

Office of Hon Murray McCully

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Minister for Sport and Recreation



12 JUL 2013

Edwina Hughes
Coordinator, Peace Movement Aotearoa
PO Box 9314
Wellington 6141

Dear Edwina Hughes

Thank you for your letter of 23 May 2013 drawing attention to the report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions on Lethal Autonomous Robots (LARs) and outlining the position of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots Aotearoa New Zealand.

New Zealand has been following the emerging issue of LARs, including through the recent Human Rights Council debate on the Special Rapporteur's report. We have not as yet developed a firm policy on LARs, but agree with the Special Rapporteur that this is a cross-sectoral issue that will need to be considered from a number of perspectives. It was apparent from the debate that while this issue merits further consideration, the Human Rights Council may not be the most appropriate forum to carry this forward.

As you will be aware, New Zealand takes a serious interest in arms control issues, particularly those with a humanitarian dimension, and has a strong record as instanced by our work on antipersonnel landmines, cluster munitions and the just concluded Arms Trade Treaty. New Zealand will continue to participate in various international fora considering LARs and to develop national policy in this area.

Yours sincerely

[signed]

Hon Murray McCully
Minister of Foreign Affairs

The letter from the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots Aotearoa New Zealand to Murray McCully, 23 May 2013, is available at <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/robots.htm>