The Drone That Killed a Grandson

I learned that my 16-year-old grandson, Abdulrahman—a United States citizen—had been killed by an American drone strike from news reports the morning after he died.

-Nasser al-Awlaki, New York Times

The story of the missile that killed him & five other civilians at dinner.

Boys were feasting on flatbreads in the open air restaurant, unaware that Southern Yemen happened to be the spot on the map where the laser pointer had stopped.

Local residents said their bodies were blown to pieces. They showed me the mountain where his family laid his remains. He was buried next to his father, whom he hadn’t seen in years. The only trace responders could link to him was an indented & charred piece of flatbread.

This is a case when dental records can really work some magic, they said, dropping the bread in a bag.

Nathan Kemp