

AI-Driven Wars: Ethical Impact of the War on Gaza

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The Hamas attack on October 7, 2023 resulting in another Israel-Palestine war has escalated geographically, politically, and technologically. There have been many official and backchannel reports of the use of automated weapons by the IDF (Israel Defence Force) in their attacks on civilian populated areas. This paper focuses on the use of Artificial Intelligence in the War on Gaza. AI-enabled targeting algorithms like 'Lavender' and 'Gospel' have reiterated the way surveillance and precision attacks are conducted amidst conflict. This technology inducing mass casualties raises ethical questions about the rules of war. The use of technology to conduct deep surveillance in civilian populated areas and the reduction of human supervision in the decision-making process evidently has intensified the civilian casualties. This autonomous warfare raises a serious question on the protection of the basic human rights of civilians in Palestine. This paper study analysed the various reports and news coverage of the war on Gaza since October 7th to show the use of AI in this war. Since this is the first time the world has witnessed such an atrocity of this magnitude and nature, there are barely any strong studies on the matter. Therefore, the data collection was limited to on-ground mass media/ social media coverage of the events. Wars are inevitable, however, in the 21st century, the weaponization of AI technology has turned warfighting into an inhumanely brutal affair. By drawing examples of the attacks on Gaza by the Israeli Forces and analysing their nature, the paper brings out the ethical dilemma of the new age of warfare.

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