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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

International Legal Implications of AI-Driven Global Privacy Breaches by the U.S. Intelligence Community: A Comparative Analysis of Iran and Russia

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EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Introduction:

On June 13, 2025, the Zionist regime, in flagrant violation of Article 1(1) and Article 2(4) of the Charter of the United Nations, carried out the assassination of several prominent university professors, scientists, senior military commanders, and their families in residential and civilian areas during the initial wave of an armed aggression. This aggression persisted for twelve days, and owing to the Security Council's inaction, the assassinations continued unabated. Contrary to the official statement issued by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio at the onset of this military aggression, President Donald Trump, on November 6, 2025, publicly claimed responsibility for both the armed aggression and the aforementioned assassinations - a claim that implies U.S. "direction and control" over these data-driven killings. This form of algorithmic warfare, enabled by artificial intelligence technologies, has a documented precedent in operations against senior Russian officials and commanders in Kharkiv, as well as against leaders and commanders of the resistance front. Accordingly, this research aims to examine the role of the U.S. intelligence

community in the direction and control of algorithmic warfare, and to assess the global consequences of violations of the right to privacy.

Method:

This study, with a focus on the right to privacy under international law, employs a descriptive-analytical and comparative method to examine the U.S. intelligence community's AI-based actions in the systematic global infringement of this right. Primary sources and documents concerning privacy violations in data-driven assassinations—specifically in Russia and Iran - were considered in light of the requirements of the comparative method. The analysis draws on credible scientific reports, publications from think tanks and research centers, and official statements and declarations regarding the strategic ties between the Zionist regime and CENTCOM from 2020 to 2025. Furthermore, to substantiate the U.S. intelligence community's role in directing and controlling these data-driven wars, the study reviews over four decades of this community's engagement in the development and application of AI technologies and data-driven warfare, based on the work of internationally recognized scholars and official pronouncements by relevant authorities. The issue of data-driven warfare is thus analyzed with due attention to its origins, credibility, legal implications, and the preservation of informational integrity, thereby ensuring that the principal findings and conclusions possess the requisite validity.

Findings:

The findings indicate that, over the past two decades, the United States has developed a new model of data-driven hybrid warfare through the strategic deployment of artificial intelligence technologies. Within this framework - characterized by effective "direction and control" in conflicts involving Ukraine (NATO) and Russia, as well as Israel and Iran - the United States has undertaken extensive and sustained actions aimed at violating the privacy of individuals in Russia, Iran, and their regional allies. This model is currently expanding within the Indo-Pacific Command, driven by the U.S. - China trade war over 5G and AI technologies, and is similarly manifesting within the Latin American and Caribbean Command. Consequently, we are witnessing an invisible, data-driven global war that various nations are developing under transnational alliances.

From a human rights perspective, the most serious threat posed by such data-driven warfare is the large-scale violation of individuals' right to privacy. Moreover, under the Charter of the United Nations, these activities constitute a threat to international peace and security. Given the existing legal and structural lacunae, coupled with the ineffectiveness of the United Nations - contrary to Article 1(4) of the Charter - the Organization's central role in coordinating collective action for common objectives is being progressively eroded. This trend risks undermining the vision articulated in the Preamble to the UN Charter in the contemporary era.

Conclusion:

The results of this study demonstrate that the development and application of artificial intelligence technologies within the American information society spans nearly half a century. Specifically, in the context of the Special Forces' data-driven overseas operations, the use of such technologies has persisted for almost two decades. Numerous documented cases of AI-based, data-driven operations in the West Asia region - particularly those corresponding to the first part of the second hypothesis - indicate that the joint operation conducted by the United States and Ukraine on May 1, 2022, against the Chief of Staff of the Russian Army and several senior Russian officers in Izyum, Kharkiv, constitutes a concrete example of these unlawful activities. In accordance with the second part of the second hypothesis, and in light of explicit statements made by the U.S. President on November 6, 2025, CENTCOM, under the command of General Erik Kurilla, played a decisive role in directing and controlling the imposed war of June 13, 2025, and

in the assassination of several prominent university professors, senior military commanders, and their families in residential and civilian areas. Given the long-standing collection and continuous processing of these individuals' personal data, such actions amount to a grave violation of the right to privacy. Finally, consistent with the third hypothesis, the findings reveal that the United States has engaged—persistently and with full knowledge—in the violation of the privacy rights of citizens of UN member states, through the systematic collection and processing of big data pertaining to military command structures, including CENTCOM.

Data Availability Statement

Data available on request from the authors.

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Ethical considerations

Not applicable.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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