This paper addresses the role of the CIA in America’s 21st century wars. Following the terrorist attacks of 9/11, the Bush administration vested the CIA with unprecedented “kill or capture” powers to take the lead in counter-terrorism. Those capture powers were utilized to take custody (sometimes by kidnapping) of so-called “High Value Detainees” (HVDs), to establish CIA-run secret prisons (black sites) in locales in the Asia, Europe, Africa and the military-run prison at Guantanamo, and to extraordinarily render people to interrogation centers in the Middle East; 130 countries were involved in some manner with the CIA’s prisoner operations between 2001 and 2008. The CIA’s interrogation practices in the black sites included torture, which was authorized by the government. The kill powers, while strategically secondary to capture throughout the Bush years, began in 2002 with the first targeted killing operation in Yemen. In 2009, President Obama terminated the CIA’s detention authority. Since then, killing terror suspects and militants has supplanted capture to become the centerpiece of US counter-terrorism, and the CIA has maintained its institutionally dominant role. In this paper, I summarize (rather than recounting in great detail) this history in order to put forth an analysis of the legal and political implications of CIA criminality and the consequences of the Agency’s operational secrecy which reinforces its unaccountability for gross violations of law. I highlight four international (rather than domestic US) aspects of the CIA’s role in the “war on terror,” two pertaining to torture and extraordinary rendition, and two pertaining to drone warfare: 1) how European governments have responded the CIA’s torture and kidnapping in their territories, including in some instances initiating legal cases; 2) how the US government has employed political and diplomatic pressure to thwart accountability in foreign courts for gross crimes perpetrated by the CIA; 3) how the CIA’s kill operations in foreign countries, particularly Pakistan and Yemen, have affected (adversely) the concepts of sovereignty and the legal prohibition of civilian use of military force; and 4) how the United Nations has mobilized the resources of two Special Rapporteurs to investigate the CIA’s killing of civilians in drone operations. The overarching objective of my paper is to explain the transnationalized push and tug of various actors over the enforceability of international law.