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Editor's Note on the Targeted Killing of Anwar Al-Aulaqi

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EDITOR'S NOTE ON THE TARGETED KILLING OF ANWAR AL-AULAQI

On September 30, 2011, an American drone aircraft patrolling in Yemen fired on a truck carrying Anwar al-Aulaqi, an American-born Muslim cleric who was a leading figure of Al-Qaeda in Yemen. Al-Aulaqi's death was controversial because the drone strike carried out President Barack Obama's 2010 authorization of a targeted kill on that target.

The use of targeted killing of American citizens abroad is a controversial topic. The idea that an American citizen can be targeted and executed without a judicial proceeding has both supporters and opponents.

Using the al-Aulaqi authorized targeting as a backdrop, the 2011 Loyola University Chicago International Law Symposium hosted a debate regarding the legality and morality of targeted killings. The following two articles, written by Professors Lesley Wexler and Michael Lewis, who both participated in the debate at the Symposium, represent two opposing sides, each making an argument as to why targeted killings should or should not be used by American authorities.

Additionally, it should be noted that the debate and the subsequent articles were written prior to the carrying out of the targeted killing of al-Aulaqi. While the authors were given an opportunity to update to an extent, they were not able to completely rewrite the article based on current events.

Matthew Levitt
Editor-in-Chief