“AUTONOMOUS WEAPON SYSTEM AND COMMAND/SUPERIOR RESPONSIBILITY IN INTERNATIONAL LAW”



SUBMITTED BY

MUHAMMAD ANEES ASLAM (01-177182-023)

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SUPERVISOR'S APPROVAL

Name: Muhammad Anees Aslam (01-177182-023)

Thesis Title: **"AUTONOMOUS WEAPON SYSTEM AND COMMAND/SUPERIOR RESPONSIBILITY IN INTERNATIONAL LAW"**

In my judgment, the candidate has met the scholarly standards for this project and haS completed the project to my satisfaction, and the formatting, writing style, and editorial standards as per the requirement of the institute and therefore, is ready to proceed toward Examination.

_____ Date: _____

Signature of Supervisor

Dr. Bushra Khan

(Assistant Professor

Bahria University Law School)

Department of Law

Islamabad Campus

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ABSTRACT

As technology and capabilities progress, Autonomous Weapon Systems (AWS) are increasingly being integrated into the wars and conflicts between the states. The difficulty of maintaining accountability for AWS's actions presents several important obstacles. Humans are criminally accountable for every act of war they undertake according to International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and also International criminal law. It is questionable who could be held accountable for AWS's fatalities and acts of war. The present research focuses on human out-of-the-loop weaponry. The present paper will discuss the legal concept of superior responsibility that international criminal tribunals may use to determine the responsibility. The present paper investigates personal as well as state responsibility, along with a criterion for assessing the responsibility of commanders or state superiors. The work also examines the objectives and superior responsibility, the structure that governs the International Criminal Law towards AWS, and the quest for criminal liability.

Acknowledgment

Alhamdulillah.

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Muhammad Anees Aslam

07/06/2023

DEDICATION

“Dedicated to my parents who gave me more than they had and pushed themselves beyond their best so that I could overcome everything that came my way.”

DECLARATION

I, Muhammad Anees Aslam, do hereby declare that this thesis titled “Autonomous Weapon System and Command/Superior Responsibility In International Law” is a record of bona fide research carried out by me under the supervision of Ma’am Bushra Khan and that it has not been previously submitted for the award of a degree, diploma or any other similar title of recognition. Where any material has been utilized from other sources, it has been duly acknowledged.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS:

AP-I…….. Additional Protocol-I

AWS……... Autonomous Weapon System

CCW……. Certain Conventional Weapons

GGE……. Group of Governmental Experts

DOC……. Direct Operator Control

GC…… Geneva Convention

ICRC……... International Committee of Red Cross

ICJ……. International Criminal Court

IHL……... International Humanitarian Law

LOC……... Law of Conflict

LOW……. Law of War

UK…… United Kingdom

UN……... United Nations

USA…… United States of America

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TITLE OF THESIS

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RESEARCH STATEMENT

The development and deployment of autonomous weapons have emerged as among the greatest risks to mankind and human civilization, as the use of AWS may jeopardize multiple fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, such as distinction, the principle of proportionality, the necessity of military, and limitation; consequently, it is critical to ensure that AWS is thoroughly examined by the fundamental principles of IHL while maintaining valuable human oversight.