

Google DeepMind workers push for unionization over company's Israeli ties



Pro-Palestine activists stage a protest outside Google's office in Central London. (Photo by

London, April 29 (RHC)-- Employees at Google DeepMind's London office have initiated efforts to unionize in response to the tech giant's decision to provide its artificial intelligence (AI) technology to defense entities and maintain connections with the Israeli regime.

Reports over the weekend indicated that around 300 workers at DeepMind, the AI division of Google in London, have sought membership with the Communication Workers Union in recent weeks.

DeepMind employees' decision began when Google updated its approach to AI technology and dropped its militarization clause from its ethical pledge (AI Principles). In its previous version of AI Principles, Google had included a commitment clause to not pursue AI technologies that "cause or are likely to cause overall harm", especially in weapons and surveillance that violate "internationally accepted norms."

The revised version of AI Principles, states that the company pursues AI "responsibly" and in line with "widely accepted principles of international law and human rights", but does not include the previous language about weapons and surveillance.

The tension between DeepMind and its parent company further increased when a whistle-blower revealed that Israel had been using their technology to generate targets for assassinations and attacks in Gaza, where close to 51,500 Palestinians have been killed so far.

After the revelation about the Israeli regime's use of DeepMind AI in the Gaza war, several employees quit the company. "We're putting two and two together and think the technology we're developing is being used in the [Gaza war]," said one engineer involved in the unionization effort.

"This is basically cutting-edge AI that we're providing to an ongoing [war]. People don't want their work used like this," he added.

The effort to unionize needs to be recognized by the company through a vote among DeepMind employees in the UK. The company has around 2,000 staff in London. If the unionization effort succeeds, the employees will demand that Google nullify its military contracts.

If Google still decides to sell its technologies for military purposes, then the employees have the right to go on strike. "What I hope and what people who are active are hoping is that we stay away from any military contracts," said one of the organizers of the unionization effort.

The Israeli regime already has a \$1.2 billion cloud computing agreement with Google and Amazon, called Project Nimbus.

[SOURCE: MIDDLE EAST EYE and NEWS AGENCIES]

<https://www.radiohc.cu/en/noticias/internacionales/381723-google-deepmind-workers-push-for-unionization-over-companys-israeli-ties>



Radio Habana Cuba