



CAMPAIGN TO STOP KILLER ROBOTS

Please join the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots

The Problem

Over the past decade, the expanded use of unmanned armed vehicles has dramatically changed warfare, bringing new humanitarian and legal challenges. Now rapid advances in technology are resulting in efforts to develop fully autonomous weapons. These robotic weapons would be able to choose and fire on targets on their own, without any human intervention. This capability would pose a fundamental challenge to the protection of civilians and to compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law.

Several nations with high-tech militaries, including China, Israel, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, are moving toward systems that would give greater combat autonomy to machines. If one or more chooses to deploy fully autonomous weapons, a large step beyond remote-controlled armed drones, others may feel compelled to abandon policies of restraint, leading to a robotic arms race. Agreement is needed now to establish controls on these weapons before investments, technological momentum, and new military doctrine make it difficult to change course.

Allowing life or death decisions to be made by machines crosses a fundamental moral line. Autonomous robots would lack human judgment and the ability to understand context. These qualities are necessary to make complex ethical choices on a dynamic battlefield, to distinguish adequately between soldiers and civilians, and to evaluate the proportionality of an attack. As a result fully autonomous weapons would not meet the requirements of the laws of war.

Replacing human troops with machines could make the decision to go to war easier, which would shift the burden of armed conflict further onto civilians. The use of fully autonomous weapons would create an accountability gap as there is no clarity on who would be legally responsible for a robot's actions: the commander, programmer, manufacturer, or robot itself? Without accountability, these parties would have less incentive to ensure robots did not endanger civilians and victims would be left unsatisfied that someone was punished for the harm they experienced.

The Solution

Giving machines the power to decide who lives and dies on the battlefield is an unacceptable application of technology. Human control of any combat robot is essential to ensuring both humanitarian protection and effective legal control.

A comprehensive, pre-emptive prohibition on the development, production and use of fully autonomous weapons--weapons designed to kill without human intervention--is urgently needed. This could be achieved through an international treaty banning such weapons, as well as through national laws and other measures.

Take Action

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have come together to establish the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, an international NGO coalition that is working to secure a *comprehensive ban on the development, production, and use of fully autonomous weapons*.

How to Join

All interested NGOs are encouraged to endorse this call for a ban on killer robots and join the global coalition. To endorse the call for a ban and join the campaign please complete and return the attached application form to the campaign coordinator Mary Wareham at Human Rights Watch, wareham@hrw.org

Contact

For more information, please see the governance section of the campaign's website: <http://www.stopkillerrobots.org/about-us/>

Please do not hesitate to contact Mary Wareham at Human Rights Watch or any member of the campaign's interim Steering Committee:

Article 36

Association for Aid and Relief Japan

Human Rights Watch

International Committee for Robot Arms Control

Mines Action Canada

Nobel Women's Initiative

IKV Pax Christi

Pugwash Conferences on Science & World Affairs

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Campaign to Stop Killer Robots

Application for Membership

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots is a new global campaign comprised of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). There is no joining fee or annual subscription, rather applicants are requested to:

- 1) Endorse the call for *a comprehensive ban on the development, production, and use of fully autonomous weapons*;
- 2) Submit a completed Application Form (below).

Membership Application Form		
COUNTRY:		
Organization:		
Please attach a list of member organizations if you are applying on behalf of a coalition or network		
Contact Information		
Mailing Address:		
City:		
State or Province:		
Postal or zip code:		
Website:		
	Main contact	Alternate contact
Name and position		
Telephone – office:		
Telephone – mobile:		
Email:		
Skype name:		
Twitter @:		
Email List Sign-Up: <small>stopkillerrobots@yahooogroups.com</small>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contribution		
Please briefly explain here or in a separate note why your organization is interested in joining the campaign and how it may be able to contribute		
Agreement		
Your signature:		
By submitting this application to join the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, I confirm that my organization understands, endorses and commits to work for a comprehensive ban on the development, production, and use of fully autonomous weapons.		

Please email the completed application to wareham@hrw.org