



# CAMPAIGN TO STOP KILLER ROBOTS

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## **PRESS RELEASE: Campaign to Stop Killer Robots wins the Ypres Peace Prize 2020**

- The City Council of Ypres announced today that it will award its annual peace prize to the [Campaign to Stop Killer Robots](#), the coalition of 160 non-governmental organizations 66 countries working to ban fully autonomous weapons systems and retain meaningful human control over the use of force.
- Children across Belgium have been studying the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots since it was [shortlisted](#) for the Ypres Prize last year and participated in voting for the prize. The Campaign is receiving growing support from children and youth around the world, including scouts.
- Belgium is not among the [30 states calling for a ban](#) on fully autonomous weapons, but it acknowledges the urgent need for multilateral action to deal with the ethical, moral, legal and other serious concerns raised by removing human control from the use of force.

Coordinator of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, Mary Wareham of Human Rights Watch, said:

“The Campaign is honored to receive this prize from a city that has directly suffered from armed conflict. Now, more than ever, we need political leaders with strong moral backbones who will act collectively to preserve human life and take lasting measures to deal with common threats to humanity. The Ypres Prize provides a strong signal of support to the goal of launching negotiations on a new international ban treaty to retain meaningful human control over the use of force.”

Merel Selleslach, Officer for International Security & Disarmament at Pax Christi Flanders, a member of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots in Belgium said:

“We are happy to see that people in Ypres and Belgium are taking the issue of killer robots seriously by awarding this year’s peace prize to the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots. It is a clear sign for our government to start showing more leadership and negotiate a treaty banning killer robots before it is too late. We have done it before with landmines and cluster munitions, and we must do it again.”

To schedule an interview or for more information, please contact:

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