not only violates international law but also creates major insecurity for all nations.

Claims that countries are entitled to kill any member of the military

There is a possibility whereby a country can claim that they are too entitled to kill any member of an armed group with which they declare themselves to be at war with. Drones allow for a country to easily make these claims and successfully carry them out in a successful manner and take ownership and use the same justification.

Lowering the disinclination of armed aggression

Since drones allow for countries to conduct strikes with no danger to the forces as compared to the manned flights that pose a significant risk to the soldiers conducting them, the human consequence for the attacker is completely eliminated. Thus, this causes countries to be more likely to conduct armed aggression.

Environmental Impacts

Airstrikes that are conducted through drones mostly utilize explosive weapons. These weapons produce pollutants that pose significant risk to human health, especially when used in non-battlefield conditions in a populous area. The toxic remnants can derive from munitions, destruction of property and infrastructure. The widely used munitions that have been fired from drones such as hellfire missiles, GBU (The guided bomb unit) -12 and GBU 38 bombs contain TNT (trinitrotoluene) and RDX (royal demolition explosive) that can spread from solid into groundwater. There is a large possibility of a long term impact on human health.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

The United States of America

The United States of America supports the use of drones for modern warfare and has already

conducted thousands of drones strikes that have been aimed at suspected terrorists or members of an armed group especially in the middle eastern region like Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia. Drones have been utilized by Americans to kill alleged enemies of the united states. The GAAS (The general atomics aeronautical systems) Avenger in the United States has the best combat drones in the world.

Russia

For Russia, drones were not given much importance as compared to the United States, Israel and China. However, Russia also has drones incorporated in its armament for attack and reconnaissance.. The major usage of drones for Russia is to aid the fighting in Eastern Ukraine.

China

China is becoming the leading global arms supplier of UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles). A research paper written by researchers at the University of Pennsylvania and Texas A&M university showed that out of the 18 countries that obtained drones from 2011-2019, 11 of those countries obtained them from China. Therefore, proving that China would promote the usage of drones as armament in warfare.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has employed drones and has supported the United States multiple times when carrying out their Drone strikes. The RAF (The Royal Air force) has carried out it won strikes and has also been involved the United States program. The United Kingdom officially does not have a drone program like the United States, although the United Kingdom's parliament stated that it is an operational tactic at the disposal of the UK forces. The United Kingdom is also primarily using drone strikes against ISIL (Islamic state of Iraq and the Levant) to target terrorists in Iraq and Syria.

Israel

Israel has been the leader in UAV technology that can be traced back to the 1970s when the first successful drones were used to counter threats on the frontlines of Egyptian and Syrian front lines. Israel has constantly been developing new drones for use. The Israeli company, smart shooter also announced that the US army has selected it as "one of the handful of approved counter-small unmanned aircrafts.

Development of Issue/Timeline

Date	Event	Outcome
1839	The earliest unmanned aerial vehicle was seen when Australian soldiers attacked the City of Venice with unmanned Balloons filled with explosive.	This was the first time the world had seen an attack that was. Unmanned. This attack introduced a whole new era that rendered attacks that could be unmanned
1916	The United States of America began to develop drone technology in the first world war.	The United States had begun to develop in drones. This became a breakthrough in manufacturing and supply for drones in the military
1982	Israel coordinated the use of battlefield drones alongside manned aircraft to attack the Syrian life.	The IAF was able to. figure out how to use drones successfully in operations.
2001	United States carried out its first lethal drone strike in Afghanistan	Since this drone strike, drones have become the most contentious aspect of

		armed warfare.
3rd January, 2020	Drone strike near Baghdad international airport targeted and killed Iranian general, Qassem Soleimani	The United States violated the international human rights law and the United Nations termed this strike as “unlawful”

Possible Solutions

Use of Drones outside battlefield conditions

The major problem associated with drones is the civilian casualties that are caused and the violation of human rights law due to this issue. Thus, by enforcing a law that drones cannot be utilized in a populous civilian area, major civilian casualties can be prevented. The use of drones should be permitted in a battlefield because it is unmanned and eliminates soldier casualties.

Targeted Killings of Confirmed armed forces

A major usage of drones is to carry out targeted killings. For example, the reason why General Qassem Soleimani was targeted was due to the assumption by the US that he was planning an attack on the United States. However, this was not verified or permitted by the United Nations. Therefore, if members of a terrorist organization are located and confirmed, the United Nations should approve and then the drones should be used to carry out that operation.

Use of Drones in an accountable manner

All drones used by a country should be registered and administered by the United Nations. Each armament fired through the Drones should also be registered under the same number as the Drone it is being fired from. In this way, no country would be able to hide or not reveal an attack conducted through a drone strike.

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Appendix

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