



**UNIVERSIDAD
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**Artificial Intelligence-Based Targeting Systems and
Challenges to International Humanitarian Law: An Analysis
of the Lavender and Habsora Systems in the Israeli-
Palestinian Conflict**

**Project prior to obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in
International Studies**

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To my parents, Rosa and Román, because everything I
am was built on their unconditional love.

To my sisters and brothers, because seeing them fight
for their dreams inspires me to fight for mine.

To my nieces and nephews, because they motivate me
to be a better person every day.

To my friends, Jennifer, Milena, Salomé, and Emily,
because with them, the days feel lighter and brighter.

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ABSTRACT

The implementation of targeting systems in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has generated strong criticism due to its connection to the excessive number of civilian deaths. The Israel Defense Forces implemented two targeting systems: Lavender and Habsora, which have consistently been criticized as violating international humanitarian law because they fail to guarantee compliance with its fundamental principles. Therefore, this study sought to analyze the operational methods of Lavender and Habsora and assess their consequences for the civilian population, ultimately examining the challenges they pose to the normative framework of the law of war. The operational methods of both systems were evaluated, along with their effects on the population, and these were compared with the limits, scope, and interpretations of each principle: distinction, precaution, and proportionality. The study concluded that both Lavender and Habsora fail to guarantee full compliance with the principles of IHL due to elements such as biased or discriminatory data, insufficient human control and target verification, unpredictability of processes and outcomes, the absence of collateral damage assessment processes, and other issues. Furthermore, the study concludes that developers, trainers, supervisors, authorized personnel, and even the State itself can be made accountable for violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) caused by these systems. This study highlights the lack of accountability mechanisms to ensure the proper and transparent use of targeting systems.

Keywords: international humanitarian law, Israel Defense Forces, Habsora, artificial intelligence in armed conflicts, Lavender, targeting systems.

Sistemas de Targeting basados en Inteligencia Artificial y los Desafíos al Derecho Internacional Humanitario: Análisis de los Sistemas Lavender y Habsora en el Conflicto Israel-Palestina

RESUMEN

La implementación de sistemas de selección de objetivos en el conflicto Israel-Palestina ha generado fuertes críticas por su relación con la excesiva cantidad de muertes civiles. Las Fuerzas de Defensa de Israel implementaron dos sistemas de targeting: Lavender y Habsora, que constantemente han sido señalados como medios contrarios al derecho internacional humanitario porque no garantizan el cumplimiento de sus principios fundamentales. Es por esto que, este estudio buscó analizar el modo de operación de Lavender y Habsora y evaluar las consecuencias que genera en la población, para finalmente analizar los desafíos que plantean al marco normativo del derecho de la guerra. Se evaluaron los modos de operación de ambos sistemas, los efectos que han provocado en la población y han sido contrastados con los límites, alcances e interpretaciones de cada principio: distinción, precaución y proporcionalidad. Así se concluyó que, tanto Lavender como Habsora, no garantizan el cumplimiento pleno de los principios del DIH debido a factores como datos sesgados o discriminatorios, escasa supervisión humana y verificación de objetivos, imprevisibilidad de los procesos y resultados, ausencia de procesos de evaluación de daños colaterales y otros. Además, se concluyó que, tanto el desarrollador como el entrenador, supervisor, autorizador e incluso el propio Estado pueden ser responsabilizados por las violaciones al DIH que hayan provocado estos sistemas. Este estudio evidenció la falta de mecanismos de rendición de cuentas que garanticen el uso correcto y transparente de los sistemas de targeting.

Palabras clave: derecho internacional humanitario, Fuerzas de Defensa de Israel, Habsora, inteligencia artificial en conflictos armados, Lavender, sistemas de selección de objetivo.