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We reproduce hereunder an article appearing on the Website www.defence.lk since it exposes the double standards of the US government, especially with regard to human rights violations in terms of civilian casualties in the course of bombing in Pakistan and Afghanistan using pilotless 'drone.'

Armed conflict situation permits use of military force against combatants- Alston



Philip Alston the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions was affirmative of the use of military force against combatants in a definite armed conflict situation. "If you take all of the relevant precautions to make sure that civilians are not killed, in accordance with the relevant international rules, then it may be

legitimate", Prof. Alston has said during an interview with the U. S cyber daily, *Democracy Now*.

Democracy Now conducted an interview with Prof. Alston, following his critical observations made alleging the United States Government for war crimes on Tuesday (Oct 26), at the UN General Assembly's Human Rights Committee. Alston also presented a critical report on the drone program in June to the UN Human Rights Council, but, he says, US representatives ignored his concerns, the portal further quoted.

Alston's critical remarks on arbitrary executions and war crimes irked U.S administrative echelons who instantly retaliated with fury saying that, **"these are matters of armed conflict; therefore human rights investigators have no role"**.

Earlier, investigative reporter Jane Mayer of The New Yorker magazine revealed last week the number of US drone strikes in Pakistan has risen dramatically under President Obama. During his first nine-and-a-half months in office, Obama authorized at least forty-one CIA missile strikes in Pakistan, a rate of approximately one bombing a week. That's as many drone attacks as President Bush sanctioned in his final three years in office. The attacks have killed between 326 and 538 people, according Mayer's reports.