



Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)

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April 22, 2014

Merel Ekelhof,
PAX

Dear Merel,

In March, the Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC), the peace and service agency of Quakers in Canada, was asked about signing the *Interfaith Declaration in Support of a Ban on Fully Autonomous Weapons* by Mines Action Canada. We have since reviewed the *Interfaith Declaration* and wish to offer our support of it.

While we wish to add our name to the *Declaration*, we also feel compelled to share with you our concerns about its wording. The *Declaration*, as worded, seems to focus solely on the non-discriminatory nature of the weapons and their potential for killing civilians. We feel that this may be seen as offering tacit support for some forms of warfare, so long as they involve weapons controlled by humans who can make judgements about appropriate ways to use them and don't pose a risk of "grave humanitarian consequences". We are not sure if the authors realised this potential interpretation of the text or not.

As you may know, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), as an expression of its Peace Testimony, does not support any form of warfare and Friends find the killing of both civilians and soldiers to be abhorrent. We do not support the development of military technologies of any kind whether controlled by humans or controlled semi- or fully autonomously.

With this in mind, we wholeheartedly agree that the development of fully autonomous weapons should be pre-emptively banned and warfare should not be propped up by the creation of yet another weapon of destruction. We commend and support the efforts of PAX and other faith groups and Civil Society Organizations to ensure that all governments participate in the international debate, and work towards a ban on the development, production and use of fully autonomous weapons.

In Friendship,

Lesley Robertson
Clerk
Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)