

JIM COMEY BULLIES NYT TO STOP PUBLISHING ANONYMOUS CLAIMS ABOUT DRONE KILLINGS

Best as I can tell, the FBI Director has officially told the NYT to stop republishing anonymous government claims about drone strikes anymore.

“Your decision to grant anonymity to a spokesperson for [an organization] so he could clarify the role of his group in assassinating innocents, including a wounded police officer, and distinguish it from the assassination of other innocents in Paris in the name of another group of terrorists, is both mystifying and disgusting,” Mr. Comey said in a letter to The Times.

He added: “I fear you have lost your way and urge you to reconsider allowing your newspaper to be used by those who have murdered so many and work every day to murder more.”

Oh wait. That’s not what Comey was complaining about.

He’s complaining about this paragraph, which – in an article that also grants “American counterterrorism authorities” anonymity (with no explanation) – helps clarify the relationship between the perpetrators of the Hebdo Charlie attack.

A member of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, who spoke to The New York Times on the condition of anonymity, said the joint timing of the two operations was a result of the friendship between Mr. Coulibaly and the Kouachi brothers, not of common planning

between the Qaeda group and the Islamic State.

That is, Comey is complaining that the NYT is using the same methods – anonymous sourcing – to find more knowledgeable sources to explain the attacks that it uses to parrot official governmental sources. Only Comey and his colleagues' claims about the attack may be laundered through anonymity under his approach. Not better positioned sources.

Which I guess means he's happy that the NYT anonymously publishes the claims of US government officials clarifying that the civilians they kill in drone strikes are not civilians, or even clarifying whether the CIA or DOD killed a particular person. He just doesn't want the NYT to anonymously quote *other* killers' spokespersons trying to clarify what the killing is about.