

Israel's Use of AI targeting in Gaza and the West Bank

Background

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) is utilising new artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted target acquisition systems used by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), including 'Habsora', 'Where's Daddy' and 'Lavender'. This software rapidly and automatically determines bombing targets, which has increased the speed of the genocide compared to 2014 and 2021, when the IDF allegedly 'ran out' of targets.¹ Meanwhile, automated weapons and facial recognition software such as 'Red Wolf' have also been used to entrench what Amnesty International calls 'automated apartheid' across the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), including in the West Bank.²

Lavender

Anonymous Israeli intelligence officers claim that officers would rubber stamp targets that Lavender designated for attack. One claimed that the average review time was twenty seconds,³ simply to confirm that a Lavender-marked target was male, before authorising bombing. There was no requirement to thoroughly check why the machine made those choices or to examine the raw intelligence data on which they were based.

In the early stages of the genocide, Lavender identified 37,000 Palestinians as military suspects, marking their homes for airstrikes rather than their locations during the course of military activity, and with reports that Israeli army approved casualties of up to 15-20 civilians for every individual marked as a target by Lavender. Many of these were rapidly approved, despite an awareness of a 10% 'error' rate in the system.⁴ As these are the Israeli intelligence officers' estimates, it is highly plausible that the error rate is much higher, given Israel's consistent inflation of 'militants' in Gaza.

Habsora (The Gospel)

Whereas Lavender focuses on marking individuals to include on a kill list, Habsora (meaning 'The Gospel') is designed to mark buildings and structures that the army claims militants operate from. It was developed by Unit 8200 of the Israeli Intelligence Corps.⁵ Habsora also includes an estimate for the number of civilians who may be killed in attacks on private residences that it recommends bombing in advance.⁶ These details appear clearly in the target file under the category of 'collateral damage,' for intelligence officers to review and approve.

Where's Daddy?

Another AI targeting system is 'Where's Daddy?' This software specifically tracked targeted individuals in order to carry out bombings when they enter their family's residences.⁷ The name of the system is

¹ Lee, Gavin (12 December 2023). "[Understanding how Israel uses 'Gospel' AI system in Gaza bombings](#)". *France24* (1:54 of video interview)

² Amnesty International (2022) [Automated Apartheid: How Facial Recognition Fragments, Segregates and Controls Palestinians in the oPt](#).

³ Yuval Abraham. (3 April 2024) '[Lavender](#)' – The AI machine directing Israel's bombing spree in Gaza. +972 Magazine.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Geoff Brumfiel. (14 December 2023) [Israel is using an AI system to find targets in Gaza. Experts say it's just the start](#). NPR.

⁶ Yuval Abraham. (30 November 2023) '[A mass assassination factory](#)': Inside Israel's calculated bombing of Gaza. +972 Magazine.

⁷ Yuval Abraham. (3 April 2024) '[Lavender](#)' – The AI machine directing Israel's bombing spree in Gaza. +972 Magazine.

thought to allude to the way in which this practice significantly increases the number of fatalities of family members for the targeted individual as well as the individual itself.

Israeli intelligence officers confirmed that this practice ensured that thousands of Palestinians — most of them women and children or people who were not involved in the fighting — were wiped out by Israeli airstrikes. One intelligence officer said: *“We were not interested in killing [Hamas] operatives only when they were in a military building ... the IDF bombed them in homes without hesitation, as a first option. It’s much easier to bomb a family’s home. The system is built to look for them in these situations.”*⁸

Wolf Pack /Blue Wolf/ Red Wolf

Wolf Pack is a database containing information on Palestinians in the oPt, including their home location, family, and whether they are wanted for questioning. Blue Wolf is an app where Israeli forces can access Wolf Pack on their tablets and phones and take and upload photographs of Palestinians, with prizes awarded to the units that gathered the most.⁹ Since 2022, this has been supplemented and automated by Red Wolf, an experimental facial recognition system used to track Palestinians,¹⁰ which then automatically designates restrictions on their freedom of movement. It is deployed at military checkpoints in Hebron and East Jerusalem, where it scans Palestinian people’s faces without their consent and then adds their faces to surveillance databases.¹¹ This is a crucial element of apartheid, which is characterised by conduct carried out to systematically oppress and dominate a group.¹²

Robotic Guns

Since 2022, Israel has installed AI-powered guns above refugee camps in al-Aroub refugee camp,¹³ located between Bethlehem and Hebron in the oPt. These guns are twin turrets, installed on top of guard towers, which are capable of firing tear gas, stun grenades and sponge-tipped bullets at refugees in the camp. The automated weapons have also been installed at military checkpoints in Hebron.¹⁴

New IDF Large Language Model (LLM)

The Israeli military is developing a large language model (LLM) system, similar to popular AI models such as Chat-GPT, using intercepted Palestinian communications to build the model. The Israeli Unit 8200 trained the model to understand spoken Arabic using large volumes of telephone conversations and text messages, obtained through its extensive surveillance of the occupied Palestinian territory. The system is designed to answer questions on individuals who are under surveillance.

The project was initially overseen by Chaked Roger Joseph Sayedoff, a former military intelligence technologist, who admitted to overseeing the project at an AI Conference in Tel Aviv in 2024. It is not yet known if the tool is ready for deployment, as it was still being trained in late 2024.¹⁵ It is unclear whether

⁸ Yuval Abraham. (3 April 2024) [‘Lavender’ – The AI machine directing Israel’s bombing spree in Gaza](#). +972 Magazine.

⁹ Amnesty International. (2 May 2023) [Israel/OPT: Israeli authorities are using facial recognition technology to entrench apartheid](#).

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Amnesty International (2022) [Automated Apartheid: How Facial Recognition Fragments, Segregates and Controls Palestinians in the oPt](#).

¹² See, ICC, Elements of Crimes, Article 7(1)(j).

¹³ Roselyne Min. (17 October 2022) [Israel deploys AI-powered robot guns that can track targets in the West Bank](#). EuroNews.

¹⁴ Sam McNeil. (16 November 2022) [Israel deploys remote-controlled robotic guns in West Bank](#). AP News.

¹⁵ Harry Davies and Yuval Abraham. (6 March 2025) [Revealed: Israeli military creating ChatGPT-like tool using vast collection of Palestinian surveillance data](#). The Guardian.

this LLM is the same as 'Genie', which has been reported in Israeli press since April 2025.¹⁶ Genie is a LLM designed for the Israeli military to use in a similar format to ChatGPT.

Project Nimbus

As well as Israeli-produced AI, Google and Amazon signed a joint contract in 2021 to provide cloud computing infrastructure, AI and other technology services to the Israeli military.¹⁷ Google has fired at least 50 employees who have protested about Google's complicity.¹⁸

¹⁶ Israel Wullman. (15 April 2025) [Like ChatGPT, only secret: This is Genie, the IDF's artificial intelligence](#). Ynet News.

¹⁷ Al Jazeera. (23 April 2024) [What is Project Nimbus, and why are Google workers protesting Israel deal?](#)

¹⁸ Catherine Thorbecke. [Google has fired 50 employees after protests over Israel cloud deal, organizers say](#). CNN