

PRESS RELEASE - PERSVERKLARING

A24.2.11

GENERAL SECRETARIATE

of the S.A. CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

ALGEMENE SEKRETARIAAT

van die S.A. KATOLIEKE BISKOPSRAAD

from/van

for release/vir publikasie

Noel Bruyns
SACBC Information/Press Officer

IMMEDIATE

Press statement 40/87

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

In August the "Cape Town 23" - a group of conscientious objectors - publicly stated they refused to serve in the South African Defence Force. On Thursday, November 12, Dr Ivan Toms, one of the 23, faces call-up. He is the first of the group to face being sent to prison for refusing to do military service because doing so would be in conflict with his conscience.

We repeat our call to the authorities to alter the law concerning compulsory military service, to allow conscripts to object to doing military service not only on religious grounds, but also on conscientious grounds.

We also call for an alternative to the law which would allow conscientious objectors to do alternative community service for a period equivalent to the period of military service. Such an alteration in the law would allow the medical work which Dr Toms is presently doing in the poorest squatter areas in Cape Town to qualify as national service.

The universal Church has always defended the right and duty of all people in all situations, while acting in good faith, to follow their conscience.

As the executive of the Catholic Church in South Africa, we - the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference Administrative Board - encourage all priests to give spiritual guidance and counselling to those men considering the option of conscientious objection.

Signed by:
Bishop Reginald Orsmond
SACBC Vice-President
on behalf of the SACBC Administrative Board

Re: Conscientious objectors

Date: 09.11.87
Datum:

Ref. NB

Khanya House, 140 Visagie Street,
P.O. Box 941, PRETORIA, 0001.
Tel: 3-6458 / 9 (code: 012)

Khanya Huis, Visagiestraat 140.
Postbus 941, PRETORIA, 0001.
Tel: 3-6458 / 9 (kode: 012)

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.