



# CAMPAIGN TO **STOP** KILLER ROBOTS

Convention on Conventional Weapons meeting on lethal autonomous weapons systems

## SIDE EVENT BRIEFING

### Ethical Concerns Over Fully Autonomous Weapons

Conference Room XXIII  
United Nations Geneva

**Tuesday, 28 August 2018**  
13:00-14:30

*Sandwiches & refreshments will be provided.*

#### *Introductory Remarks*

- Nobel Peace Laureate Ms. Jody Williams, **Nobel Women's Initiative**

#### *Speakers*

- Ms. Bonnie Docherty, **Human Rights Watch**
- Mr. Amr Gaber, **Tech Workers Coalition**
- Dr. Peter Asaro, **International Committee for Robot Arms Control**
- Ms. Ariel Conn, **Future of Life Institute**

#### *Moderator*

- Ms. Maria-Pia Devoto, **APP/SEHLAC**

The **Campaign to Stop Killer Robots** works to preemptively ban weapons systems that would select targets and use force without meaningful human control. At this briefing, campaign members and guests will discuss ethical concerns raised by these weapons systems, the relevance of the Martens Clause in determining the appropriate regulatory response, and recent private sector expressions of support for retaining meaningful human control over weapons systems and the use of force.

For more information see [www.stopkillerrobots.org](http://www.stopkillerrobots.org) or contact: Mary Wareham, Tel. +1-646-203-8292 (mobile), [wareham@hrw.org](mailto:wareham@hrw.org)

## Biographies of Speakers

### **Jody Williams, Nobel Women's Initiative**

Ms. Williams received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 together with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines for their central role in establishing the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty. She chairs the Nobel Women's Initiative, which she founded in 2006 together with five of her sister Nobel Peace Laureates, and which is a co-founder of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots. Ms. Williams and more than 20 other Nobel Peace Laureates issued a [joint statement](#) in May 2014 endorsing the call for a preemptive ban on fully autonomous weapons. [@JodyWilliams97](#) [@NobelWomen](#)

### **Peter Asaro, International Committee for Robot Arms Control**

Dr. Asaro is vice-chair of the International Committee for Robot Arms Control (ICRAC) and a philosopher of technology who has worked in artificial intelligence, neural networks, natural language processing and robot vision research. He is Associate Professor in the School of Media Studies at The New School in New York and an affiliate scholar of Stanford Law School's Center for Internet and Society. Dr. Asaro co-authored a May 2018 [letter from 1,000+ academics](#) calling on Google to support a ban on fully autonomous weapons and not allow personal data it collects to be used for military operations. [@PeterAsaro](#) [@icracnet](#)

### **Amr Gaber, Tech Workers Coalition**

Mr. Gaber is a software engineer at Google. He took action with several of his coworkers that led to [Google's recent pledge](#) not to develop or design AI for use in weapons and to not renew a US Department of Defense contract to sort data collected by surveillance drones. Amr is also a volunteer with the Tech Workers Coalition (TWC), which is an all volunteer labor organization comprised of tech workers, labor organizers and community members that brings workers together across companies and occupations with the aim of making the technology sector more equitable and just. [@techworkersco](#)

### **Ariel Conn, Future of Life Institute**

Ms. Conn is a writer and scientist who oversees digital media and communications for the [Future of Life Institute](#), which since 2015 has collected several open letters of support from the artificial intelligence community for a new treaty to prevent the development of fully autonomous weapons. More than 200 technology companies, societies, and groups as well as 2,600 AI experts and other individuals have committed not to help develop fully autonomous weapons in a sign-on statement launched last month. Future of Life produced last year's viral "Slaughterbots" video. [@ArielConn](#) [@FLIrisk](#) [@AIweapons](#)

### **Bonnie Docherty, Human Rights Watch**

Ms. Docherty is senior researcher in the arms division of Human Rights Watch and a lecturer on law and associate director of armed conflict and civilian protection at the International Human Rights Clinic at Harvard Law School. She has authored all their joint publications on fully autonomous weapons, most recently *Heed the Call: A Moral and Legal Imperative to Ban Killer Robots*, a 46-page report that finds that killer robots would violate what is known as the Martens Clause. This long-standing provision of international humanitarian law requires emerging technologies to be judged by the "principles of humanity" and the "dictates of public conscience" when they are not already covered by treaty provisions. [@HmnRightsProgram](#) [@harvard\\_accpi](#) [@hrw](#)

### **Maria-Pia Devoto, Asociación para Políticas Públicas/SEHLAC**

Ms. Devoto is the director of the Argentinean organization Association for Public Policies (Asociación para Políticas Públicas - APP) and a specialist in international security and non-proliferation issues, disarmament, arms control and gender. She co-founded and coordinates the Seguridad Humana en América Latina y el Caribe - SEHLAC (Latin American and Caribbean Human Security Network), which is a member of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots leadership body. [@piadevoto](#) [@SehlaOrg](#)