By Nick Mottern

Here are recent news items that reminded me of why we keep working to ban weaponized drones regardless of how far away that goal may seem.

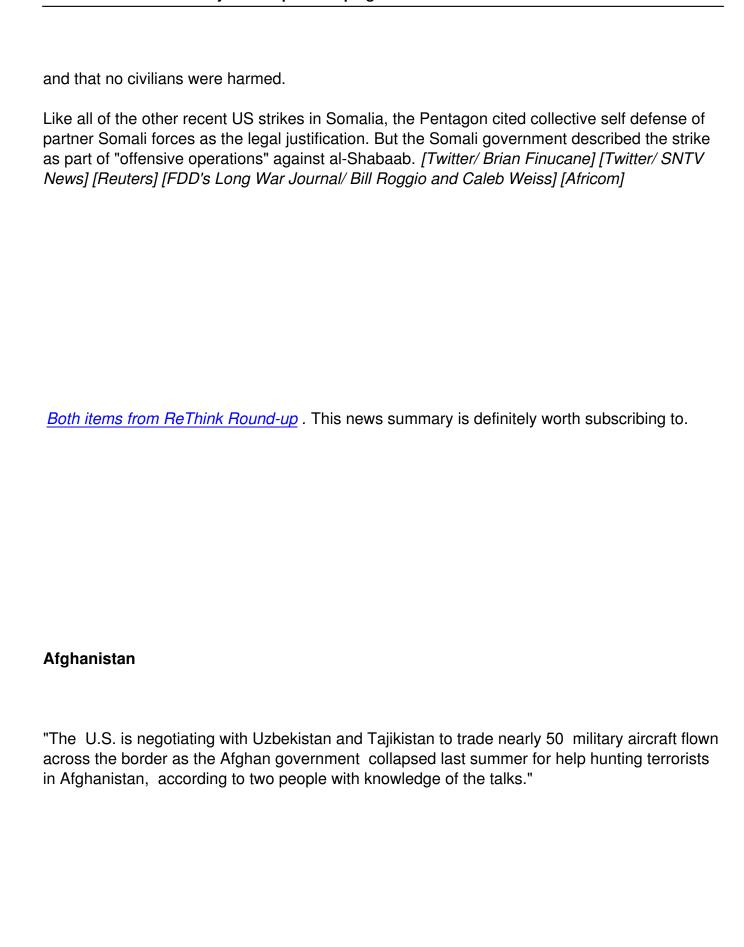
Ethiopia

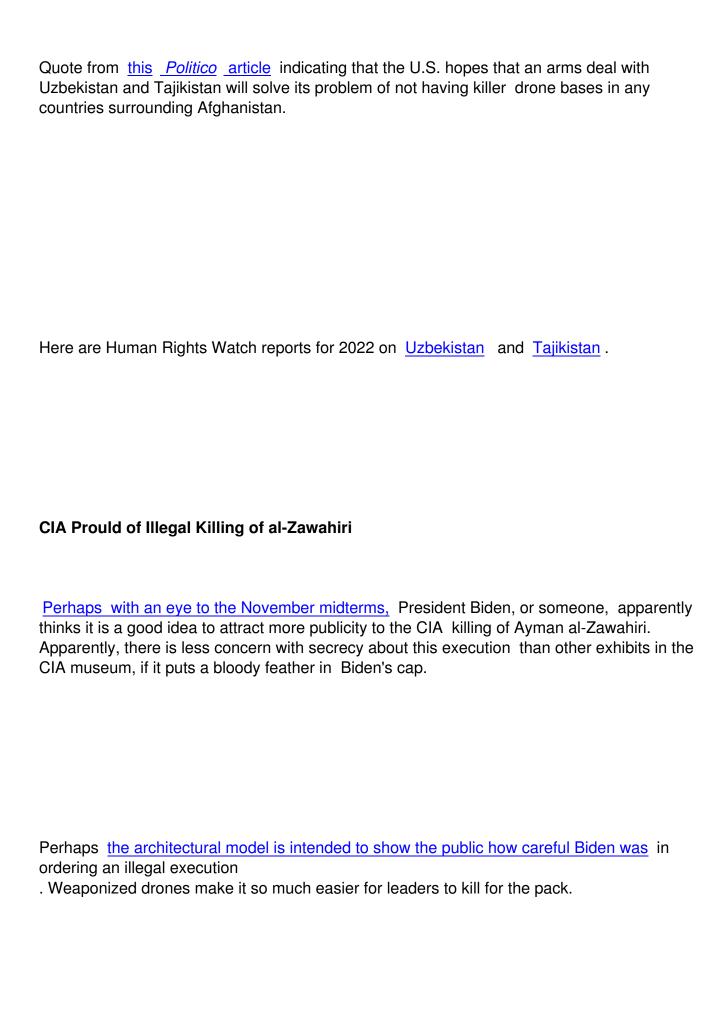
"The Ethiopian military's increasing use of drones to conduct airstrikes over the last year has changed the conflict landscape. In theory, drones should allow for more precise targeting of military objectives; however, our investigation indicates that their use has exposed civilians to new and heightened risks. Our findings are especially concerning given reports of airstrikes in Tigray since August, which have killed and injured civilians, including children."

Steven Ratner, noted U.S. human rights attorney and member of the U.N. commission investigating war crimes in the Ethiopian civil war, commenting on the group's report on September 19, 2022. Turkey is supplying Turkish-made TB2 killer drones to the Ethiopian government, just as Turkey has done in Libya and Ukraine.

Somalia

- 1. Somalia drought: Are US terror laws hampering aid effort? As nearly 8 million people face extreme hunger in Somalia amid a devastating famine, major humanitarian organizations are warning that they can't deliver food, water, or cash to those in need because of restrictions imposed by American counterterrorism legislation. [BBC News/ Phelan Chatterjee]
- 2. US launches another airstrike targeting al-Shabaab in Somalia. In the latest part of an escalation in US military actions in Somalia, the US launched another airstrike this week targeting members of al-Shabaab. AFRICOM claimed the strike killed 27 al-Shabaab militants





A tip of the hat to Mike Allen for putting news of the CIA model in his Axios AM newsletter of Sept. 25, 2022.