

The Last Chord for Killer Drones! Schlussakkord dem Drohnenmord!

AFRICOM, the United States African Command, became operational in October, 2008 and is the Unified Combatant Command (UCC) responsible for all of the military operations of U.S. armed forces on the African continent. Thereby it also plays a decisive role in the conduct of drone warfare. The entire globe has been divided into six AORs (Areas of Responsibility) by the U.S. Army, each headed by a UCC, a Central Command, which plans and coordinates all of the war operations of the elite military units within its area. Two of these six global command posts are located in Stuttgart alone!

AFRICOM defines and selects attack targets for its armed drones; these human targets are then transmitted directly to the U.S. President for his signature of approval. They thus become death lists; the persons here named are hunted down and killed by armed drones without any indictment or conviction in a court of law. The German federal government shares a large portion of the responsibility for these killings, for they allow them to be commanded and coordinated on German soil. Furthermore, they violate international law and are thus illegal in Germany. The German government directly supports the work of the U.S. military forces through liaison officers and is actively working to acquire armed killer drones of its own for the German Army (Bundeswehr). The State Government of Baden-Wuerttemberg and the head mayor of Stuttgart are more than generous in the attention given to the U.S. military elite in Stuttgart, continually striving for „good partnership.“

The use of armed drones is a highly technological form of modern warfare. The electronic snipers sit in front of faraway computer screens (such as at Creech Air Force Base in Nevada, USA) and steer the unmanned armed drones towards targets on the other side of the world. By remote control they drop bombs and shoot missiles at human beings. Several tens of thousands of civilians, among them many women and children, have already been victims of these attacks. Countless persons have been seriously traumatized by the permanent threat of sudden death from the sky.

However all of these facts are rarely even mentioned in our media. Up until now none of the lawsuits brought by the families of civilian victims from Yemen, Pakistan and Somalia have been accepted by German courts in spite of their territorial jurisdiction.

These drone attacks violate international law and are tantamount to wars of aggression; many of them have created chaos in whole regions and have actually helped pave the way for increases in international terrorism.

EUCOM, the other Unified Combatant Command (UCC) also located in Stuttgart, is responsible for the conduct of war operations in (Eastern) Europe. In the summer of 2003 Lebenslaute was in action in Stuttgart for the first time and blocked entrances to this command post. The resistance movement against armed drones, against the increase in armament for the German army and against the waging of war world wide for the expansion of economic and military spheres of influence, is still small, but perseverant and growing.

On August 29, 2016 an orchestra and choir of Lebenslaute participants is going to close down the entrances to AFRICOM. We demand:

Cease and desist with drone warfare! No armed drones for the German Army!

Close down AFRICOM and all U.S. military command headquarters in Germany!

Eradicate the root causes of migrant flight! Let no wars be conducted from German soil!