



## PRESS INFORMATION

**Court Hearing on 27 May 2015: Administrative Court in Cologne  
addresses Germany's Role in US Drone Warfare**

### **Declaration of Faisal bin Ali Jaber**

1. Waleed Abdullah bin Ali Jaber, my nephew, and Salim Ahmed bin Ali Jaber, my brother-in-law, were killed in a drone strike in our village on August 29, 2012. Five days before he was killed, Salim had publicly preached against al-Qa'ida in the Friday sermon.
2. Even before the strike, my family would report to me that drones could be seen and heard hovering overhead. The first time I can remember seeing one myself was on August 20, 2012, just over a week before the strike. I was back in Khashamir for my son's wedding and to celebrate Eid at the end of the holy month of Ramadan.
3. Roughly two months before the strike that killed Salim and Waleed, the first drone strike in Hadramout happened near the historical city of Shibam. Some reports suggest that, to date, as many as 97 people have been killed in Hadramout because of drone strikes. That is just in my province. The figure for the whole of Yemen is much higher.
4. It is impossible to say exactly how many drone strikes have taken place, because no one ever takes responsibility for them and so there are no public, centralized records. It is also impossible to know exactly how many people have died, or whether they were the intended target of a strike. The whole process is shrouded in secrecy. That is one of the things that makes the drones so terrifying: we never know when or who they will hit, or even why someone is considered a target. Because of this, it is impossible to know how to make yourself or your family safe. Every day, we kiss our loved ones goodbye, not knowing if we will ever see them again. It is like living in a constant nightmare from which we cannot wake up.
5. The situation in Yemen now is particularly tough. We have a lot of internal fighting, and a lot of foreign intervention. Yet the drones still fly, and still threaten our lives. My family is still frightened of the drones. My daughter fears loud noises ever since the strike that killed Waleed and Salim, and has been traumatized by the experience. She, like many others, lives in constant fear.
6. When I first lodged my case in Germany, some people doubted that any Yemeni would ever find justice in a country so closely allied with the United States. But today's hearing proves that Germany does understand justice, and the need for accountability.



7. I am deeply saddened that I cannot be there today in person to witness this momentous day.
  
8. I implore the Court today to listen to evidence of the damage that drones cause in my country, and to get to the bottom of the role that Ramstein plays. If Germany is indeed involved, intentionally or inadvertently, I hope that German justice will prevail to end the suffering and save the lives of those living under drones.

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