

Armed drones on the European media

Table of contents

2 TOWARDS AN EUROPEAN DRONE FLEET

German military €450 million wish list

Germany, France Agree on New Fighter Jet

Europe seeks sovereignty with MALE drone

The right debate on drones

US BlackJack drones for Polish special forces

Swiss army to tool up with mini-drones

“Suicide” drones in the Polish army

Slechtova wants new drones for the Defense

Five Star Movement member of parliament supports military drone acquisition plan

New drones for the Latvian army

Ministry of Defense receives UAV-simulator

6 THE GOOD DRONES

Technology from Northern Jutland to prevent terror and save soldiers' lives

Drone for peace in Ukraine

Police can't handle the requests for drones

Drones against crime in South Moravia

8 HOW TO PROTECT FROM DRONES

Anti-drone guns and jets deployed in Gold Coast security blitz

Do not shoot at harassing drones

9 THE NEW ARMS RACE

A show-case of armed trucks and aircraft bombs

The new Putin's military toy

US approves \$2.5b drone sale to Germany

Houthi group developing military capabilities

Pakistan seeks Chinese high-tech weapons

U.S. seek to expand sales of armed drones

Trump wants to deliver drones to other countries to hunt terrorists

11 BOYCOTT THE ROBOTS

International researchers boycott university out of fear for an armsrace with killer robots

3000 Google employees protest against involvement in Pentagon's droneattack

Google shouldn't be in the business of war

The UN wants control over killer robots

A ban on war robots requires a catastrophe

13 QUESTIONS THAT NEED TO BE ANSWERED

How far will we go with military robots?

Have autonomous war robots won the war?

Drones will soon be everywhere

Father of Artificial Intelligence: useless to prohibit research into autonomous weapons

US Military wants drones able to decide on life and death. Is it really a good idea?

Can we teach robots to act ethically in warfare?

Will Artificial Intelligence become weapons of mass destruction?

16 DANGEROUS OPERATIONS

Yemen's Houthis say launched drone attack on Saudi Aramco facility

Italy and Europe contribute to drone attacks

UK intelligence could be used for unlawful drone strikes

• Dagens Næringsliv, Norway
• Břeclavský deník, Czech Republic
• Dagblad van het Noorden, Netherlands
• De Groene, Netherlands
• Defence24, Poland
• Der Spiegel, Germany
• Deutsche Welle, Germany
• Die Ziet, Germany
• Dziennik Zachodni, Poland
• Financial Times, United Kingdom

• Fok, Netherlands
• France Soir, France
• iDNES, Czech Republic
• Il Fatto Quotidiano, Italy
• Ingeniøren, Denmark
• Jyllands-Posten, Denmark
• Krigeren, Denmark
• Le Figaro, France
• Libération, France
• Newsweek Polska, Poland

• Reuters, United Kingdom
• RTL Nieuws, Netherlands
• The Baltic Times, Latvia
• The Local, Switzerland
• Trouw, Netherlands
• Version2, Denmark
• Videnskab, Denmark
• Volkskrant, Netherlands
• VTM, Czech Republic
• Wired, Italy

TOWARDS AN EUROPEAN DRONE FLEET

German military draws up €450 million wish list

23 Apr 2018

Der Spiegel, Germany

German defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen will ask the government for a massive cash injection to update the Bundeswehr's equipment. According to a list obtained by German newspapers, von der Leyen is requesting €450 million euros (\$553 million) for 18 items. Part of the money would go to a nine-year contract to lease Heron TP drones capable of carrying arms.

- <http://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/bundeswehr-verteidigungsministerium-will-450-millionen-euro-fuer-waffen-ausgeben-a-1204245.html>

Germany and France agree to build new fighter jet together

26 Apr 2018

Libération, France

Berlin and Paris are stepping up their collaboration on defense programs. On April 26th Ursula von der Leyen, defense minister of Germany, and Florence Parly, minister of the armed forces of France, committed to work together on a new sub-hunting plane, drone aircraft and tank. The drone program is called Medium-Altitude Long-Endurance (Male). The projects would “help build the strong European defense we want”, said Ms. Parly.

- http://www.liberation.fr/planete/2018/04/26/paris-et-berlin-officialisent-leur-projet-d-avion-de-combat-commun_1646212



Florence Parly, minister of the armed forces of France (left) and Ursula von der Leyen, defense minister of Germany, in Berlin

Europe seeks sovereignty with the unveiling of MALE drone model

26 Apr 2018

Reuters, United Kingdom

Seeking to reduce Europe's dependence on a market dominated by the U.S. and Israel, three European defence companies (Airbus, Dassault Aviation and Leonardo) unveiled a first full-scale model of their planned Medium-Altitude Long-Endurance (MALE) drone. The program is backed by Germany, France, Italy and Spain. The drone, with two turboprop engines, is planned to enter into service in the middle of the next decade and

CONTINUA>>

will mainly focus on surveillance although a weaponised version is an option.

- ▶ <https://www.reuters.com/article/germany-airshow-europe-drone/europe-seeks-sovereignty-with-unveiling-of-male-drone-model-idUSL8N1S38LM>

The right debate on drones

14 Apr 2018

Ulrike Franke, Die Zeit, Germany

The way our societies think about drones is deeply influenced by what United States do in Afghanistan, Pakistan and other war zones, launching operations that caused the death of thousands of civilians. This kind of distorted view is poisoning the drone debate, writes Ulrike Franke, Policy Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. This is happening right now in Germany: the government, trying to reduce its dependence on a market dominated by the U.S. and Israel, want to support the construction of new armed drones. This proposition has been met with fierce opposition not based on facts.

- ▶ <https://www.zeit.de/politik/ausland/2018-04/kampfdrohnen-luftwaffe-spd-union-debatte>

US BlackJack drones for Polish special forces. Why can't we produce them in Poland?

24 Apr 2018

Maksymilian Dura, Defence24, Poland

The Polish special forces bought RQ-21A Blackjack drones, belonging to the third category of UAV (with a weight between 25 and 600 kg). They have been bought from US companies because the purchase has been financed by the US military. The author fears a dependence from US technologies. Moreover, the Polish army will have to pay American companies to operate the system. At the same time, he stresses that Poland needs bigger unmanned aerial vehicles.

- ▶ <http://www.defence24.pl/drony-blackjack-z-usa-dla-specjalsow-dlaczego-nie-produkujemy-bezzalogowcow-w-polsce-opinia>

Swiss army to tool up with mini-reconnaissance drones

18 Apr 2018

The Local, Switzerland

Switzerland is considering spending around 8 million francs on drones the size of model aeroplanes. These are intended for smaller units in the field which generally don't have access to larger drones or Eurocopter AS332 Super Puma helicopters. Among the candidates being considered by the army are the Orbiter 2 drones manufactured by Israeli firm Aeronautics. And also the Fly Eye drones of Polish firm WB electronics.

- ▶ <https://www.thelocal.ch/20180418/swiss-army-to-tool-up-with-mini-reconnaissance-drones>

“Suicide” drones in the Polish army. Warmate operators trained

30 Apr 2018

Dziennik Zachodni, Poland

Poland is one of the first NATO countries to be equipped with a loitering munition system, considered as a very modern weaponry. It is aimed at eliminating units of the enemy in direct confrontation. The first nine Polish operators have been trained. The military says that the training showed efficiency of this UAV. It will buy 1.000 Warmate drones produced by WB Electronics.

- <http://www.dziennikzachodni.pl/polska-i-swiat/a/drony-uderzeniowe-w-polskiej-armii-operatorzy-dukz-warmate-przeszkoleni-zdjecia-i-wideo,13137884/>

Slechtova wants new drones for the Defense. It will be developed by the Military Technical Institute

10 Apr 2018

Lubomír Světnička, iDNES, Czech Republic

Karla Slechtova, the Defense Minister of Czech Republic, presented a EUR 10 million plan of vertical take-off drones acquisition for the army. The reconnaissance drones will be developed by the Military Technical Institute that has been developing UAVs since 1980. In 2021 the military should be equipped also with tactical drones that can carry weapons for radio electronic combat.

- https://zpravy.idnes.cz/armada-dron-vyvoj-bezpilotni-vojensky-technicky-obrana-slechtova-vlada-1a7-/zpr_nato.aspx?c=A180410_210557_zpr_nato_inc

Latvian army with US support to receive EUR 2.4 million worth of drones

17 Apr 2018

The Baltic Times, Latvia

The Latvian National Armed Forces next year will receive drones that are purchased with financial support from the US for EUR 2.4 million. In line with the Foreign Military Sales program of the US government, the Latvian army will receive three unmanned aircraft systems RQ-20A Puma produced by AeroVironment company. The US has provided support to Latvia within various military support programs for more than 20 years already.

- https://www.baltictimes.com/latvian_army_with_us_support_to_receive_eur_2_4_million_worth_of_drones/

Ministry of Defense receives UAV-simulator

21 Apr 2018

Fok, Netherlands

The 306-squadron at Leeuwarden airbase received its UAV-simulator this week. The simulator is part of a EU program to train UAV pilots among participating countries, such as Germany, France, Italy, Greece, Spain, Poland, UK and Belgium. The 306-squadron will operate the MQ-9 Reaper in the near future. The countries have also agreed on standards for sharing information on maintenance, repairs, operation and logistics, among other things.

► <https://frontpage.fok.nl/nieuws/792932/1/1/50/defensie-ontvangt-uav-simulator.html?token=cd3f3376aaed3e210abd48e91dfc895a&allowcookies=ACCEPT+ALL+COOKIES>

THE GOOD DRONES

Technology from Northern Jutland to prevent terror and save soldiers' lives

1 Apr 2018

Krigeren, Denmark

Aalborg University and the company MyDefence received a 6 million DKK contract to develop tools that will be used to detect road side bombs and explosives from far away. The vision is to develop equipment small enough to be attached to a drone, making it possible to survey an area ahead of a convoy.

► <http://krigeren.dk/ny-teknologi-fra-nordjylland-skal-stoppe-vejsidebomber/>

In Ukraine, drones are employed to protect peace

5 Apr 2018

Yulia Silina, France Soir, France

Drones with night vision that can fly at more than 200 km per hour are the latest tools being used to monitor the most volatile areas in the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. Along with 700 human monitors, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is using an armada of short, medium, and long-range drones to check peace agreements are being implemented.

► <http://www.francesoir.fr/actualites-monde/ukraine-un-conflit-sous-loeil-des-drones>



A drone used for surveillance in Stepanivka, Ukraine.

Police can't handle the requests for drones

13 Apr 2018

Willem Dekker, Dagblad van het Noorden, Netherlands

The police has been overwhelmed with the demand to deploy drones during calamities. Five drone-teams, with 15 drone-pilots in total, are on the move continuously on a daily basis. They are being used both for forensic searches and accidents involving vehicles. The project is still in its testing phase.

► <http://www.dvhn.nl/drenthe/Politie-kan-vraag-naar-inzet-van-drones-niet-aan-23081275.html>

Drones against crime. South Moravian policemen advise their Austrian counterparts on how to use drones

10 Apr 2018

David Kvapil, Břeclavský deník, Czech Republic

Czech police in South Moravia region is using drones on daily basis to monitor traffic and for search operations. Drones are able to replace helicopters and to cut costs considerably. Based on Czech experience, Austrian police from the Lower Austria land is planning to purchase drones as well.

► <https://breclavsky.denik.cz/zlociny-a-soudy/drony-proti-zlocinu-jihomoravsti-policiste-radili-rakouskym-jak-letouny-vyuzit-20180410.html>

HOW TO PROTECT FROM DRONES

Anti-drone guns and jets deployed in Gold Coast security blitz

3 Apr 2018

Ian Ransom, Reuters, United Kingdom

Fighter jets and anti-drone guns will be deployed as part of a massive security operation to safeguard the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in Australia. Police have been equipped with high-tech anti-drone guns to disable airborne objects that stray within “Temporary Restricted Areas”. The guns are able to “detect and disrupt unauthorized drone activity” by jamming signals between the devices and their operators.

- <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-motor-f1-azerbaijan-ricciardo/red-bulls-ricciardo-denies-he-has-ferrari-talks-option-idUSKBN1HX1VF>

Expert: Do not shoot at harassing drones, call the police

30 Apr 2018

Lubomír Světnička, iDNES, Czech Republic

Taking down a harassing drone could lead to prosecution as causing damage to someone’s possession of a value over 200 euros is a criminal offense, or even to more serious troubles as using a weapon in a residential area could present a danger to public. People who feel their privacy is invaded by a harassing drone should call the police instead. Czech police departments are testing active and passive systems to detect and localize harassing drones.

- https://zpravy.idnes.cz/dron-bezpilotni-sesetrelit-policie-letani-strelba-f8j-/domaci.aspx?c=A180430_054048_zpr_nato_inc

THE NEW ARMS RACE

A show-case of armed trucks and aircraft bombs

4 Apr 2018

Froukje Santing, De Groene, Netherlands

The Turkish military industry is growing at a very rapid pace. The attack on Afrin was partially carried out to showcase this change. Even Selcuk Bayraktar, Erdogan's son in law, is involved. He posted on Twitter pictures of himself at the command centre of Turkish drones. Bayraktar is a family company producing armaments such as the Bayraktar drones for the Turkish military.

► <https://www.groene.nl/artikel/een-uitstalkast-van-pantserwagens-en-vliegtuigbommen>

Underwater drones with nuclear weapon. The new Putin's military toy

26 Apr 2018

Newsweek Polska, Poland

President Putin presented Russia's first unmanned underwater vehicle able to carry nuclear charges. Experts warn that the new drones could represent a danger for many coastal towns. They will be able to hit coastal fortifications and infrastructure, but also aircrafts. Critics assert that the explosion of nuclear bombs underwater could provoke a tsunami, which would be more powerful than the one that hit Japan in 2011.

► <http://www.newsweek.pl/swiat/polityka/podwodne-drony-z-glowicami-nuklearnymi-militarne-wzmocnienie-rosji,artykuly,426537,1.html>

US approves \$2.5b drone sale to Germany

6 Apr 2018

Alistair Walsh, Deutsche Welle, Germany

The US State Department approved the sale of \$2.5 billion dollars worth of military drones to Germany. The deal includes four MQ-4C Triton Unmanned Aircraft Systems as well as a mission control station, a main operating base and a series of equipment and services. The MQ-4C Triton drones can fly for 30 hours and can survey 7.000.000 square kilometers in a single sweep. The drones will likely be available by 2025.

► <http://www.dw.com/en/us-approves-25b-drone-sale-to-germany/a-43289530>

Houthi leader says group developing its military capabilities

13 Apr 2018

Reuters, United Kingdom

Yemen's Houthi leader said the group would continue to develop its military capabilities as the Iran-aligned movement stepped up its attacks against Saudi Arabia in the Yemen war. Arms monitor Conflict Armament Research says it has evidence that the drones used by Houthi were made in Iran.

► <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-yemen-security/houthi-leader-says-group-developing-its-military-capabilities-idUSKBN1HK2D1>

CONTINUA>>

Pakistan shuns US for Chinese high-tech weapons

18 Apr 2018

Kiran Stacey, Financial Times, United Kingdom

In the midst of another diplomatic crisis, Pakistan is continuing its slow and steady shift away from American-made weapons, towards Chinese ones. Washington has been so concerned about how armed drones might be used by other governments that it has refused repeated requests from Islamabad to buy American systems. As all countries that are barred from buying American weapons, Pakistan has turned to Beijing.

► <https://www.ft.com/content/8dbce0a0-3713-11e8-8b98-2f31af407cc8>

U.S. seek to expand sales of armed drones

19 Apr 2018

Le Figaro, France

The Trump administration announced a new policy that could vastly expand sales of armed drones. The biggest change involves the sale of armed drones like the Predator and the Reaper, which have been the workhorses of the fight against insurgents in Afghanistan and the tribal regions of Pakistan.

► <http://www.lefigaro.fr/flash-eco/2018/04/19/97002-20180419FILWWW00329-les-etats-unis-levent-certaines-restrictions-sur-les-ventes-de-drones.php>

Trump wants to deliver America's most deadly drones to other countries to hunt terrorists

20 Apr 2018

Volkskrant, Netherlands

Allies and other countries should be able to buy US weapons more easily, according to President Trump. The US government has softened rules for the export of arms. Human rights organisations have expressed their concerns. "The proliferation of this kind of weapons is a major problem," says drone-expert Wim Zwijnenburg from PAX. "We are concerned that expanding the use of drones will increase human rights violations".

► <https://beta.volkskrant.nl/nieuws-achtergrond/trump-wil-amerika-s-dodelijkste-drone-aan-andere-landen-leveren-om-terroristen-op-te-jagen~b8a5d4aa/>

BOYCOTT THE ROBOTS

International researchers boycott university developing killer robots

4 Apr 2018

Mads Nyvold, Ingeniøren, Denmark

Over 50 of the world's leading scientists in artificial intelligence and robot technology are boycotting cooperation with South Korean university KAIST. KAIST cooperates with weapons producer, Hanwha Systems, on the development of autonomous weapons optimised with AI. The boycott aims to make decision-makers aware of the dangerous consequences and ethical issues involved.

► <https://ing.dk/artikel/internationale-forskere-boykotter-universitet-frygt-kaplob-draeberrobotter-211502>

3000 Google employees protest against involvement in Pentagon's AI-based drone attack

5 Apr 2018

Niels Møller Kjemtrup, Version2, Denmark

Over 3000 employees have signed an open letter asking Google's CEO to block the involvement of the company in a Pentagon research project. The Maven project aims to develop computer algorithms capable of analysing surveillance photos from American drones, to be used for drone attacks. The project is part of a strategic shift in the US Military towards AI. Employees stress that Google should not engage with the military industry. Amazon and Microsoft are involved in the project as well.

► <https://www.version2.dk/artikel/3000-google-ansatte-oproer-deltagelse-pentagons-ai-baserede-droneangreb-1084794>

We work for Google. Our employer shouldn't be in the business of war

5 Apr 2018

Open letter signed by Google employees, The Guardian, United Kingdom

In an open letter to Google's CEO, originally published in the New York Times, over 3,000 employees urged the company not to work on Project Maven, an 'AI surveillance engine' customized for the Pentagon and used for drone warfare. The letter is clear in its requests: "1. Cancel this project immediately. 2. Draft, publicize and enforce a clear policy stating that neither Google nor its contractors will ever build warfare technology".

► <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/apr/04/google-ceo-drones-ai-war-surveillance>

The UN wants control over killer robots

15 Apr 2018

Jørn Mikkelsen, Jyllands-Posten, Denmark

Hightech weapons capable of identifying targets and decide whether to eliminate them are just around the corner. Many countries are researching and developing this innovative technology, which raises ethical concerns. In the past week killer robots have been on the agenda at a UN meeting in Geneva.

► <https://jyllands-posten.dk/protected/premium/international/ECE10515953/fn-vil-have-kontrol-med-draeberrobotter>

A ban on war robots requires a catastrophe

19 Apr 2018

Mads Nyvold and Steffen McGhie, Ingeniøren, Denmark

Autonomous weapons (AWs) reached UN agendas after a 2015 protest letter warned against a global AI arms race, and calls by the Red Cross and Human Rights Watch to stop development and use of AWs. For the first time UN member states have debated this so-called 3rd revolution in warfare. But nations, especially military superpowers, are unlikely to address the warnings. China worries that restrictions will impact use of AI for non-military use, while the US emphasises benefits of AWs such as reduction in civilian casualties. The group will meet again in August, but researchers are skeptical about the results. Political leaders will change their minds, critics argue, only after they will witness conflicts, killings and wrongdoings involving AI.

► <https://ing.dk/artikel/forbud-mod-kamprobotter-kraever-katastrofe-211812>

QUESTIONS THAT NEED TO BE ANSWERED

Unmanned and deadly: How far will we go with military robots?

10 Apr 2018

Marno de Boer, Trouw, Netherlands

A large number of countries will meet in Geneva this week to discuss a ban on killer robots. However, major powers are showing unwillingness to let their military advantages in this field be hindered by laws. Some experts claim killer robots will become a major danger to humanity, while others claim that drones will help wage war with greater precision and strict compliance with humanitarian law.

- ▶ <https://www.trouw.nl/home/onbemand-en-dodelijk-hoe-ver-gaan-we-met-militaire-robots~-a9b6f2e2/>

Have the autonomous war robots already won the war?

13 Apr 2018

Mads Nyvold and Steffen McGhie, Ingeniøren, Denmark

Experts think we are at the beginning of a 3rd revolution in warfare: first came gunpowder, then nuclear bombs, and now AI systems, capable of thinking and acting faster than the humans. Worried scientists and programmers argue that war robots should never become fully autonomous, and that development of war technology with AI should be stopped altogether. The UN gathered nations for formal discussions to determine the status of autonomous weapons. A first challenge is to agree on a definition. The article goes on to discuss the concept of “meaningful human control”.

- ▶ <https://ing.dk/artikel/har-de-selvstyrende-kamprobatter-allerede-vundet-krigen-211661>

Drones will soon be everywhere: “Laws can not stop the technology”

10 Apr 2018

RTL Nieuws, Netherlands

In 2017, 755 drones were added to the aircraft registry for business purposes, doubling the amount from 2016. This data is expected to keep growing in 2018. Many industries are jumping on board, for example farmers, emergency responders, and engineers working on buildings or projects. The law is slowly adjusting, creating problems for drone users and companies.

- ▶ <https://www.rtlnieuws.nl/geld-en-werk/drones-zijn-straks-overal-regels-kunnen-techniek-niet-stoppen>

Father of Artificial Intelligence: useless to prohibit research into autonomous weapons

13 Apr 2018

Mads Nyvold and Steffen McGhie, Ingeniøren, Denmark

After 50 leading scientists boycotted South Korean university KAIST for cooperating with a weapons producer to develop AI weapons, KAIST has accepted the demands to ensure that weapons will always be under meaningful human control. According to Jürgen Schmidhuber, one of the fathers of AI, it is pointless to try to limit the huge potential of AI with abstract concepts such as meaningful human control. Others find this concept useful, central in the ongoing discussion at the UN.

► <https://ing.dk/artikel/far-kunstig-intelligens-nyttelost-at-forbyde-forskning-autonome-vaben-211663>

US Military wants drones able to decide on life and death. Is it really a good idea?

15 Apr 2018

Jiří Černý, VTM, Czech Republic

US Military has announced it is developing drones that would be able to seek and destroy vehicles and persons autonomously thanks to AI. Advocates of the projects suggest that autonomous killer drones would lift the ethical burden off the shoulders of drone operators, who often present traumas like PTSD. The magazine reminds that legal and ethical responsibility would not disappear but would rather be transferred to scientists and AI developers.

► <https://vtm.zive.cz/clanky/americka-armada-chce-drony-schopne-rozhodovat-o-zivote-a-smrti-lidi-vazne-je-to-dobry-napad/sc-870-a-192716/default.aspx>

Can we teach robots to act ethically in warfare?

15 Apr 2018

Ida Eriksen, Videnskab, Denmark

AI and robot technology are in rapid development, with not only self-driving cars emerging, but also armed drones, which can be controlled safely from a desk, far from battlefields. This situation creates ethical dilemmas. One question is whether it's possible to teach robots to act according to international conventions for warfare. Martin Mose Bentzen, lecturer at DTU, is attempting to imbed common sense in robots, to "teach" them to act according to ethical principles, e.g. Kantianism and utilitarianism.

► <https://videnskab.dk/teknologi-innovation/kan-vi-laere-robotter-at-handle-etisk-i-krig>

Will Artificial Intelligence become weapons of mass destruction?

17 Apr 2018

Steffen McGhie, Ingeniøren, Denmark

The article introduces warnings by researchers and others against development of autonomous weapons (AWs), and the likelihood of a global arms race. Examples of

CONTINUA>>

AWs are described: NATO's Aegis Compact System, South Korean SGR-A1, and the U.S. autonomous ship, Sea Hunter. Toby Walsh (New South Wales University and AI Access Foundation) categorises AWs as weapons of mass destruction. Gary Schaub (University of Copenhagen), and Hin-Yan Liu (University of Copenhagen) disagree. The challenge with AWs is not about the nature of the weapon, but the non-human nature of the operator/decision-maker. Indeed, ongoing UN discussions relate to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, not mass destruction.

► <https://ing.dk/artikel/bliver-kunstig-intelligens-masseoedelaeggelsesvaaben-211741>

DANGEROUS OPERATIONS

Yemen's Houthis say launched drone attack on Saudi Aramco facility

11 Apr 2018

Financial Times, United Kingdom

Yemen's armed Houthi movement said on early april it had launched a drone strike on a facility belonging to oil giant Saudi Aramco in southern Saudi Arabia - though the company said its plants there were operating "normally and safely". The Houthis' Al-Masirah TV said the Houthis had also launched an attack with the same model of drone on the airport of Abha in neighboring Asir province.

► <https://www.ft.com/content/494ad928-3d6b-11e8-b7e0-52972418fec4>

How Italy and Europe contribute to US drone attacks

19 Apr 2018

Philip Di Salvo, Wired, Italy

Amnesty International has just published a report called "Deadly Assistance: The Role of European States in Us Drone Strikes". It looks specifically at the role of countries such as the UK, Holland, Germany and Italy in supporting US drone strikes with intelligence and logistics. Sigonella and Niscemi, both in Sicily, host US and NATO military bases, respectively the Global Hawk drone unit and the Mobile User Objective System (MUOS).

► https://www.wired.it/attualita/politica/2018/04/19/italia-europa-droni-usa/?utm_campaign=wired&utm_medium=marketing&utm_source=Facebook#link_time=1524125012

UK intelligence could be used for unlawful drone strikes

19 Apr 2018

Ewen MacAskill, The Guardian, United Kingdom

According to a report by Amnesty International, the UK risks violating international law through its support of lethal US drone strikes around the world, including sharing intelligence to help identify targets and the use of RAF bases. "Four RAF bases in Yorkshire, Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire are heavily implicated in the deadly drone attacks", is said in the report.

► <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/apr/19/uk-intelligence-could-be-used-for-unlawful-drone-strikes-warns-amnesty>