

# The Struggle Against Ghost Robotics





It is unclear what the struggle for Palestinian liberation will look like in the coming days. At the time of this writing a ceasefire has just been reached between Hamas and the Zionist entity, at the same time the Zionist entity continues to devastate Gaza and the West Bank. Last year a specific struggle against a local technology company connected the dots between Palestinian liberation, local gentrification, education, militarism, and borders. The company in question, Ghost Robotics, has come under fire for creating robot dogs used by the Israeli Defense Forces. That struggle may well be ongoing and this zine is not meant to push struggles into the safety of history, its aim is to inspire revolt, specifically against Ghost Robotics and generally against all aspects of domination. The struggle against Ghost Robotics has taken many forms, from spreading information and popular education, to organizing demonstrations, to destroying property. By reflecting on the past struggles we can better imagine and carry out our struggles today. This zine brings together writings about Ghost Robotics, a timeline of publicly documented action against Ghost Robotics, communiques from anonymous actions, a few photos. All information is taken from sources listed in the Resources section at the end.

Philadelphia, Occupied Lenapehoking,  
Winter 2025

## **Ghost Robotics**

*(copied from noghostrobot field guide  
vol.3 found on noghostrobot.info.*

*Slightly edited for readability)*

What is Ghost Robotics?

Ghost Robotics is a company that develops and manufactures AI- assisted, weaponized robotic dogs, which cost approximately \$165,000 each. It was founded in 2015 at the University of Pennsylvania by two Penn engineering students, Gavin Kenneally, who serves as the current CEO and Avik De, who serves as the Chief Technology Officer, as well as Jiren Parikh (deceased), who was serving as the CEO at the time of his death in 2022. Their current executive team also includes Michael Subhan, Chief Marketing Officer, and Matthew Joyner, Chief Revenue Officer.

Ghost Robotics is headquartered at Pennovation Works, a Penn-developed property located at the corner of 34th St & Grays Ferry Ave. Pennovation Works is a 23-acre property that, in their words, is home to “state-of-the-art facilities, researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry partners solving real world problems and translating

inventiveness into viable ventures," which is a pretty disingenuous way to describe manufacturing weapons of genocide and border violence.

Ghost Robotics received initial funding and support from Penn's PCI Ventures, which helps Penn faculty and staff commercialize their inventions and technologies. Ghost Robotics receives tax breaks through the Keystone Innovation Zone Tax Credit Program, which provides tax credits totaling up to \$15M annually to for-profit companies. Additionally, as has been lifted up in recent years through the campaign to pressure Penn to pay PILOTS, the university, which serves as Ghost Robotics' landlord, does not pay property taxes.

In 2022, when six leading robotics companies signed onto an open letter pledging not to weaponize their technologies, Ghost Robotics notably refused. They have continued to court military contracts both domestically and internationally, and are "happy" to see their robots armed, in the words of their former CEO.

How do robot dogs work?

Ghost Robotics' dogs are AI-enabled and can also be controlled by remote operator. "Vision 60," the name for the robot dog model currently deployed in Gaza, is virtually indestructible. In Ghost Robotics' own words, "Even if the environment is completely unknown, vision sensors degrade or fail, you can be assured that when our legged robot does fail, slip or fall, it will get right back up and continue moving."

Where are robot dogs being deployed? Ghost Robotics' Vision 60 robot dogs are currently on the ground in Gaza, having been purchased by Israel for around \$150,000 per unit. Ghost Robotics is also under contract with the US Department of Homeland Security, which is testing the robot dogs for use along the US-Mexico border. Ghost Robotics has shipped over 450 robot dogs and works with over 25 "national security partners" around the world.

Ghost Robotics claims to be the biggest supplier of walking robots to the US and its allies.

## **Timeline**

*(all events took place in 2024)*

March 6 - A write up linking Ghost Robotics to militarism, borders, gentrification, and Zionism is published online.

April 4 - Shut Down Ghost Robotics holds a rally on the UPenn campus against Ghost Robotics. UPenn is the landlord of the Pennovation Center, where Ghost Robotics offices are located.

April 14 - A demonstration against the Zionist war on Gaza marches from Clark Park to the Pennovation Center which houses Ghost Robotics.

April 25 - Shut Down Ghost Robotics starts and circulates a petition demanding UPenn cut ties with Ghost Robotics.

May 14 - Activists disrupt a tech conference sponsored by Ghost Robotics.

July 9 - The windows of the entrance of the Pennovation Center are smashed.

July 9 - Ghost Robotics CEO Gavin Kenneally's Fairmount townhome is vandalized with paint.

October 3 - Shut Down Ghost Robotics hosts an open house event.

October 10 - Kenneally's townhome is vandalized again; windows are smashed, messages are spray painted, paint is thrown on the walls and cameras.

October 14 - Ghost Robotics offices are vandalized with paint, broken glass, and nails.

November 28 - Kenneally's townhome is flooded.

## **Communiques**

### **Pennovation Center Windows Smashed**

In the early hours of July 9th we smashed every window of the entrance to the Pennovation center, a ritzy research compound in Philadelphia. The lone security guard must have been so surprised when we appeared out of nowhere and started smashing, because he didn't even try to stop us! And we couldn't believe how long it took for the police to show up... The Pennovation center is home to Ghost Robotics, a company that manufactures so-called "robot dogs." Israel has been buying these robot dogs for \$150,000 apiece and using them in their ongoing extermination of Palestinians. While the University of Pennsylvania continues to enable the research and manufacture of these weapons, Israel has destroyed every university in the Gaza strip, and continues to bomb schools where Palestinian refugees are taking shelter. Breaking windows is a small retaliation, but every time we act emboldens us.

Until Palestine is free, and even then, we will never stop!

### **Ghost Robotics CEO Townhome Vandalized**

In the early morning hours of July 9th, while Ghost Robotics CEO Gavin Kenneally was out of town at the Military Robotics and Autonomous Systems USA conference, several of his neighbors paid his Fairmount townhome a visit. We threw paint and tagged the messages Ghost Robotics Kills and Murderer on the garage door and front entrance. We refuse to live in a world where Palestinians and migrants

crossing the border must fear for their lives at the hands of killer robots, while the makers and war profiteers sleep peacefully in our city. We know where they live.

### **Ghost Robotics Office And House Vandalized**

Early Monday morning October 14 before the start of the work week the offices of local weapons manufacturers Ghost Robotics was targeted with a message for Ghost Robotics and their backer the University of Pennsylvania: Ghost Robotics and Penn, THERE'S BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS!

The UPenn run campus known as Pennovation in the Grays Ferry neighborhood where Ghost Robotics has its offices was coated with a mix of red paint, broken glass, nails, and messages from Philadelphians to Ghost Robotics and their landlord and backer UPenn: no business as usual for evil fucks who make murder tech!

Ghost Robotics AI-enabled machine-gun-armed robot dogs have been used against Palestinians in Gaza and have been sold to the Department of Homeland Security for use in the US borderlands. Philadelphians won't stand for the manufacture of killing machines in our backyard with our stolen tax dollars. Across the city people are taking action against Ghost Robotics, demanding an end to the manufacture and distribution of weapons of apartheid. We want Ghost Robotics out of Philadelphia, out of Palestine, and out of the borderlands. As long as Ghost Robotics exists and keeps peddling their killer robot



dogs, there's blood on all of our hands. We will not stop targeting Ghost Robotics and their backers. If you profit off of genocide, you are on notice.

As we cross the threshold of one year since the people of Palestine took a bulldozer through the apartheid wall, we must reflect on how far we have come, and how far we still have to go to see the liberation of Palestine and the liberation of all people from colonialism, militarism and imperialism. This last year of resistance to apartheid and genocide has mobilized millions, and support for the people of Palestine is stronger than ever before. Even still, the US and Israeli backed assault on the Levant carries on, with escalations in the West Bank, Lebanon, and Iran, and doctors estimating that 200,000 people have been killed. If the US government won't stop sending weapons to Israel, we hope people will do what they can to stop the weapons themselves.

So long as Ghost Robotics exists and until Palestine is free, people in Philly and around the world will continue to fight against agents of genocide. Revolution until Liberation. Free Free Palestine!

House —

On the morning of October 10, an autonomous group targeted the home of Gavin Kenneally, co-founder and CEO of Ghost Robotics. The group painted "Funded By Genocide" across his garage, and "I Make Killer Dogs" on the side-

walk, threw paint at the door and ring camera, and smashed windows. We firmly say – we don't want your dog shit in Philadelphia! And we don't want it anywhere!

Gavin's home is currently listed for sale for a whopping \$1.9 million dollars. While his autonomous robots are shipped across the world to patrol and surveil Palestinians, Gavin awaits the sale of his lavish home he's made with dirty money.

Other manufacturers of autonomous robots have stated their commitment to not arming robot dogs, but Ghost Robotics has positioned themselves as the dealer for these weapons. They clearly have no shame or concern about their robot dogs being used to surveil and kill people.

No genocide profiteer should sit comfortably in their home – we commit to draining funds from Gavin, to reminding him that his robot dogs are agents of U.S. imperialism, and to closing down Ghost Robotics.

Until all people are able to live safely and freely in the place they call home, we commit to fighting for our collective liberation.

### **Home Of Ghost Robotics CEO Flooded**

Early thankstaking morning\* we flooded the home that Ghost Robotics CEO Gavin Kenneally is trying to sell. He used to live there but seems to have moved out after the home started getting attacked. In July his home was tagged and in October it was tagged again

and windows were broken. To create more lasting damage we ran a hose from a wall faucet through a small hole we punched into a glass door and turned the water on. Ghost Robotics develops robot dogs that are used in occupied Palestine and at the US/Mexico border. We took the fox we saw slipping under a fence as a good omen and hope the water kept running all night.

Let us each be a small drop in a liberating flood that drowns all authority!

-some anarchists

\*November 28th

## **Resources**

[noghostrobot.info](http://noghostrobot.info)

[shut.down.ghost.robotics](#) on instagram

[phlanticap.noblogs.org](http://phlanticap.noblogs.org)

[unityoffields.com](http://unityoffields.com)

