**Op-Ed – The U.N. opinion on A.I.**

Artificial intelligence which is the intelligence demonstrated by machines is now present in many facets of our current society. Smartphones such as iPhones are able to scan faces, small machines like Alexa are able to have full conversation with humans. Those are two examples out of many. Artificial intelligence is an integral part of society and the positive effects it has cannot be overlooked or denied. However, the latest statement from the United Nations shows that the upsides of artificial intelligence did not make them disregard one of the possible issues that is attached to the modern technology. In fact, last month an Associated Press article highlights the opinion the United Nations had in regards to artificial intelligence and the implications it has. The chief of human’s rights from the United Nations called “for a moratorium on the use of artificial intelligence technology that poses a serious risk to human rights, including face-scanning systems that track people in public spaces.” (Keaten & Matt, 2021). The United Nations urged that countries ban artificial intelligence technologies that did not respect international human rights laws.

This is not the first time we see that some advancement in technologies are the center of attention of major entities for the wrong reason. History proves that it has somehow become a common theme; where technologies or different advancements in technology, similar to artificial intelligence or that tie into artificial intelligence, are often under the scope. Facebook, Twitter, Google, and other similar entities and technologies are constantly addressed in the same way by the United Nations. Just this week, Facebook committed to deleting more than 1 billion faceprints as well as deleting their face-recognition system (O'Brien & Ortutay, 2021).

Though there are some merits to the demands of the United Nation in regards to artificial intelligence. There are some aspects that tie into the technology and other considerations that cannot be overlooked. They can be a factor in evaluating the stance the U.N. took. The following question represents what is being addressed: can human rights be completely disregarded when it comes to technologies like artificial intelligence? When we take a look at algorithms of the heart as well as algorithms of the body that both use artificial intelligence the closed-ended answer of the U.N. becomes an open-ended answer.

Although, there is the issue of human rights when it comes to artificial intelligence there are also upsides that cannot be overlooked and should be taken into consideration when a governmental or intergovernmental institutions such as the United Nations demand for bans to be put in place. Some face-recognition systems are used for the safety of individuals. Vibraimage is an algorithmic security system that uses face-recognition systems in public places like airports to assess the risks of individuals being suspects based on the different algorithmic parameters (Wright, 2021). The parameters allow the airports and companies using the system to determine if an individual would be a suspect or a possible suspect in public spaces. Therefore, limiting the risk of incidents similar to 9/11 reoccurring.

Similarly, wearable technologies that use artificial intelligence also “go against human rights” at times. While some of the different wearable technologies cross the line, they simultaneously can help their users in many ways. Whether they use face-recognition or not, the different wearable technologies can help individuals’ fitness, health, sleep, and more aspects of their life through the artificial intelligence that they use (Schull, 2016). However, the help they provide comes with the intrusion of personal boundaries as well as the bypass of certain rights in some cases. Which as the United Nations would characterize it “poses a risk to human rights” (Keaten & Matt, 2021).

The goal when I share my informed and researched perspective on the subject is not to critique the United Nations stance. However, I do want institutions like the United Nations as well as users of different algorithmic technologies like face-recognition to be thoughtful; aware of the history, implications, upsides, and downsides of the technologies. This will in turn lead to decisions and recommendations in regards to them taking into account all aspects. Because as a society we want what is best. Do we not? This is why I think that in some cases if the upside cannot be overlooked and no harm can be made by technologies like AI face-recognition. They should be exempt from bans like the one the United Nations are recommending in this case.

**References**

Keaten, J., & Matt, O. (2021, Septembre). UN urges moratorium on use of AI that imperils human rights. *Associated Press*. New York, United States of America: Associated Press. Retrieved from https://apnews.com/article/technology-business-laws-united-nations-artificial-intelligence-efafd7b1a5bf47afb1376e198842e69d

O'Brien, M., & Ortutay, B. (2021, Novembre 2). Facebook to shut down face-recognition system, delete data. New York, United States of America. Retrieved from https://apnews.com/article/technology-business-ap-top-news-artificial-intelligence-85a21a8079a757f2ff99972f1858f7ce

Schull, N. (2016). Data for life: Wearable technology and. *Biosocieties*, pp. 317-335.

Wright, J. (2021). Suspect AI: Vibraimage, Emotion Recognition Technology and Algorithmic Opacity. *Science, Technology & Society*, pp. 1-20.