

EXHIBIT C

Q: Was it lawful to target al-Awlaki?

- I cannot provide details about our cooperation with the Yemeni government on counterterrorism operations, but I can tell you a little about al-Awlaki.
- Anwar al-Awlaki was an operational leader of al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula – al Qaeda’s most active operational affiliate and a group that poses a serious threat to the United States, our partners, and to the people of Yemen.
- He took the lead in planning and directing efforts to murder innocent Americans and was directly tied to several attempted terrorist attacks on the United States.
- This is not new information – my Administration has been consistently saying this for some time. A public designation published in the Federal Register and an accompanying press release issued by the Department of Treasury in July 2010, described the operational role of al-Awlaki. A month later in litigation, a public filing by then-Secretary of Defense Gates declared that al-Awlaki was a “key operational AQAP leader” who assisted, for example, in preparations for the attempted bombing of Northwest Airlines Flight 253 by AQAP as it was landing in Detroit on December 25, 2009.

Q: But he was a U.S. citizen -- doesn't he have any constitutional rights?

- I cannot provide details about our cooperation with the Yemeni government on counterterrorism operations.
- As a general matter, however, it would be entirely lawful for the United States to target the high-level leaders of enemy forces who are plotting to kill Americans both under the authority provided by Congress for the use of military force in the armed conflict with al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and associated forces as well as under established international law that recognizes our right of self-defense.
- The legal analysis would be slightly different with respect to U.S. citizens, as we would have to take into account any constitutional protections that might apply to a U.S. citizen who is leading enemy forces in their efforts to kill innocent Americans.

- Any time we use force, I want to assure you that we do so with extraordinary care and in full accordance with U.S. law and the international law of armed conflict.