

# Drone Assassinations Not Limited to U.S. Citizens “Living Abroad”

U.S. Relies on Law from Governments which don't Even Have a Constitution to Justify Assassination of U.S. Citizens by Drone

By [Washington's Blog](#)

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Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Crimes against Humanity](#), [Law and Justice](#)

*The Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution says:*

No person shall ... be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law ....

*So how did the legal memorandum “justifying” assassination of U.S. citizens by drone try to sidestep the Fifth Amendment?*

*It relied on reasoning from two countries that don't have any constitution.*

The New York Times [reports](#):

One might have expected a thoughtful memo that carefully weighed the pros and cons and discussed how such a strike accords with international and Constitutional law.

Instead, the memo turns out to be a slapdash pastiche of legal theories — some based on obscure interpretations of British and Israeli law — that was clearly tailored to the desired result. Perhaps the administration held out so long to avoid exposing the thin foundation on which it based such a momentous decision.

Neither [England](#) nor [Israel](#) have a constitution.

Indeed, as the BBC [notes](#), they are in a very small group of three:

In all but a handful of democracies in the world, the nation's constitution can be found in a single document. The exceptions are Israel, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Nothing in the memo says that it only applies to U.S. citizens living *abroad*. Indeed, the government has claimed the right to [assassinate or indefinitely detain any American citizen on U.S. citizen without any due process](#). And [see this](#).

And – contrary to misleading statements to the contrary – the U.S. has [never said](#) that it

won't assassinate Americans living on U.S. soil.

Sadly, even though Americans have a constitution, we have [lost virtually all of the rights contained in that document](#).

Postscript: While this article focuses on U.S. citizens, assassinating non-citizens by drone has problems as well:

- It [creates more terrorists than it kills](#) (see [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), [this](#) and [this](#)) ... at least [the way Obama administration is doing it](#).
- It creates a [never-ending cycle of war](#)
- It is a [war crime](#) (more [here](#) and [here](#)).

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