

## Armed drones on the European media

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## **Killer robots still not banned in Belgium**

13 Oct 2019

**Frédéric Delepierre, Le Soir, Belgium**

In July 2018 the Belgian Defense Committee voted for a resolution asking the government to ensure that the Belgian army never uses killer robots as part of its operations. The goal was to avoid a dehumanized and irresponsible arms race. More than a year has passed and nothing has moved.

- ▶ <https://plus.lesoir.be/253402/article/2019-10-13/les-robots-tueurs-toujours-pas-interdits-en-belgique>

## **The French army has received the last micro-drones**

4 Oct 2019

**Mateusz Zielonka, Defence24, Poland**

Currently French Army has 50 NX70 constructed and produced by Novadem. The system, used for reconnaissance, in particular at night, is composed of two UAVs and a ground control station. It can be carried by one soldier-operator: each UAV weights less than kilogram and is of small size due to the possibility of folding each of the four rotor supports. It is resistant to various weather conditions.

- ▶ <https://www.defence24.pl/francuska-armia-odebrala-ostatnie-mikro-drony>

## **Eurodrone: the France air force wants an armed drone**

26 Oct 2019

**Michel Cabirol, La Tribune, France**

The Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General Philippe Lavigne, said that the future European MALE drone piloted by Germany and carried out thanks to an European cooperation (Germany, Spain, France and Italy) will have to be armed: “We wish to add in particular an electromagnetic intelligence capability,” said General Lavigne. “The EuroMale must be adapted to the needs of tomorrow,” insisted.

- ▶ <https://www.latribune.fr/entreprises-finance/industrie/aeronautique-defense/eurodrone-l-armee-de-l-air-veut-un-drone-arme-831712.html>

## **Drone purchase can become the stronghold of compromise**

3 Oct 2019

**Andreas Krog, Altinget, Denmark**

Politicians demand that the Military purchase a drone that can be used by all three branches (Army, Navy, Air Force). But that requirement could mean that the Military ends up with a useless compromise, as the three branches have very different needs.

- ▶ <https://www.alinget.dk/forsvar/artikel/droneindkoeb-kan-blive-kompromisets-hoejborg>

## **Polish military UAVs – Warmate - attracted foreign interest. Orders for hundreds of drones**

19 Oct 2019

**Jan Domański, WP, Poland**

These cheap reconnaissance and attack platforms are produced on a massive scale by the WB Group from Ożarów. They can be part of reconnaissance, but also attack targets as flying ammunition detonating thermobaric charge. According to radar.rp, hundreds of Warmate UAVs were bought by two undisclosed countries. WB Group has received further orders, but again it does not reveal who the customers are.

- ▶ [https://tech.wp.pl/polskie-wojskowe-drony-warmate-zainteresowaly-zagranice-zamowienia-na-setki-egzemplarzy-6436500652988545a](https://tech.wp.pl/polskie-wojskowe-drony-warmate-zainteresowaly-zagranice-zamowienia-setki-egzemplarzy-6436500652988545a)

## **Czech Army to create a drone batallion with combat UAVs**

15 Oct 2019

**Hospodářské noviny, Czech Republic**

On the beginning of next year, the Czech army will create a drone batallion consisting of drones of different sizes, including combat ones, that the Army is supposed to acquire in the coming years. The Army already has drones in service, used mainly for reconnaissance on foreign missions in Afghanistan or Mali. A newly created batallion will allow to centralize this military capability into one unit.

- ▶ <https://domaci.ihned.cz/c1-66659910-ceska-armada-zridi-prapor-dronu-doposud-mela-jen-mensi-pruzkumne-stroje-ted-chce-poridit-i-bojove>

## **Czech army is building a squadron of combat drones. A necessary step, says an Israeli expert**

21 Oct 2019

**Jakub Heller, Aktualne, Czech Republic**

While critics consider the decision of the Czech Army to create a combat drone squadron next year as morally problematic, Daniel Statman, Israeli expert on ethics in modern military conflicts, praises the decision. According to Statsman countries that refuse to use drones voluntarily tie their hands behind their back. In terms of ethics, there is no big difference between drone attack and use of conventional weapon systems.

- ▶ <https://zpravy.aktualne.cz/domaci/ceska-armada-drony-letka-izraelsky-expert/r-9622fd06f1c011e99d020cc47ab5f122/>

# UNITED STATES AND CHINA FIGHTING OVER

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## US Department of the Interior withdraws 800 drones from circulation

31 Oct 2019

**Der Spiegel, Germany**

The entire drone fleet of the US Department of the Interior (800 aircraft) will remain on the ground until further notice. Each fleet drone is built entirely or partially in China. The US are trying to avoid chinese espionage and cyberattacks.

- ▶ <https://www.spiegel.de/politik/ausland/us-innenministerium-zieht-800-drohnen-wegen-spionagerisiko-aus-dem-verkehr-a-1294258.html>

## China says hopes U.S. will ‘stop abusing concept of national security’ after reports of grounded drones

31 Oct 2019

**Reuters, Uk**

China’s foreign ministry said on Thursday after reports that the United States Department of the Interior had grounded its fleet of Chinese-made drones that it hoped Washington would “stop abusing the concept of national security” and provide a non-discriminatory atmosphere for Chinese companies. Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang made the comments at a daily news briefing after reports that the U.S. Department of Interior had grounded all Chinese-made or part-made drones as part of a review of its entire drone program.

- ▶ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-usa-drones/china-says-hopes-u-s-will-stop-abusing-concept-of-national-security-after-u-s-grounds-drones-idUSKBN1XA0VI>

## A modern Chinese WZ-8 military UAV deployed near Japan and Taiwan

4 Oct 2019

**Bolesław Breczko, WP, Poland**

According to Janes Defense portal, WZ-8 military drones are located in a base near the city of Nanjing. WZ-8 was shown to the public at the annual military parade for the seventieth anniversary of People’s Republic of China. It turned out to be of an unusual shape, with no air intakes or propellers. This means that is most likely powered by a rocket engine and reaches enormous, supersonic speeds.

- ▶ <https://tech.wp.pl/nowoczesny-chinski-dron-wojskowy-wz-8-rozlokowany-w-poblizu-japonii-i-taiwanu-643150833929969a>

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## US agency grounds Chinese drones on security fear 31 Oct 2019

**Kiran Stacey, Financial Times, Uk**

The US Department of the Interior has grounded hundreds of Chinese-made drones while it investigates the security of its entire drone programme. David Bernhardt, interior secretary, has ordered his department not to fly any drones made in China or with Chinese parts unless it is being used for emergency purposes, such as fighting wildfires, his department said on Thursday. Every one of the department's 810 drones contains parts that were made in China.

▶ <https://www.ft.com/content/ada688c8-fbeb-11e9-a354-36acbbb0d9b6>

# DRONE WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST DRONES

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## Israeli military says attempt to down one of its drones over Lebanon failed

31 Oct 2019

**Reuters, Uk**

Israel's military said an anti-aircraft missile was fired from Lebanon at one of its drones on Thursday but the aircraft was not hit in the rare launch. A military spokesman made the statement on Twitter after Lebanon's al-Mayadeen TV reported an Israeli drone was brought down near the town of Nabatiyeh in southern Lebanon.

- ▶ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-lebanon-israel-drone/israeli-military-says-attempt-to-down-one-of-its-drones-over-lebanon-failed-idUSKBN1XA1QM>

## The purchase of Israeli drones raises questions

1 Oct 2019

**Boris Busslinger, Le Temps, Switzerland**

Fifteen meters wide, eight meters long and 36 hours of autonomy: the new acquisition of the Swiss army are the Hermes 900 HFE drones. In 2015, the Federal Council decided to buy six of them from the Israeli defense company Elbit. Cost of the transaction: 250 million francs. The Confederation would fund the development of this project, in partnership with Elbit, but the Parliament would not have known of this detail of the contract.

- ▶ <https://www.letemps.ch/suisse/lachat-drones-israeliens-souleve-toujours-davantage-questions>

## Kurds call on US to block Turkish military drones from Syrian air space

31 Oct 2019

**Julian Borger, The Guardian, Uk**

Syrian Kurds are asking the Pentagon to block US-controlled air space over north-eastern Syria to Turkish armed drones which they claim are causing significant civilian casualties. Ilham Ahmed, the head of the Syrian Democratic Council (SDC), said the Kurds would hold the Pentagon responsible for Turkish war crimes if they did nothing to guarantee protection from the air.

- ▶ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/31/kurds-turkish-military-drones-syrian-air-space-us>

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## **Libya: Civilians caught in the crossfire as militias battle for Tripoli**

30 Oct 2019

**Lorenzo Bagnoli, La Repubblica, Italy**

Warring parties in the ongoing battle for Tripoli have killed and maimed scores of civilians by launching indiscriminate attacks and using a range of inaccurate explosive weapons in populated urban areas, Amnesty International said in a new report. The organization unearthed evidence of potential war crimes by both the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) and the self-proclaimed Libyan National Army (LNA), who have been fighting in and around the city.

▶ <https://www.repubblica.it/solidarieta/emergenza/2019/10/30/news/libia-239884646/>

## **The unequal battle continues in Syria**

17 Oct 2019

**Lorenzo Cremonesi, Corriere della Sera, Italy**

The battle between the Turkish army and the Kurdish forces in Syria is unequal. Ankara can count on special forces, tanks and drones, while the Kurds have to rely on rocket-propelled grenade, machine guns and a few mortars. As to October 17, Around 220 Kurdish fighter died during this battle.

▶ [https://www.corriere.it/esteri/19\\_ottobre\\_17/resistenza-armi-leggerema-ora-rojava-sara-evacuato-obcf36bo-f11b-11e9-867d-add94f2d35a0.shtml](https://www.corriere.it/esteri/19_ottobre_17/resistenza-armi-leggerema-ora-rojava-sara-evacuato-obcf36bo-f11b-11e9-867d-add94f2d35a0.shtml)

# REMEMBER: DRONES ARE DANGEROUS

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## **Air forces from the Bastelkiste**

3 Oct 2019

**Piotr Heller, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Germany**

Not only photographers, hobby pilots or farmers are interested in drones' technological progress: drones have reached the battlefields. Private aircrafts have powerful wireless connections and autopilots, they can transfer videos and fly for over an hour. Already in 2015, market researchers predicted that private drones' worth will rise over five billion dollars in 2021. A big market where even militias can find the right drones or components for their purposes.

► <https://www.faz.net/aktuell/wissen/physik-mehr/kriegsdrohnen-luftwaffen-aus-der-bastelkiste-16396337.html>

## **The war of the robots**

10 Oct 2019

**Francisco Rubio Damián, El País, Spain**

A new way of war is on the horizon. Already, robots and drones are replacing human pilots and foot soldiers in some roles, and in the future they will take over many more. The benefits of removing human soldiers from harm's way are obvious. But there's a price to pay when a society can wage war by remote control.

► [https://elpais.com/elpais/2019/10/09/opinion/1570636008\\_742315.html](https://elpais.com/elpais/2019/10/09/opinion/1570636008_742315.html)

## **Anduril says drone-killer is not first step to autonomous warfare**

22 Oct 2019

**Camilla Hodgson, Financial Times, Uk**

The Interceptor is a small black box with four propellers that spots drones and rams them from below, at high speed, aiming to smash them out of the sky. The "hard kill" Interceptor can be used together with a system of sensors and cameras to detect and attack drones to protect soldiers or critical installations. But its maker, the defence start-up Anduril, insists that it is not the first step to autonomous warfare.

► <https://www.ft.com/content/7407c504-ee6d-11e9-ad1e-4367d8281195>

## **Shooting drones out of the sky with Phasers**

15 Oct 2019

**Michael Dempsey, Bbc, Uk**

When a mixed formation of cruise missiles and small drone aircraft rained explosive charges on the Saudi Arabian state oil group Aramco sites at Abqaiq and Khurais on 14 September they halved national oil output. But they also had a huge impact on how nations think about protecting their airspace. Companies are now developing and deploying sophisticated new defences, from frying the electronic circuits with powerful beams of microwave radiation, to precise jamming systems.

► <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-49984415>

## How can we protect ourselves from terrorist drones

4 Oct 2019

**Simona Gaul, Die Zeit, Germany**

(Podcast) Small drones carrying weapons are changing the balance of power of modern warfare. Have governments underestimated drones as weapons of war? And how they can protect civilian targets from attack?

▶ <https://www.zeit.de/politik/2019-10/nachrichtenpodcast-was-jetzt-04-10-19>

## How drones change warfare

3 Oct 2019

**Hauke Friederichs, Die Zeit, Germany**

How sure can the world community be if even militias like the Houthis are able to carry out drone attacks? The last air strikes have shown that the unmanned aerial vehicles have already changed modern warfare: non-state groups can now use remote-controlled drones and be a serious threat to sovereign states or their armed forces.

▶ <https://www.zeit.de/politik/2019-09/ruestungsindustrie-drohnen-kriegsfuehrung-terroristen>

## Military police want to have the right to destroy drones

24 Oct 2019

**Oldřich Danda, Novinky, Czech Republic**

Czech Military Police asks for the power to take over or even destroy enemy UAVs in case of emergency. If the bill passes, Military Police will be the first Czech security force to have such a capability, because a similar law is still being prepared for the Czech Police. In addition, military police also demands a power to interfere with the mobile signal in case of danger to prevent activation of remotely controlled explosives.

▶ <https://www.novinky.cz/domaci/clanek/z-novin-vojenska-policie-chce-pravo-nicit-drony-40300865>

## Military specialists call drones in terror case advanced

4 Oct 2019

**Politiken, Denmark**

A drone specialist and an Army Intelligence representative testified in court case against 3 men accused of providing drones to Islamic State. They referred to huge amounts of “state of the art” equipment, incl. 24 aircrafts and 5 ground control systems. Some drones, they said, could be used for reconnaissance, others for target identification. The accused deny the charges.

▶ <https://politiken.dk/indland/art7425330/H%C3%A6rens-specialister-kalder-droner-i-terrorsag-avancerede>