



The controversy over the CIA's secret drone program has gone from bad to worse this week. We now know that many of those running it are the same people who headed the CIA's torture program, the spy agency can bomb people unilaterally without the president's explicit approval and that the government is keeping the entire program classified explicitly to prevent a federal court from ruling it illegal. And worst of all, Congress is perfectly fine with it.

The New York Times reported on Sunday that many of those in charge of the CIA's torture program – the same people whose names were explicitly redacted from the Senate's torture report in order to avert accountability – “have ascended to the agency's powerful senior ranks” and now run the CIA drone program under the agency's Counterterrorism Center. Rather than being fired and prosecuted, they have been rewarded with promotions.

The longtime Counterterrorism Center chief who just stepped down, Michael D'Andrea, was previously in charge of the notorious CIA prison known as the Salt Pit, where prisoners were regularly tortured and some died. His replacement, Chris Wood, was also “central to the interrogation program”, according to the Times.

The only reason we know D'Andrea and Wood's names is because the New York Times' executive editor Dean Baquet commendably decided to publish them – unlike the many newspapers who refused to for virtually no other reason except for the fact that the CIA asked them not to. As Baquet put it to the Huffington Post: “It would have been weird to not name the guys who run it. They're not undercover. They're not unknown. They're sort of widely known.”

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