



## Ordine internazionale e diritti umani

International Legal Order and Human Rights  
Ordenamiento Jurídico Internacional y Derechos Humanos  
Ordre juridique international et Droits de l'Homme

### ABOUT THE USE OF DRONES IN COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES AND THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE BY VICTIMS

The article offers some brief reflections on the issue of the protection of victims of counter-terrorism missions carried out through Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs, more commonly known as drones), moving from the analysis of the limited, but significant, international practice. The survey does not come to definitive conclusions, but rather intends to highlight some aspects only marginally considered in the doctrinal debate, with the aim of contributing to it from a different perspective. In particular, it is believed that the use of drones, in certain situations, has contributed to innovate the *ius ad bellum* rules, making possible the widespread execution of targeted killing missions that would otherwise be considered too risky. The number of victims caused by these missions must therefore be considered in absolute and not relative terms (as the official diplomatic positions seems to suggest), with the consequence that, when assessing the obligation to repair, account should be taken of the absence of a clear regulatory context in which the drone strikes can be framed.