



# CAMPAIGN TO **STOP** KILLER ROBOTS

14 August 2019

## **MEDIA ADVISORY:**

### **Bold leadership is needed to ban killer robots Calls to negotiate a new treaty mount**

Representatives from more than 80 states and the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots will return to the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) at the United Nations (UN) in Geneva from 19-21 August to discuss concerns over fully autonomous weapons systems or killer robots.

The Campaign urges states to take bold leadership by launching negotiations on a new ban treaty to retain meaningful human control over the use of force. Investments in autonomous weapons may soon outpace the capacity of our legal and political systems to address the challenges that killer robots pose to our humanity and shared security.

A majority of states have proposed launching negotiations on a new treaty to prohibit or restrict lethal autonomous weapons systems, including [28 states that demand](#) a ban treaty. The current recommendations by the CCW fall far short, showing how states are prioritizing legal, operational and technical aspects over ethical, human rights, humanitarian and security concerns. Progress has been consistently stymied by a minority of military powers that have rejected calls to negotiate a new treaty, namely Israel, Russia, South Korea, and the United States.

A growing number of [tech workers](#), [AI experts](#) and [companies](#) support the call to ban killer robots. Concerns about a lack of legal regulation have not dissipated since last year, when Google cancelled its controversial [Project Maven](#) contract with the Pentagon due to the concerns raised by its employees. PAX, a Dutch co-founder of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, will release a new report '[Don't be evil? A survey of the tech sector's stance on lethal autonomous weapons systems](#)' at **6.01am CET on 19 August** (the link will be live at this time). This report looks at tech companies that are potentially contributing to the development of fully autonomous weapons.

Campaign spokespeople available for comment include tech worker Laura Nolan, a computer programmer who left her job at Google in early 2018 after protesting the company's involvement in Project Maven, and arms researcher Daan Kayser from PAX in the Netherlands, who co-authored the report investigating technology companies that may be contributing to the development of fully autonomous weapons.

The Campaign [delegation](#) to this eighth CCW meeting on killer robots is led by coordinator, Mary Wareham of Human Rights Watch and comprised of 45 campaigners from 19 non-governmental organizations. They are available for media interviews in English as well as in Arabic, French, German, Russian, Spanish and other languages.

To schedule an interview, please contact Clare Conboy, Communications & Media Manager. Tel/Whatsapp. +44 (7507) 415-987, [clare@stopkillerrobots.org](mailto:clare@stopkillerrobots.org) & [media@stopkillerrobots.org](mailto:media@stopkillerrobots.org)

The CCW meeting will not be webcast, but @BanKillerRobots will tweet on highlights using the hashtags #CCWUN and #KillerRobots.

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots is [a rapidly growing coalition of 113 non-governmental organizations in 57 countries](#) working to preemptively ban the development, production, and use of fully autonomous weapons.

For more information, see:

- Website: [www.stopkillerrobots.org](http://www.stopkillerrobots.org)
- Twitter: [@BanKillerRobots](https://twitter.com/BanKillerRobots)
- Facebook: [@stopkillerrobots](https://www.facebook.com/stopkillerrobots)
- Instagram: [stopkillerrobots](https://www.instagram.com/stopkillerrobots)