

# REVIEWING THE RECORD: REPORTS ON KILLER ROBOTS

From Human Rights Watch and the Harvard Law School  
International Human Rights Clinic



INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC  
HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM AT HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
WATCH

AUGUST 2018

HEED THE CALL: A MORAL AND  
LEGAL IMPERATIVE TO BAN  
KILLER ROBOTS



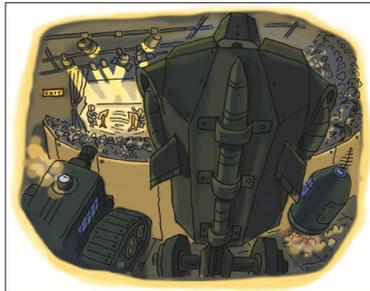
HEED THE CALL  
A Moral and Legal Imperative to Ban Killer Robots



This 46-page report demonstrates how fully autonomous weapons violate the principles of humanity and the dictates of public conscience as established by the Martens Clause under international humanitarian law.

DECEMBER 2016

MAKING THE CASE: THE  
DANGERS OF KILLER ROBOTS  
AND THE NEED FOR A  
PREEMPTIVE BAN



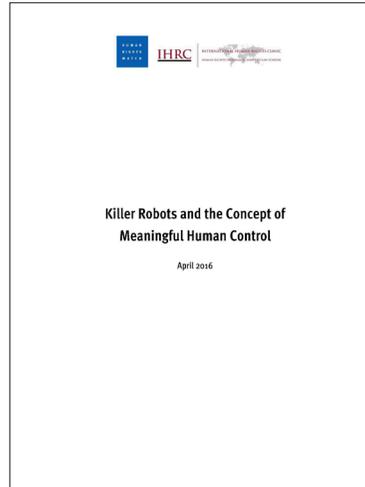
MAKING THE CASE  
The Dangers of Killer Robots and the Need for a Preemptive Ban



This 49-page report rebuts 16 key arguments against a ban on fully autonomous weapons. In so doing, it comprehensively examines the problems with fully autonomous weapons and makes the case for a preemptive prohibition.

APRIL 2016

KILLER ROBOTS AND THE  
CONCEPT OF MEANINGFUL  
HUMAN CONTROL



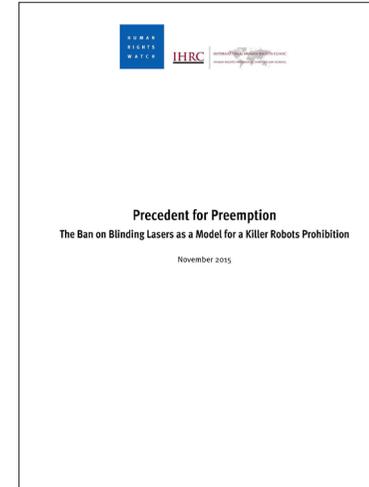
Killer Robots and the Concept of  
Meaningful Human Control

April 2016

This 16-page report calls for requiring meaningful human control over the selection and engagement of targets in order to protect human dignity, ensure compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law, and avoid creating an accountability gap. It also identifies legal precedent for obliging countries to maintain human control.

NOVEMBER 2015

PRECEDENT FOR PREEMPTION:  
THE BAN ON BLINDING LASERS  
AS A MODEL FOR A KILLER  
ROBOTS PROHIBITION



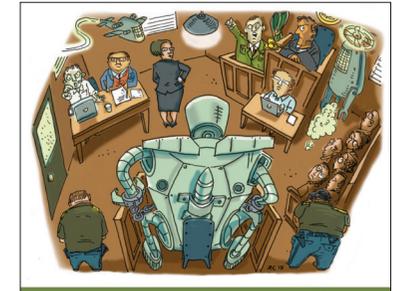
Precedent for Preemption  
The Ban on Blinding Lasers as a Model for a Killer Robots Prohibition

November 2015

This 18-page report reviews the history of the negotiations of Protocol IV to the Convention on Conventional Weapons on Blinding Laser Weapons, which preemptively banned a weapon still in development. The report examines the parallels between the concerns about blinding lasers and fully autonomous weapons.

APRIL 2015

MIND THE GAP: THE LACK OF  
ACCOUNTABILITY FOR KILLER  
ROBOTS



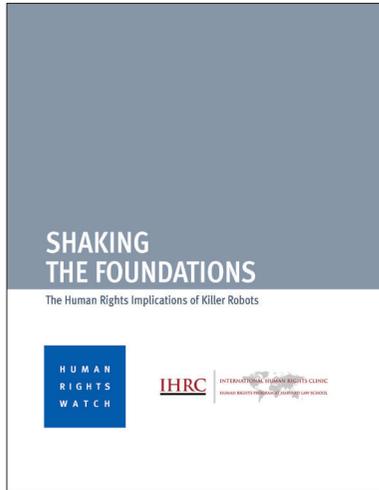
MIND THE GAP  
The Lack of Accountability for Killer Robots



This 38-page report details the significant hurdles to assigning personal accountability for the actions of fully autonomous weapons under both criminal and civil law. It also elaborates on the consequences of failing to assign legal responsibility.

MAY 2014

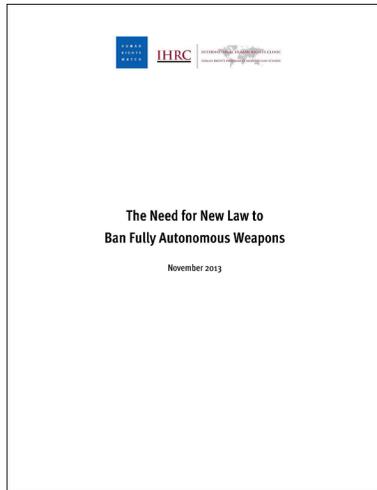
SHAKING THE FOUNDATIONS:  
THE HUMAN RIGHTS  
IMPLICATIONS OF KILLER  
ROBOTS



This 26-page report assesses in detail the risks posed by fully autonomous weapons under international human rights law, expanding the debate beyond the battlefield to law enforcement operations.

NOVEMBER 2013

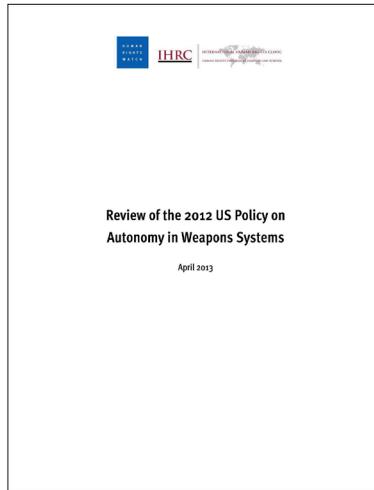
THE NEED FOR NEW LAW TO BAN  
FULLY AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS



This 16-page report shows why existing international humanitarian law is insufficient to deal with fully autonomous weapons and why an international, legally binding instrument preemptively banning these weapons is needed.

APRIL 2013

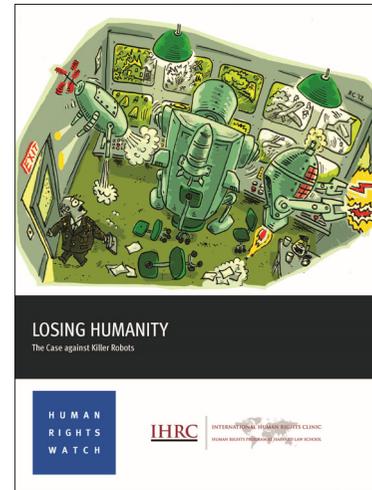
REVIEW OF THE 2012 US POLICY  
ON AUTONOMY IN WEAPONS  
SYSTEMS



This 9-page report analyzes the strengths and weaknesses of the November 2012 US Department of Defense directive on autonomy in weapons systems.

NOVEMBER 2012

LOSING HUMANITY: THE CASE  
AGAINST KILLER ROBOTS



This 50-page report outlines concerns about fully autonomous weapons, which would inherently lack human qualities that provide legal and non-legal checks on the killing of civilians.

FIND OUT MORE

Download the reports:  
[www.hrw.org/topic/arms/killer-robots](http://www.hrw.org/topic/arms/killer-robots)

Human Rights Watch:  
[www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)

Harvard Law School  
International Human  
Rights Clinic:  
<http://hrp.law.harvard.edu>

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The principal author of these reports on fully autonomous weapons is Bonnie Docherty, 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.



[WWW.STOPKILLERROBOTS.ORG](http://WWW.STOPKILLERROBOTS.ORG)



CAMPAIGN TO STOP  
KILLER ROBOTS