



Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN)

MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 12th February 2020

Pine Gap implicates Australia in US drone missile atrocities

- **Disturbing revelations by US Airforce drone controller**
- **Australia must cease involvement in U.S. drone assassination atrocities**

Recent revelations by a former US Airforce drone controller of atrocities he was forced to inflict during his time in the armed forces are cause for grave concern, according to the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN).

“These revelations, reported in *The Independent* (7/2/20), remind us yet again of the role which the US spy facility at Pine Gap in Central Australia plays in US drone missile operations and Australia’s complicity in these US atrocities through hosting this US facility”, stated IPAN spokesperson, Stephen Darley.

Whistle-blower Brandon Bryant was enlisted in the US Air Force for six years, where he operated Predator drones, remotely firing missiles at targets more than 7,000 miles away from the small room containing his workspace near Las Vegas, Nevada.

Mr Bryant described reaching his breaking point with the US military after killing a child in Afghanistan that his superiors told him was “a dog” and he described the American military as ‘worse than the Nazis’.

“The U.S. Pine Gap facility which receives images from U.S. military satellites, provides targeting information for this illegal U.S. drone assassination program enabling the atrocities about which Mr Bryant speaks”, stated Mr Darley.

“By hosting this U.S. base on our soil Australia is assisting this illegal program and becomes an accomplice to the atrocities and war crimes for which it is responsible. IPAN repeats its call on the government to close this U.S. base and extricate Australia from involvement in U.S. drone assassination atrocities and U.S. wars”, stated Mr Darley.

"IPAN calls for an independent and peaceful Australian foreign policy".

-----ENDS-----

Media Interviews: Contact Stephen Darley on 08 73298542.

IPAN Media Liaison: Kathryn Kelly, contact 0417 269 984
