

The intentional and pre-meditated use of lethal force, by a State or organized armed group against a specific individual outside their physical custody. Targeted killings occur both within and outside of armed conflicts <sup>[1]</sup>. Under IHL, they are problematic as, oftentimes, those targeted are geographically far removed from hostilities, and/or not necessarily directly participating in hostilities <sup>[2]</sup> at the time they are targeted. In the context of the war on terror <sup>[3]</sup>, targeted killings against suspected terrorists <sup>[4]</sup>, including “unlawful combatants <sup>[5]</sup>”, have occurred regularly. Drones <sup>[6]</sup> are frequently relied on to undertake such killings.

See [Armed conflict](#) <sup>[1]</sup>; [Unlawful combatants](#) <sup>[5]</sup>; [War on terror](#) <sup>[3]</sup>; [Drones](#) <sup>[6]</sup>; [Terrorism and terrorists](#) <sup>[4]</sup>.

## CASES

[Israel, The Targeted Killings Case](#) <sup>[7]</sup>

[UN, Statement of a Special Rapporteur on Drone Attacks](#) <sup>[8]</sup>

[General Assembly, The use of drones in counter-terrorism operations](#) <sup>[9]</sup>

[U.S., Lethal Operations against Al-Qa'ida Leaders](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

United States of America, The Death of Osama bin Laden <sup>[11]</sup>

ICRC, International Humanitarian Law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts in 2015 <sup>[12]</sup> (Paras. 60-64 <sup>[13]</sup>)

Iraq/Syria/UK, Drone Operations against ISIS <sup>[14]</sup>

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