



Prime Minister David Cameron
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

23 April 2013

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to express concern over the development of fully autonomous weapons, known also as “killer robots”, and to seek your urgent attention on this matter.

Fully autonomous weapons are weapons that after being activated would select and attack targets on the battlefield without any further human intervention. These weapons are currently under development in several countries, and would be a step beyond the remote-controlled armed drones used in combat today,

The use of unmanned armed drones already poses a number of humanitarian and legal challenges. Moving towards full autonomy on the battlefield, where the power to decide who lives or dies is given to a machine, crosses a fundamental moral line and raises serious questions over accountability, the protection of civilians and compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law.

Our organisations support the aims of the *Campaign to Stop Killer Robots* that calls on states to prohibit fully autonomous weapons by establishing a preemptive international treaty that bans such weapons.

We are writing to you to ask that the government makes its position clear on the development and use of autonomous weapons. We also ask that the government make available information on any development of fully autonomous weapons already being undertaken in the UK and to ask that the UK works for an international treaty to ban these weapons.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Smith,
Chief Executive
Action on Armed Violence



Thomas Nash,
Director
Article 36



Oliver Sprague, Programme Director
– Arms Control & Policing,
Amnesty International UK



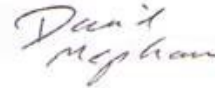
Chris Cole, Coordinator
Drone Wars UK



Aleema Shivji, UK Director
Handicap International UK



David Mepham, UK Director
Human Rights Watch UK



Noel Sharkey, Chairperson
International Committee for
Robot Arms Control (ICRAC)



Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, General Secretary
The Methodist Church



Clive Stafford Smith
Founder
Reprieve



Natalie Samarasinghe,
Acting Executive Director
United Nations Association – UK



Helen Drewery
General Secretary
Quaker Peace and Social Witness

