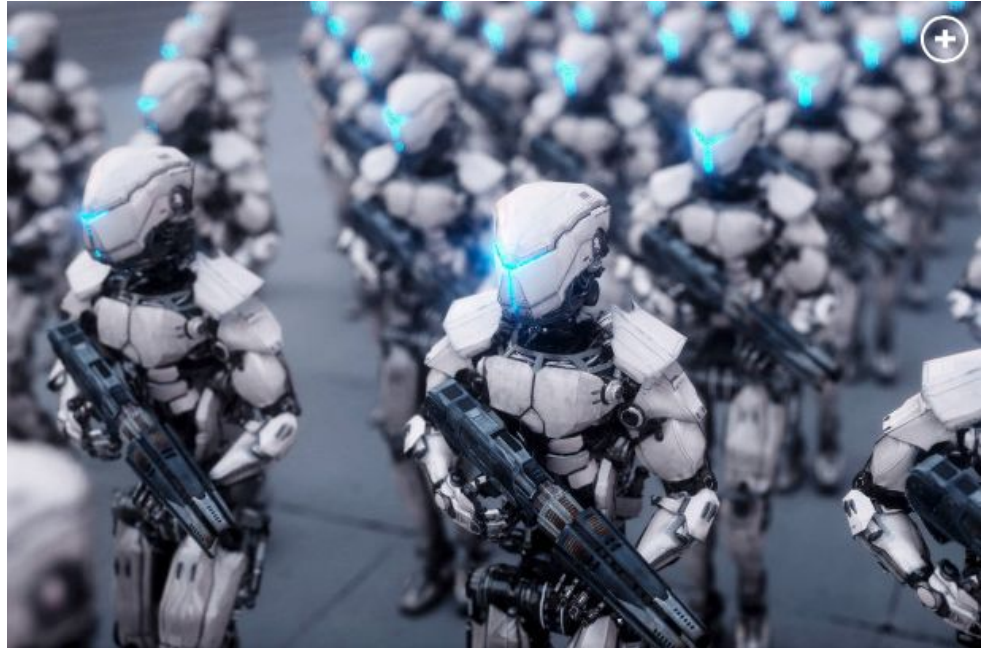


Ethics & communication project

3.8 Autonomous warfare - are there ever situations where it could be condoned?

Andrew Smith
CodeClan - D4



3.8 Autonomous warfare - are there ever situations where it could be condoned?

1. Topic summary

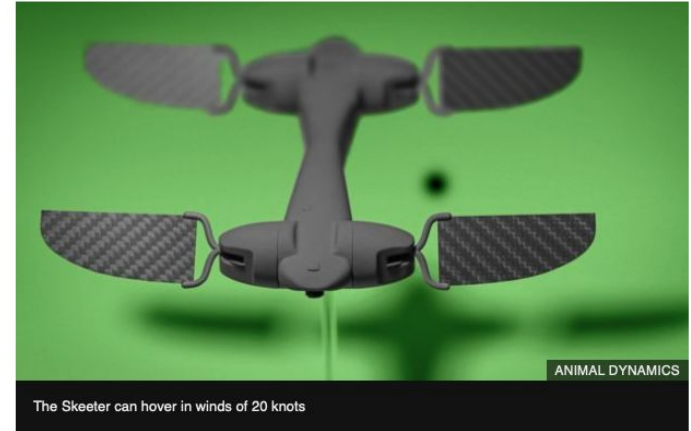
“This era is not decades away. It’s not even years away. Killer robots are moments away from making their grand entrance.”

Abishur Prakash, ‘The age of killer robots’



“Letting machines decide over life and death of human beings runs against all of our ethical standards”.

German Government



Known as : **Lethal autonomous weapons** (LAWs) are a type of **autonomous** military system that can independently search for and engage targets based on programmed constraints and descriptions. ... LAWs may operate in the air, on land, on water, under water, or in space.

3.8 Autonomous warfare - are there ever situations where it could be condoned?

2. Challenges and ambiguities

“A.I. technologies cannot capture human judgement and ethical rules that are essentially making decisions concerning life and death.”

Prof. Carla Gomes, Computer Science, Cornell University



One person's package delivery drone is another person's autonomous weapons system.



AI systems today are still merely simplistic correlation engines, representing their worlds as naive primitive assemblies of colors and textures. *Kalev Leetaru, Forbes*

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3. Potential solutions

3 Options:

1. Total ban of fully autonomous weapon systems
2. Regulating the use of fully autonomous weapon systems
3. Continue and leave for open development

Routes to resolution

1. Legally through the UN
2. Moral agreement. AI experts refusing to work on LAW projects



Campaigns to Ban Lethal Autonomous

1. Future of Life Institute (FLI) - Elon Musk
2. Stop Killer Robots
3. Ban Autonomous Weapons

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4. Opinion and recommendation

Self policing by Individuals, companies or countries of their own code of conduct/ licensing (governed by their own moral code) - insufficient as it will almost certainly be ignored at some level.



UN - an agreement has to be codified in a Treaty and enforceable!

Until then - sign the petition!

3.8 Autonomous warfare - are there ever situations where it could be condoned?

Appendix

1. Link to the Future of Life Institute open letter - which can be signed.

<https://futureoflife.org/open-letter-autonomous-weapons/>

2. Stop Killer Robots

<https://www.stopkillerrobots.org>

3. Slaughter Bots - Stop Autonomous Weapons

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9CO6M2Hs0IA>

4. Why We Should Ban Lethal Autonomous Weapons - Future of Life

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVwD-IZosJE>

