

Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

15 November 2024

English only

Geneva, 13-15 November 2024

Agenda item 8

Update by the Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS)

Working Paper*

Submitted by the State of Palestine

1. State of Palestine brings to States Parties attention again to the ongoing extremely urgent real-life case of the use of AI, Autonomous Weapons Systems against the Palestinian People in particular in the illegally occupied besieged Gaza and the West Bank. It is apparent that a number thematic sessions and a number of States, including many of those who claim to champion efforts to regulate and prohibit these systems, are more comfortable speaking in theoretical terms but reluctant to mention the real-life example of the Israeli use of these systems in illegally occupied Palestine which had been widely reported in the media, by UN experts, and by NGOs worldwide. This is of concern not just to Palestine, but to all States, as these systems have started being exported by Israel and will proliferate.
2. Since one-year, Israeli colonial power has killed more than 45000 Palestinians in Gaza, including 72% of them are women and Children. It has also killed more than 789 Palestinian, including 167 Children in the West Bank
3. The Human Rights council adopted a resolution on April condemning Israel's use of AI in the commission of international crimes". The primary reason for the large number of civilians killing in Gaza is due to the widespread use of a system called "Hasbora" ("The Gospel"), and Lavender.
4. A British surgeon talks about his time in Gaza, what he found particularly disturbing that a bomb would be bombed in a crowded area then, the drones would come down and kill and target and pick off civilian, s children would say : I was lying on the ground after a bomb had dropped, then quadcopter come down, hovered over me and shot me".
5. In 2023, Amnesty International issued before its report titled "Automated Apartheid" How Facial Recognition Fragments, Segregates and Controls Palestinians in the in the illegally occupied Palestine. reveals the extensive use of facial recognition technology by Israeli illegally occupying power, in Hebron and East Jerusalem. These technologies, including systems like Red Wolf and Blue Wolf, are used exclusively to persecute the Palestinian People severely restricting their freedom of movement and violating basic human rights such as privacy. These surveillance persecution is part of a broader system of apartheid, On June the UN SR on contemporary forms of racism, affirmed Israel's use of autonomous weapons systems includes the use of remote-controlled quadcopters to target Palestinians to produce "kill lists".
6. The State of Palestine echos Amnesty call and urges businesses and governments worldwide to regulate and ban the sale of surveillance technologies that contribute to this Automated Apartheid and an illegal occupation.

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



7. The State of Palestine reiterates the findings of the ICJ in its Advisory Opinion on 19 July 2024 that the Israeli occupation is unlawful and its continued presence on our land is unlawful. The right of self-determination requires that UN Member States bring Israel's occupation to an immediate end. No aid. No assistance. No complicity. No contribution to forcible actions, including, no arms trade and no sale of surveillance technologies to the illegal occupier.

8. The State of Palestine warned a lot, GGE cycle after CCE cycle that AI-power systems are likely to be used to commit international crimes, and to be tested on populations of the Global South. Our pleas to stop this trend fell on deaf ears. We are now seeing the direct consequences of the failure to establish new international rules. We are now witnessing an automated genocide, an AI-powered genocide.

9. The State of Palestine calls for the urgent creation of a binding legal instrument, particularly to prohibit any autonomous weapon systems designed to target humans, as confirmed by the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in its second resolution last month. We emphasize the need for an immediate moratorium on the development of such systems until specific safeguards are agreed upon in our discussions to prevent their development without restrictions that respect ethical and legal boundaries and avoid an irreversible catastrophe.

10. The State of Palestine demands an arms embargo on Israeli apartheid and stop profiting from our blood.
