

Research Project for Degree of LL.B.

Study upon the Legality of Autonomous Weapons System in the Light of Principles
of International Humanitarian Law



Research Project Supervisor: Saadia Zahoor Abbasi

This research project is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
degree of LL.B.

Submitted by:

Muhammad Ossama (01-177112-013)

And

Muhammad Riffat Jan (01-177112-014)

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Department of Law

Bahria University, Islamabad

Supervisor Approval

I hereby, forward this work done by
Muhammad Ossama and Muhammad Riffat Jan,
to the Research Committee for the final Evaluation.

Supervisor Name: Saadia Zahoor Abbasi

Supervisor Signature: _____

Department of Law

Bahria University, Islamabad

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Declaration of Ethical Conduct in Research

We, as a student of Bahria University, hereby declare that;

Firstly, we have abided by the research ethics while writing this research project.

Secondly, we have not committed any acts that may dis-credit or damage the credibility of my research. These include, but are not limited to: falsification distortion of research findings or plagiarism.

Thirdly, we need to go through a plagiarism check before submitting this research project.

Date: 26 May 2016

Degree: LL.B

Department: Law

Supervisor: Saadia Zahoor Abbasi

Name & Signature of Students:

Muhammad Ossama

Muhammad Riffat Jan

Acknowledgement and Dedication

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We are solely responsible for any errors that you may find and the professors has no responsibility over this research project, we would like to thank ALLAH Almighty for His countless blessing and the wisdom that He has bestowed upon us to complete this task.

This research work is dedicated to the

‘Victims of Army Public School Peshawar’

List of Abbreviations

Additional Protocol-I to GC	AP-I
Additional Protocol-II to GC	AP-II
Autonomous Military Robots	AMR
Autonomous Weapons System	AWS
Convention Certain Conventional Weapons	CCW
Customary International Humanitarian Law	CIHL
Geneva Convention – I	GC-I
Geneva Convention – II	GC-II
Geneva Convention – III	GC-III
Geneva Convention – IV	GC-IV
Geneva Conventions	GC's
Human Rights Watch	HRW
International Committee of the Red Cross	ICRC
International Humanitarian Law	IHL
Lethal Autonomous Weapons System	LAWS
Non- Autonomous Weapons System	N-LAWS
United States	U.S
United States Department of Defense	U.S DoD

Abstract

Autonomous Weapon System is the new era of weapons in the battle field yet there is an opinion against these systems that they cannot fulfill the criteria set forward by International Humanitarian Law such as they cannot follow the principle of distinction, precaution or proportionality and under the ambit of Article 36 of the Additional Protocol I, 1977 these weapons are unlawful and furthermore, there is no legal framework at International level that governs the functioning of these systems. The purpose of this research is to give the stance of Autonomous weapon system and its standing with the rules of International Humanitarian Law, that such weapons are lawful and such weapons system has many advantages than human operated weapons possess. These systems can also prevail upon the rules distinction, precaution or proportionality.

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