

Morocco plans to incorporate AI in military gear for air and ground surveillance

The Mohammed VI University of Technical Sciences' "AI Movement" Center is studying the application of artificial intelligence (AI) in the military by creating drones that can better record activity inside closed facilities, move objects, and more despite ethical concerns.

During a presentation at an international symposium hosted by the AI Council, Amal Falah Saghrouchni, a member of the Supreme Council for Education, Training, and Scientific Research, revealed that the AI Movement Center is working on creating applications of AI that can be used for military purposes.

The center is developing drones that can simultaneously perform air and ground surveillance.

The goal is to survey targeted areas and gather information, as these drones can photograph what's inside facilities without storming into them. They can also provide accurate ground information, such as identifying car bombs.

The council member noted that future wars will depend on AI, "which makes it necessary for us to excel in this technology to ensure sovereignty over information," pointing out that "among the factors that gave the US great superiority at the military level is its development of AI in this field. This has strengthened the effectiveness and ability of its army, whether at the leadership level or tracking targets, especially mobile ones."

She pointed out that AI is not limited to Chat GPT, the most well-known AI application. Chat GPT is just one of many applications used in various fields, and what sets it apart from other applications is its capacity to process large amounts of data quickly, generate data artificially, and attempt to mimic human mental and cognitive functions.

The official explained that AI allows decision-makers to carry out several tasks effectively. Through this technology, she adds, "A neighborhood or city can be managed effectively, through a computer screen, and manufacturing, financial transactions, and surgical operations can also be carried out remotely."

One of the main issues raised by AI is its ethical component. According to Saghrouchni, this issue is problematic because “the challenge lies in the extent of adherence to certain principles,” and “the gateway to overcoming this problem is establishing laws, given that the law is binding.”

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has received 117 global initiatives that address the morality and ethics of using AI. The spokeswoman said, “How can these principles be applied, especially with the spread of AI use worldwide?”

Saghrouchni believes that “reaching responsible AI, overcoming the deviations that could result from it, and thus managing the ethical stakes associated with its use, requires establishing good governance based on a set of foundations.”