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**From:** Larry Weiss <larry@lweiss.net>  
**Date:** January 31, 2012 8:56:20 PM EST  
**Subject:** Re: PIPA/SOPA

Two weeks after President Obama had Anwar al-Awlaki killed by drone attack, the president also killed Awlaki's 16-year-old son the same way. If the president of the US can kill Awlaki and his child, American citizens both, away from any combat zone, without the slightest due process, the US Government can kill anyone, anywhere. And they are not the only people the US Government has slaughtered via its drone method - - and my answer is the same as to all of them. If someone commits an indictable crime against the US, the government's business should be prosecution, not murder.

This is shocking. Shocking, I say! But, unfortunately, not without precedent. Between 1861 and 1865, the idolized President Abraham Lincoln murdered *hundreds of thousands* of American citizens on suspicion of treason, because they wore grey rather than blue coats. None of them was given a trial or allowed to offer an explanation for their conduct. They were just shot to death or blown up indiscriminately. With that precedent, the equally revered Franklin Roosevelt ordered American soldiers to kill dozens of other American citizens just because they had chosen to be in the company of Japanese, German or Italian forces. Again, none of these victims of murder by fiat was indicted by a grand jury or given a trial to determine if he was guilty of a crime, notwithstanding the rigorous provisions of the U.S. Constitution as to what constitutes treason and how it is to be proved (Art. III, section 3). Neither Lincoln nor Roosevelt, nor any of their uniformed thugs, was ever brought to justice. (Well, maybe Lincoln was.)

I surely agree with Projansky that the current occupant of the White House shows dangerous signs of dictatorial ambitions. He has already declared, in the most brazen fashion, that he intends to ignore Constitutional requirements and rule by decree: "If Congress won't do it, then I will."

I wonder, though, which of Obama's would-be successors Projansky favors. Ron Paul, perhaps, since Projansky speaks kindly of him. Or maybe Projansky prefers to follow Brutus's prophylaxis against ambition -- "think him as a serpent's egg, ...."

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**From:** Eric Johnson <eric@bernini.us>  
**Date:** January 31, 2012 9:13:11 PM EST  
**Subject:** RE: PIPA/SOPA

Much as I love robust criticism of President Obama from any source, I wonder how Mr. Projansky's intemperate rant made it past the editor. SHAKSPER has occasionally hosted political outbursts, but at least they've had a thin layer of scholarship applied to them. Except for a lone paraphrase of "Merchant of Venice," this message was almost completely irrelevant to the purpose of this list.

Regards,  
Eric Johnson