

# ERIK PRINCE'S LATEST GRAYMAIL: DELIBERATELY TARGETING AN AMERICAN TEENAGER

Technically, I suppose, Erik Prince's latest disclosure (unlike some earlier ones) is not gray mail, as he seems intent (as Jeff Stein reported months ago) to exact revenge no matter what and claims the CIA has already done whatever damage it can to him.

Which makes me wonder whom he's trying to exact revenge on with his claim that Abdulrahman al-Awlaki was deliberately targeted (a claim Jeremy Scahill reported back in April, though sourced it to a former Senior Administration Official).

"I am all in favor of killing terrorists," Prince said. "But the fact that [Anwar] al-Awlaki was killed and his 16-year-old son, born in Colorado, was killed with no due process other than that he got on the 'kill list' is troubling to me." The Obama administration has claimed that Awlaki, an American citizen who was killed in a drone strike in 2011, was an operational leader of al Qaeda's affiliate in Yemen.

Prince said he believes al-Awlaki's son was deliberately targeted in a second strike after the one that killed Awlaki. The Obama administration has said that strike was not targeting Awlaki's son, but someone else.

Prince also said the over-reliance on drone warfare in the Middle East and South Asia would likely reap "a bitter harvest," because of the scale of collateral damage from drone strikes. He said it was wiser to send in small teams

to such denied areas to find and target terrorists, or outsource this kind of work to local surrogates.

In the other day's installment of Erik Prince's complaints, after all, he blamed his plight on Leon Panetta, who cut off his assassination training program and pulled some drone targeting activities away from Blackwater, reportedly in 2009. Panetta was Secretary of Defense at the time Abdulrahman was killed, having moved over from running CIA and its drone assassination months earlier. David Petraeus had his button on CIA's drone killing machine by the time of Anwar and Abdulrahman's deaths.

That said, there were reports JSOC targeted Abdulrahman...