

June 30, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We, the undersigned organizations, focus variously on human rights, civil rights and civil liberties, racial, social, and environmental justice, humanitarian approaches to foreign policy, faith-based initiatives, peacebuilding, government accountability, veterans' issues, and the protection of civilians. We write to demand an end to the unlawful program of lethal strikes outside any recognized battlefield, including through the use of drones. This program is a centerpiece of the United States' forever wars and has exacted an appalling toll on Muslim, Brown, and Black communities in multiple parts of the world. Your administration's current [review](#) of this program, and the approaching 20th anniversary of 9/11, is an opportunity to abandon this war-based approach and chart a new path forward that promotes and respects our collective human security.

Successive presidents have now claimed the unilateral power to authorize secretive extrajudicial killing outside any recognized battlefield, with no meaningful accountability for wrongful deaths and civilian lives lost and injured. This lethal strikes program is a cornerstone of the broader U.S. war-based approach, which has led to wars and other violent conflicts; hundreds of thousands dead, including significant civilian casualties; massive human displacement; and indefinite military detention and torture. It has caused lasting psychological trauma and deprived families of beloved members, as well as means of survival. In the United States, this approach has contributed to further militarized and violent approaches to domestic policing; bias-based racial, ethnic, and religious profiling in investigations, prosecutions, and watchlisting; warrantless surveillance; and epidemic rates of addiction and suicide among veterans, among other harms. It is past time to change course and start repairing the damage done.

We appreciate your stated commitments to ending "forever wars," promoting racial justice, and centering human rights in U.S. foreign policy. Disavowing and ending the lethal strikes program is both a human rights and racial justice imperative in meeting these commitments. Twenty years into a war-based approach that has undermined and violated fundamental rights, we urge you to abandon it and embrace an approach that advances our collective human security. That approach should be rooted in promoting human rights, justice, equality, dignity, peacebuilding, diplomacy, and accountability, in action as well as words.

Sincerely,

**U.S.-Based Organizations**

About Face: Veterans Against the War  
Action Center on Race & the Economy  
Alliance for Peacebuilding

Alliance of Baptists  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Friends Service Committee  
American Muslim Bar Association (AMBA)  
American Muslim Empowerment Network (AMEN)  
Amnesty International USA  
Beyond the Bomb  
Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)  
Center for Constitutional Rights  
Center for Victims of Torture  
CODEPINK  
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach  
Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute  
Common Defense  
Center for International Policy  
Center for Nonviolent Solutions  
Church of the Brethren, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy  
CorpWatch  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (Washington Chapter)  
Defending Rights & Dissent  
Demand Progress Education Fund  
Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN)  
Dissenters  
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)  
Ensaaf  
Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR-USA)\*  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Global Justice Clinic, NYU School of Law  
Government Information Watch  
Human Rights First  
Human Rights Watch  
ICNA Council for Social Justice  
Institute for Policy Studies, New Internationalism Project  
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility  
International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)  
Justice For Muslims Collective  
Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice  
Kent State Truth Tribunal\*  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Military Families Speak Out  
Muslim Justice League  
National Religious Campaign Against Torture  
North Carolina Peace Action  
Open Society Policy Center

Orange County Peace Coalition  
Pax Christi USA  
Peace Action  
Peace Education Center  
Poligon Education Fund  
Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness  
Progressive Democrats of America  
Project Blueprint  
Queer Crescent  
Rethinking Foreign Policy  
RootsAction.org  
Saferworld (Washington Office)  
Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference  
September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows  
ShelterBox USA  
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)  
Sunrise Movement  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
United for Peace and Justice  
University Network for Human Rights  
US Campaign for Palestinian Rights  
Veterans for American Ideals (VFAI)  
Veterans For Peace  
Western New York Pax Christi  
Win Without War  
Women for Afghan Women  
Women for Weapons Trade Transparency  
Women Watch Afrika  
Women's Action for New Directions  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom US

### **Internationally-Based Organizations**

AFARD-MALI (Mali)  
Alf Ba Civilian and Coexistence Foundation (Yemen)  
Allamin Foundation for Peace and Development (Nigeria)  
BUCOFORE (Chad)  
Building Blocks for Peace Foundation (Nigeria)  
Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas (Colombia)  
Centre for Democracy and Development (Nigeria)  
Center for Policy Analysis of Horn of Africa (Somaliland)  
Conciliation Resources (United Kingdom)  
Defence for Human Rights (Yemen)  
Digital Shelter (Somalia)  
Drone Wars UK  
European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights

Foundation for Fundamental Rights (Pakistan)  
Heritage Institute for Somali Studies (Somalia)  
Initiatives for International Dialogue (Philippines)  
International Association for Political Science Students (IAPSS)  
IRIAD (Italy)  
Justice Project Pakistan  
Lawyers for Justice in Libya (LFJL)  
Mareb Girls Foundation (Yemen)  
Mwatana for Human Rights (Yemen)  
National Organization for Development Society (Yemen)  
National Partnership of Children and Youth in Peacebuilding (Democratic Republic of the Congo)  
PAX (Netherlands)  
Peace Direct (United Kingdom)  
Peace Initiative Network (Nigeria)  
Peace Training and Research Organisation (PTRO) (Afghanistan)  
Reprieve (United Kingdom)  
Shadow World Investigations (United Kingdom)  
Witness Somalia  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)  
World BEYOND War  
Yemeni Youth Forum for Peace  
The Youth Cafe (Kenya)  
Youth for Peace and Development (Zimbabwe)

*\*Joined after June 30, 2021*