

Armed drones in the European media

July 2020

Sources:

Berliner Zeitung, Germany	Periodico Daily, Italy
Defence24, Poland	RTVE, Spain
Die Zeit, Germany	Seznam Zprávy, Czech Republic
Esglobal, Spain	Siècle Digital, France
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Germany	Sud Ouest, France
France Info, France	Tagesschau, Germany
La Vanguardia, Spain	The New Arab, United Kingdom
Le Figaro, France	UK Defence Journal, United Kingdom
Lidové noviny, Czech Republic	VTM, Czech Republic
L'Usine Nouvelle, France	
Niezalezna, Poland	

Another side of the US-China trade war

Chinese drones in Serbia

6 July 2020

Juliusz Sabak, Defence24, Poland

The President of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić, has officially announced that six CH-92A UAVs armed with FT-8C laser guided missiles were accepted into service with the Serbian army. Serbia is the first country in that region which has introduced systems of this class. The transaction package also includes Chinese support for the Serbian Pegaz 011 mid-range UAV program, which was launched in 2011.

<https://www.defence24.pl/chinskie-drony-bojowe-w-serbii>

China sold military drones and missiles to Serbia

08 July 2020

Patrizia Gallina, Periodico Daily, Italy

For the first time in history China has provided aeronautical means of warfare to a European country. Serbia has recently purchased high-tech military drones from the CH-92A series, along with missiles that can be loaded onto remotely piloted aircraft.

<https://www.periodicodaily.com/la-cina-ha-venduto-droni-militari-e-missili-alla-serbia/>

First Chinese arms deal in Europe as Serbia takes delivery of armed drones

09 July 2020

George Allison, UK Defence Journal, United Kingdom

Serbia has reportedly taken delivery of a batch of CH-92A armed reconnaissance drones plus missiles, the first time China has exported military-use aviation equipment to a European country. <https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/first-chinese-arms-deal-in-europe-as-serbia-takes-delivery-of-armed-drones/>

Military drones, another face of the US-China trade war

13 July 2020

Ivàn Giménez, Esglobal, Spain

As in so many other fields, in the world of military drones, China is shaping up as the main competitor of the US. While names like Reaper or Predator (US-made models) are relatively familiar to the public that follows international news, the actions carried out by devices manufactured in the Asian country are not so well known, although they also take place in the main

global attention scenarios.

<https://www.esglobal.org/drones-militares-una-cara-mas-de-la-guerra-comercial-entre-ee-uu-y-china/>

Trump facilitates export controls on armed drones

25 July 2020

The New Arab, United Kingdom

The Trump administration moved to ease controls on exports of armed drones, saying that allies need US technology and that other countries outside of a non-proliferation pact were taking over the market.

<https://english.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2020/7/25/trump-eases-controls-on-armed-drone-exports>

U.S. government loosens laws to boost military drone exports

27 July 2020

Valentin Cimino, Siècle Digital, France

Companies that manufacture armed drones will welcome this new announcement from the U.S. government. The Trump administration has just relaxed the country's laws to allow manufacturers of military drones to export more.

<https://siecledigital.fr/2020/07/27/le-gouvernement-americain-assouplit-ses-lois-pour-stimuler-les-exportations-de-drones-militaires/>

Meanwhile in Europe...

Guardian angel or killer machine?

01 July 2020

Caterina Lobenstein, Die Zeit, Germany

After years of dispute, the German government wants to use armed drones in the future. What a Bundeswehr pilot tells about his missions - and what worries him.

<https://www.zeit.de/2020/28/bundeswehr-bewaffnete-drohnen-afghanistan>

The German Defence Ministry is for combat drones

06 July 2020

Kai Küstner, Tagesschau, Germany

The Bundeswehr should be equipped with drones that can shoot, the Defence Ministry recommends. The report was preceded by a broad debate - the result corresponds to the minister's wishes.

<https://www.tagesschau.de/inland/bewaffnete-drohnen-103.html>

Armed drones: massive resistance from the left and the Greens

07 July 2020

Berliner Zeitung, Germany

The Greens and the Left Party oppose the possible acquisition of armed drones for the Bundeswehr. This was suggested by Federal Defence Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer. Green disarmament expert Katja Keul told that she still considers "the dangers of armed drones" to be greater than their usefulness.

<https://www.berliner-zeitung.de/news/bewaffnete-drohnen-massiver-widerstand-bei-linken-und-gruenen-li.91765>

The enemy shoots, the Bundeswehr films

07 July 2020

Peter Carstens, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Germany

The Bundestag wants to equip the Bundeswehr with everything

that can protect the lives of soldiers. In principle all factions are agreed, except for the Left Party. But there are questions and details that have to be discussed - because not everything that is technically possible is also ethically justifiable or politically desired. Or what is desirable is simply too expensive for Members.

<https://www.faz.net/aktuell/politik/inland/bewaffnete-drohnen-der-feind-schiesst-die-bundeswehr-filmt-16848859.html>

Killer robots in the armed force: “Human responsibility and control over the machine are absolutely fundamental”

22 July 2020

France Info, France

Two MEPs are presenting a parliamentary report on SALA, autonomous lethal weapon systems. They believe that "under no circumstances should the decision to fire be entrusted to an autonomous system" and that France should push for very binding international regulations.

https://www.francetvinfo.fr/economie/emploi/metiers/armee-et-securite/robots-tueurs-dans-l-armee-le-chef-militaire-doit-pouvoir-reprendre-la-main-a-tout-moment-preconise-un-rapport-parlementaire_4052555.html

Why and how armies are interested in killer robots

23 July 2020

Hassan Medah, L'Usine Nouvelle, France

A French parliamentary report highlights a new arms race based on artificial intelligence. The United States, Russia and China are interested in it in order to gain technological superiority over their opponents. France refrains from using weapons systems that are beyond human control.

<https://www.usinenouvelle.com/editorial/pourquoi-et-comment->

[les-armees-s-interessent-aux-robots-tueurs.N988079](#)

How the largest drone in Spain is operated from the ground

29 July 2020

Diana Milagros, RTVE, Spain

After nine years of prototypes, the Spanish company Singular Aircraft has started the test flights of its FLYOX I device in the airspace of Castilla-La Mancha. It's estimate that in two years they could market it. It weighs 4,000 kilos and has a wingspan of 14 metres and a length of 11 metres. In fire-fighting it could carry up to 1,500 litres of water with a radius of up to 800 kilometres.

<https://www.rtve.es/noticias/20200729/asi-se-maneja-desde-tierra-flyox-dron-mas-grande-espana/2034060.shtml>

...and in the Middle East

Middle Ages brutality in the 21st century. US uses the "ninja rocket" again

7 July 2020

Lukáš Marek, SeznamZprávy, Czech Republic

In June, in Syria, US special forces used a secret weapon to kill a high-ranking member of a terrorist organization affiliated with Al Qaeda. Fired from a drone, the rocket R9X kills with blades instead of an explosion. While these missiles can reduce the likelihood of unintended casualties from explosion damage, there is a risk of increasing the number of such attacks, like the liquidation of Qasem Soleimani, a high-ranking commander of a sovereign state, which raises a great debate about the legitimacy of targeted killings.

<https://www.seznamzpravy.cz/clanek/brutalita-stredoveku-v-21-stoleti-usa-znovu-pouzily-ninja-raketu-111353>

Israeli drone crashes in Lebanon

26 July 2020

Le Figaro, France

The Israeli army announced the fall of one of its drones on Sunday 26 July in Lebanese territory, after a reinforcement of its presence at the northern border near Lebanon. In a statement, the army said the military drone had fallen "during a military operation on the border". "There is no fear that any information will be revealed by this drone," it said.

<https://www.lefigaro.fr/international/un-drone-israelien-s-ecrase-au-liban-20200726>

Israeli drone crashed in Lebanese territory, allegedly no fears of data leakage

26 July 2020

Lidové noviny, Czech Republic

An Israeli army drone crashed in Lebanon while carrying out tasks along the common border. It is unclear whether it was shot down or crashed due to a technical failure. Israel regularly releases its drones over Lebanon, primarily to track the movements of Hezbollah, an Iran-backed Shiite militia. IDF issued a statement that there are no "fears" that classified information would leak from the device.

https://www.lidovky.cz/svet/dron-izraelske-armady-se-zritil-na-libanonske-uzemi-obavy-o-unik-dat-pry-nepanuji.A200726_220947_In_zahranici_ele

Iran is reconstructing American Global Hawk drone shot down last year

27 July 2020

Stanislav Mihulka, VTM, Czech Republic

Iranis are trying to reconstruct the US Northrop Grumman RQ-4 Global Hawk drone that was shot down in 2019 in Persian Gulf. The drone is equipped with a wide range of advanced cameras, sensors and devices, which can map large areas from great heights, around 100,000 square kilometers per day. Although the Iranian regime claims to have obtained some "codes" and "passwords" from the drone that will allow them to destroy US drones thousands of kilometers away, experts say this is highly unlikely.

<https://vtm.zive.cz/clanky/iran-rekonstruuje-loni-sestreleny-americky-dron-global-hawk/sc-870-a-205129/default.aspx>

UAV Heron completes its first test flight

29 July 2020

Niezalezna, Poland

As informs Israel's major aerospace and aviation manufacturer Israel Aerospace Industries, the first Heron TP unmanned aerial vehicle ordered by Germany has completed its test flight this month. These UAVs are used for reconnaissance missions, but, as it is possible to rearm them, among others with AGM-114 Hellfire air-to-ground missiles, they can also conduct combat missions. The range of the Herons is up to 7400 km, and they can operate in the air for over 30 hours.

<https://niezalezna.pl/343294-premierowy-lot-bezzalogowca-heron>

United Nation concerns

UN Rapporteur: drones are normalizing executions and

must be regulated

09 July 2020

La Vanguardia, Spain

UN Special Rapporteur Agnes Callamard told the Human Rights Council that the increasing use of military drones is worryingly normalizing the executions of enemy targets, even in non-belligerent countries, and called for regulation of these weapons.

<https://www.lavanguardia.com/politica/20200709/482199813843/relatora-onu-los-drones-estan-normalizando-las-ejecuciones-y-deben-regularse.html>

About 40 countries in the club of armed drone users

09 July 2020

Sud Ouest, France

About 40 countries have or are in the process of acquiring armed drones, a UN independent expert said, deploring the lack of transparency and standards on their use.

<https://www.sudouest.fr/2020/07/09/une-quarantaine-de-pays-dans-le-club-des-utilisateurs-de-drones-armes-7643646-4803.php>

World entering new military “Drone Age” according to UN expert

10 July 2020

George Allison, UK Defence Journal, United Kingdom

The planet is moving into a “second drone age” with uncontrolled proliferation and no standards governing the use of armed drones, a United Nations expert has warned the UN Human Rights Council.

<https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/world-entering-new-military->

[drone-age-according-to-un-expert/](#)