AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS SYSTEMS

Implications on Human Rights and Policing
RIOTBOT [SPAIN]

Scenarios that have been studied for its development:

- Riot control
- Civil order
- Jails and prisons
- Police round-ups
- Boundary defense and intervention
- Neutralization of suspects
WRS ROVING VEHICLE [USA]

- “compact movable pepper spray delivery system that supports rapid deployment and rapid response.”
- Firing range of approximately 30 feet; can “deliver chemical at approximately 125 gallons/minute” and has storage capacity to “provide ... up to 83 three-gallon chemical pulses.”
CYCLONE RIOT CONTROL
DRONE SYSTEM
[ISRAEL]

“provides police forces with less lethal munitions from drones – allowing maximum accuracy, real time control of riot situations...”
SKUNK RIOT CONTROL COPTER [SOUTH AFRICA]

- Equipped with four high-capacity paintball barrels which can fire solid plastic balls, dye marker projectiles or pepperballs. Each barrel can fire up to 20 paintballs per second, consequently releasing “80 Pepper balls per second stopping any crowd in its tracks”
COMPLEMENTARITY OF IHL AND IHRL

HUMAN RIGHTS
- Freedom of expression
- Freedom of assembly etc.

COMPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS
- Right to life
- Prohibition against torture
- Prohibition against ill-treatment
- Fair trial

IHL
- Protection of wounded, sick and shipwrecked
- Protection of POWs
- Conduct of hostilities etc.
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

- Article 3 of UDHR upholds the right of everyone “to life, liberty and security of person.”
- Article 6(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), states: “Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.”
- Right to security of the person “protects individuals against intentional infliction of bodily or mental injury, regardless of whether the victim is detained or non-detained.
- Torture is prohibited in all circumstances, including in armed conflict, and can never be derogated from.
- Freedom of peaceful assembly: Article 20 UDHR
USE OF FORCE **MUST** BE:

Proportionate

Lawful

Accountable

Necessary
Christof Heyns:

“...[these assessments] often require human judgement, common sense, appreciation of the larger picture, understanding of the intentions behind people’s actions, and understanding of values and anticipation of the direction in which events are unfolding. Decisions over life and death in armed conflict may require compassion and intuition. Humans – while they are fallible – at least might possess these qualities, whereas robots definitely do not.”
More information:

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