

Who Wants to Ban Killer Robots?

Since the launch of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots in 2013, a broad range and growing number of countries, regional bodies, private companies, organizations, and individuals have [endorsed](#) the call to preemptively ban fully autonomous weapons. See the Campaign's new Endorsers page for more details on the following: <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/endorsers/>



[Thirty countries from around the world:](#) Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, China (on use only), Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Holy See, Iraq, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, State of Palestine, Uganda, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, who in November 2018 [urged states](#) to prohibit weapons systems that could, by themselves, target and attack human beings, calling them “morally repugnant and politically unacceptable.”



More than 4,500 artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics experts, who [signed an open letter](#) in 2015 affirming that they have “no interest in building AI weapons and do not want others to tarnish their field by doing so.” Since then, another 30,000 individuals have signed [various open letters](#) supporting a ban on lethal autonomous weapons, including more than [14 current and past presidents](#) of AI and robotics organizations and professional associations such as the American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (IEEE-RAS), International Joint Conferences on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI), and the European Association for Artificial Intelligence (EurAI). Individual signatories include Tesla CEO Elon Musk, Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, Skype co-founder Jaan Tallin, the late Professor [Stephen Hawking](#), and [Google DeepMind](#) chief executive Demis Hassabis along with 21 of his lab engineers, developers, and research scientists. Notable female signatories include Professors Barbara Grosz of Harvard University, Martha E. Pollack of the University of Michigan, Carme Torras of the Robotics Institute at CSIC-UPC in Barcelona, and Francesca Rossi of Padova University, as well as IBM Watson design leader Kathryn McElroy.



More than 26 Nobel Peace Laureates, who [are concerned](#) that “leaving the killing to machines might make going to war easier.” They include: Jody Williams (1997), Juan Manuel Santos (2016), Leymah Gbowee (2011), Tawakkol Karman (2011), Shirin Ebadi (2003), José Ramos-Horta (1996), F.W. de Klerk (1993), Rigoberta Menchú Tum (1992), His Holiness the Dalai Lama (1989), Oscar Arias Sánchez (1987), Archbishop Desmond Tutu (1984), Lech Walesa (1983), Mairead Maguire, and Betty Williams (1976).



More than 270 scientists in 37 countries, who have [warned](#) that interactions by devices controlled by complex algorithms “could create unstable and unpredictable behavior ... that could initiate or escalate conflicts, or cause unjustifiable harm to civilian populations.” Signatories include Professors Geoffrey Hinton of the University of Toronto, Alan Bundy of the University of Edinburgh, Bruno Siciliano of the University of Naples, and James Hendler of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (former Chief Scientist of the Information Systems Office at the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, “DARPA”).



More than 160 religious leaders and faith organizations of various denominations, who have [called](#) killer robots “an affront to human dignity and to the sacredness of life.” The signatories include South Africa’s Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem Fouad Twal, the Archbishop of Liverpool Rev. Malcolm McMahon, the Archbishop of Juba in South Sudan Rev. Daniel Deng Bul Yak, Religions for Peace Secretary General Dr. William Vendley, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns Executive Director Gerry Lee, and the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land Reverend Dr. Munib Younan.



The UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association in their [joint report](#) that drew attention to potential law enforcement use of weapons systems that would lack meaningful human control.

The European Parliament, which [adopted a resolution](#) in February 2018 by a vote of 534–49 calling for a ban on “development, production and use of fully autonomous weapons which enable strikes to be carried out without human intervention.” In July 2018, the EU Parliament [adopted](#) another [resolution](#) by a vote of 390/103/110 that calls for the urgent negotiation of “an international ban on weapon systems that lack human control over the use of force.”



OSCE The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) parliamentary assembly, which on 9 July 2019 [adopted a declaration](#) urging the 57 OSCE member states “to support international negotiations to ban lethal autonomous weapons.”

Technology giant Google, which issued [a set of ethical principles](#) in June 2018 committing not to “design or deploy” AI for use in weapons systems. Tech company Vision Labs in 2019 explicitly prohibited use of their technology “for military applications” as “part of our contracts.” Boston Dynamics owner Softbank says it does “not have a weapons business and have no intention to develop technologies that could be used for military purposes.” The CEO of Animal Dynamics Alex Caccia said that “under our company charter, and our relationship with Oxford University, we will not weaponize or provide ‘kinetic’ functionality to the products we make.”



Dutch bank NIBC in October 2019 became the first financial institution worldwide to preventively exclude investments in companies that produce lethal autonomous weapons systems. In 2019, major German industry association BDI [called on](#) Germany’s government to work for a new international treaty banning fully autonomous weapons.

61% of the public [oppose](#) the development of weapons systems that would select and attack targets without human intervention.

