



# MOVIMIENTO DE OBJECION DE CONCIENCIA

MOUVEMENT DE OBJECTION DE CONSCIENCE  
MOVEMENT OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION  
BEWEGUNG FÜR KRIEGSDIENSTVERWEIGERUNG

Sección de la Internacional de Resistentes a la Guerra (IRG) \* Sección Of War Resisters Internacional (WRI)

C/. San Cosme y San Damián, 24 - 2.º/2  
E - 28012 Madrid \* España

## INFORMATION-TOUR OF SPANISH TOTAL-OBJECTORS

Madrid, may 25th of 1989

Dear friends !

This summer Spanish Total-Objectors will be on tour all over Europe. We would like to visit antimilitaristic groups, CO-movements and pacifist organisations. We can offer you direct information about:

- 1) The developement of the struggle for the free, unlegislated right on Conscientious Objection in the Spanish state in the last 15 years.
- 2) The actual campaign of civil disobedience against conscription and for the abolition of compulsory military service which forms part of the international campaign against conscription of the WRI and the ICOM.
- 3) Other antimilitaristic campaigns of the MOC ( War-Tax-Resistance, Women against Militarization, Civil Defence, ...)
- 4) Our international work

For this conferences we are preparing speeches and also visual material, like colour slides, posters and a little exposition of photographs of our nonviolent direct actions.

With this tour we are also interested to get in contact with you and exchange our different experiences of antimilitaristic work.

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La guerra es un crimen contra la humanidad, por ello estoy decidido a no colaborar con ninguna guerra y a luchar por la abolición de todas sus causas \* Declaración de la Internacional de Resistentes a la Guerra (IRG)

Date:

We are planning to begin the tour in the middle of September and end it in the middle of October. But we are flexible and you can tell us when you'd like us to visit. In July we will make a concrete plan of the route and communicate you about the fixed date.

Participants:

We will come with two or three Spanish Total-Objetors which will be accompanied by our German volunteer who also speaks English.

Costs:

We are still looking for funds and subsidies but basically, we would like to divide the traveling costs on equal terms between all the groups. With our second letter in July we will send you a calculation. Please tell us how much money you are able to contribute and if you have possibilities to search for subsidies.

If you are interested in our visit, please send us a letter as soon as possible. It should reach us before the **15 of July**.

We hope to hear from you soon and we are looking forward to meet you to strengthen the international exchange on antimilitaristic work. See you on this year's ICOM !

with pacifistic greetings from sunny Madrid

MOC-Equipo Internacional

PS: We would like you to inform all the groups that you know in your country that may be interested in our tour and invite you to print this letter in your publications.

## Campaign of Insumision (total objection)

This campaign is being developed in the framework of the declarations of the W.R.I. (War Resisters International) and the ICOM 88 (International Conscientious Objectors Meeting) in which the total objection and the rejection of social service is being considered as the most effective method of fighting for a demilitarized and non-violent society.

The objectives that we have established are:

- Abolish conscription (eliminate the military and civilian service)
- Repeal the Conscientious Objection Law
- Make conscientious objection a fundamental right, not a legislated one
- Publicize and strengthen civil disobedience and non-violent social defense

### Strategy

Brief History of the campaign:

- The L.O.C. (Conscientious Objection Law) was passed in 1984.
- In 1985 the campaign of insumision was started.
- This same year, the L.O.C. was repealed before the supreme court but, it was later ratified in 1987.

We don't accept the law or mandatory civil service, therefore, we abandon the legal procedure of objection and choose direct confrontation. We use total objection as an act of civil disobedience.

Complete objection is achieved by the following methods:

### Presentations

Since January 1989, the Insumisos (total objectors) appear before the military judges 15 days after their designated date of entrance into the military. At this time, they are officially declared deserters (if you are not declared a deserter you cannot be sentenced in a military court). This year, there are about 500 insumisos who have chosen this method. In these presentations we express publicly and collectively our position against military and civil service.

### Reaction of the military

The military courts employ selective oppression - the detention of some objectors for short periods of time.

At the moment there are two insumisos in prison:  
Jose Martin Igual and Pedro Ignacio Garcia Delgado  
Others are awaiting trial.

### Self-Implication

This consists of a declaration to the military judges in which a person states that he has urged an objector to refuse military service. Under Spanish military law, this is considered a legal offence. Self-implication and total objection both carry a maximum of 6 years in prison.

For every total objector, there are four persons who implicate themselves. In this way, we are providing support for total objection and increasing civil disobedience.

Several of these self-implicators are free but awaiting trial.

### Reaction of the government

The government avoids a clear position concerning the insumisos. It must be pointed out that the President of the Spanish government declared that, "The laws, whether just or unjust, must be enforced." In fact, the government has not consistently enforced the laws and so many insumisos are still free.

### Total objection against the social Civilian Service

The Civilian Services began in march 1989 as the government's alternative to military service.

About 50 objectors are working in the Civilian Service.

We are contacting the objectors and the organizations who provide work for the Civilian Service to try and convince them that this is a false alternative to conscientious objection.

At the same time, an active boycott against civilian service is in progress, which includes actions of civil disobedience, sit-down strikes and blockades.

### Solidarity

Please, send letters of solidarity to:

JOSE MARTIN IGUAL  
Prisión Militar de Alcalá de Henares  
Apartado de correos 1  
Madrid

and

PEDRO IGNACIO GARCIA DELGADO  
c/ San Cosme y San Damián 24 2º  
28012 Madrid



# MOVIMIENTO DE OBJECION DE CONCIENCIA

MOUVEMENT DES OBJECTEURS DE CONSCIENCE  
MOVEMENT OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS  
BEWEGUNG DER KRIEGSDIENSTVERWEIGERER

Sección de la Internacional de Resistentes a la Guerra (IRG) \* Sección Of War Resisters Internacional (WRI)

Madrid, 18th of March 1989  
C/. San Cosme y San Damián, 24 - 2.º 2  
E - 28012 Madrid \* España

## THE TOTAL OBJECTION'S CAMPAIGN IS PROGRESSING

February the 20th was a historic date; with the presentation of 57 total objectors to the Military Headquarters all over the Spanish State, declaring their total rejection of Military Service. The Campaign against Conscription had begun and is growing and developing. Today it's not only a struggle of a small, radical group; the repercussion in different social areas is creating now a lot of criticism against Military Service and unexpected solidarity with the Insuision-Campaign (Total Objection)

With this letter we want to keep you up to date and encourage you to join the struggle against conscription.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE CAMPAIGN

1. Military Service implies the loss of elementary human liberties and rights; any sort of political or trade union action, any kind of freedom of expression, sometimes the right to life itself. In 1987, for example, died 188 soldiers in the Spanish Army and 644 were gravely wounded, due to "accidents", suicides, aggressions, etc. .

For all this it is not an exaggeration to call it "legal kidnapping" as the young men must lose a year of their lives, worsening the already poor family economy.

That's why the total resistance campaign is directed to the **abolition of Military Service**, as an intermediate step towards abolition of all armies.

2. There are some who decide consequently to refuse to comply with a law which has no ethical logic, stating at the same time their negative attitude against a number of values which maintain moral pressure to carry out Military Service. Their negativity is expressed in terms of pure and simple civil disobedience. When this attitude permeates the social conscience of the people to the extent that the government cannot keep on ignoring it any more, C.O. is legislated; as disobedience it cannot be eliminated, it is integrated through an option acceptable to the Military System, before it destroys its own bases.

For all this we are against any legislation on C.O. and we plead for the **repeal of the present repressive law**, which imposes arbitrary examination board and substitute civilian service on objectors which punishes them and integrates them into a system of global defence.

3. With our fight we want to **unmask the contradictions which produces the military System**: Pre-supposing the "defence of the democracy" and the protection of "law and order", the Military Service kills hundreds of soldiers each year by suicides and accidents. All personal rights are repressed with a justification of one's power against the other.

4. With our total resistance campaign we are focussing our **fight against conscription** and against the state which has established a kind of "slavery system". We don't admit that someone should have the right to force other people to do obligatory work for one year (or 18 months for the civilian service). That is why we reject Military Service as well as the "Civilian Military Service" for the C.O.'s.

5. Our fight is being integrated within the **International Campaign against Conscription**. Conscription must be considered the most important instrument for militarizing the minds and hearts of young people, training them as a future generation for the construction and the defence of a violent and warlike society. Conscription is a catalyst of militarized society. Being aware of that fact MOC is fighting with many groups all over the world against every kind of conscription.

6. With our total refusal of Military and Civil Service we want to **promote a radical change in society**, expressing our responsibility as citizens for the development of a just and human society, where real peace and justice as well as new relations between peoples and every man and woman are realized. The military values which still exist like machismo, hierarchy, blind obedience, submission, uniformity will be torn up by the roots in our new society.

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7. We want to express our special solidarity with all these groups, organisations and persons who are suffering, in their fight against militarization the phisical and psichdlogical of their respective states as there are for example the comrades of the "End Conscription's Campaign" in South Africa, the imprisoned objectors in Eastern Europe, the imprisoned total objectors in Western Europe... .

We are demanding the immediate release of all war-resisters all over the world. War and every kind of war-preparation is a crime against Humanity and must be condemned by all of us.

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## HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE FIGHT FOR CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION IN THE SPANISH STATE

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### in 1984

As an answer to the social pressure caused by the antimilitary movement of conscientious objectors, the State creates the Law of Conscientious Objection (LOC)

### in 1985

\* As an answer to this covert militarization the MOC starts with a campaign of "collective objection" rejecting the LOC totally. In the beginning they present 500 collective declarations of COs who refuse either Military or Civilian Service. A group of women also send letters of refusal in solidarity with the MOC's campaign.

\* The LOC begins to be used to oppress the COs who object during their Military Service. Amnesty International declares the imprisoned COs "prisoners of conscience" and this is a serious problem for the "democratic state".

\* The MOC presents an appeal of anti-constitutionality against the LOC. The Supreme Constitutional Court needs two years to reach a judgement finally rejecting the appeal because of the pressure of the military.

\* The State goes on and establishes the LOC and an examining board for COs (Consejo Nacional de Objeción de Conciencia, CNOC) is created.

### End of 1987

After the rejection of the appeal by the Constitutional Court, the law comes into force. The CNOC begins to reject all collective declarations after having accepted 10.000 collective COs as "official COs".

### in 1988

1452 applications for CO are rejected, the COs are drawn on November 13th and divided into six call-ups in 1989.

The MOC decides to prepare the total-objection-campaign against compulsory service.

### January 1989

Up to now 33.059 COs have made their applications 1569 have been rejected because of the collective declaration, 590 because of their age or because of being women's application and 33 being lodged during the CO's Military Service. The first group of CO's who were refuse in '88 are called up into the army.

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## CRONOLOGY OF THE LATEST EVENTS OF THE TOTAL-OBJECTION'S-CAMPAIGN

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### 1988

The Nacional Cort of Conscientious Objection (CNOC) rejects more than 1500 "collective objections". These officialy not recognized objectors enter on 13th of November in this year's quota of future soldiers called up for 1989 and everybody gets the exact date and destination of his military placement. As there are six call-ups during the year, the objectors are distributed to this placements.

### February, 20th 1989

The first 57 total objectors present themselves all over the spanish State in different Military Headquarters: 11 in Bilbao 10 in Pamplona, 8 in Barcelona, 9 in Madrid, 3 in Sevilla and respectively 2 in Galicia/Valencia/Canarian Island, 1 in Zaragoza, Valladolid and Cantabria. In Each place the total objectors reaffirm their negative attitude concerning the draft-order by giving back their military cards.

At present the military is only detaining three of the 57 total objectors in Bilbao, Basque Country, although they are all in the same legal situation: **Jorge Jesús Lopategi**, **Jose Ignacio Etxezarreta** and **Francisco Javier Markoartu**. The three are transferred to the civilian prison of Basauri and are held incomunicado. All the other total objectors are set free after declaring their absolute refusal to an official of the Military Headquarters, although there are arrest wurrents for them. In Madrid, together with seven total objectors from the first call-up and an other objector during his Military Service, **José Manuel Fierro Conchouso** appeared to the military judge. José Manuel had been imprisoned incomunicado for five month in the military prison of Alcalá-Meco for his objection during Military Service and did'nt regressed to the army, as he should had to, after his provisional release in December 1988. He and the other objector during Military Service, **José Luis Martín Igual**, are set free after declaring their unwillingness to carry out Military Service, on equal terms like the rest of the total objectors.

### February, 21th of 1989

A nacional press-conference is held in order

to evaluate the events of the day before. The collective presentation has been successful because the state is only able to apply selective repression and confronted with the radical and massive answer is not dared to apply the law, although the Government's President, Felipe González threatened to put all the total resisters in jail a few days ago. In the discussion about the state of the nation answering the question of members of the Parliament who ask, what happens with the COs who were called up and who refused to carry out Military Service: "The Laws, being just or unjust, have to be respected" responds the President. This thread refers to the article 127 of the Military Penal Code, which could imply a sentence from 1 to 6 years for those who refuse to do Military Service.

By this first massive and direct confrontation we prove that there is a way to make conscription inapplicable. As a result of this we call on all soldiers doing Military Service at the moment to object - what according to the law in vigor is illegal - and to leave the barracks.

#### February, 22th 1989

The three COs detained in Bilbao, Basque Country, are transported to the Military Headquarters of Burgos to make a statement about their situation. Hundreds of objectors with banners protest in front of the barracks demanding the liberation of the three total objectors.

#### February, 23rd of 1989

In Pamplona the militaries are detaining the 26-years-old **Juan José Armendáriz** because of the decision of the military judge of Pamplona.

#### February, 24th of 1989

After reappearing before the Military Headquarters protesting against the detention of the previous day, only one of the nine total objectors is detained in Pamplona: **Gonzalo Mateo**.

#### February, 26th of 1989

In Madrid hundreds of youth demonstrate, organized by the Anti-Nato-Commission, MiliKK and the trade union CNT protesting against the imprisonment of the total objectors.

#### March, 1st of 1989

In Barcelona eight total objectors reappear before the Military Headquarters. Four of them are detained; **Carlos Hinojosa**, **Josep Maria Maragriega** and **Yon Sanchez** who were called up in January. These three are taken to the civilian prison Modelo in Barcelona. The fourth one, **Mikel Otermin** objected during his Military Service and left the army before swearing in. He is imprisoned in the military jail of the barracks in Brunch, Barcelona.

#### March, 6th of 1989

**Juan Carlos Alonso**, total objector who appeared

in court with ten other objectors on February 20th at the Military Headquarters of Bilbao, is detained by the Military Police in his house and imprisoned.

#### March, 8th of 1989

"El País", the main daily newspaper with a circulation of more than 1.000.000 copies and sympathetic to the Government's policies, publishes a letter from the three imprisoned conscientious objectors, which they wrote in jail. In this declaration they explain the motives for their total refusal to Military and Civilian Service and to the Law on Conscientious Objection.

#### March, 9th of 1989

All over the Spanish State the rest of the total objectors who have not yet been imprisoned, although they are in the same legal position as the imprisoned ones, reappear in the Military Headquarters. These actions are accompanied by protest sit-ins of other conscientious objectors. Again no one is detained. On this day the judge of Pamplona orders the conditional release of the total objector **Juan José Armendáriz**, imprisoned since February 23rd in the provincial jail of Pamplona. Juan José was set free because the CNOC hadn't answered his first application for CO's status within six months, for this reason he was automatically accepted as a CO due to administrative silence.

#### March, 13th of 1989

**Josep Maria Maragriega**, **Yon Sanchez** and **Carlos Hinojosa**, the three total objectors imprisoned since the first of March in the "cárcel Modelo" of Barcelona are set free in provisional release. They have to appear every fifteen days before the judge, until they are called for military trial. The "Platform of Objectors for Insubmission" criticizes the military authorities for using "arbitrary methods and selective repression" for attacking the total-objection campaign. Their release, while the other five total objectors are still being imprisoned was called an example of the "arbitrariness" by the Ministry of Defence, which is not able to give a clear answer to the campaign.

#### March, 16th of 1989

**Jorge Jesús Lopategi**, **Francisco Javier Markoartu**, **Jose Ignacio Etxezarretta** and **Juan Carlos Alonso** are set free from El Ferrol prison where they had been taken on March 7th. **Gonzalo Mateo**, the only total objector who is still in jail, is moved this day to the military prison El Ferrol.

### POLITICAL EVALUATION OF THE FIRST STEPS OF THE CAMPAIGN

The collective presence of the total objectors at various military establishments represents a significant advance in the long process of refusal to do Military Service or any similar

service demanded by the state. This is a step forwards for the abolition of the armies in Europe in general and especially in the Spanish State. What happened on February 20th, namely that the young total objectors were immediately released from the Military Headquarters after appearing before the judge, although the logical answer according to the legal principle of the constitutional state should have been their imprisonment, it is a total success for us: They haven't reacted this way because they are idiots nor because they understood the problem. They did it, because they were morally discredited and obliged to react in this way. The army feels the social pressure and finds itself in a contradictory position; they see problems around but do not know how to respond. If they had imprisoned the total objectors for their "thinking" it would have been made clear what armies are for, if they had not imprisoned them, they would have said that the army was no longer compulsory. We have to say that our evaluation of the events is very positive: From now on what occurred in the Spanish State and in the European peace movement makes it clear that we can stop the army and militarization by radical and collective confrontation. We have to evaluate more, referring to what the President of Government said answering an member of Parliament's question: "The laws, even if they are unjust, have to be respected, and so we will apply the LOC rigorously by imprisoning all the total objectors". Indeed, we can now say that they enforce the law when it is necessary for the State and for this reason we are free, because the Government hasn't applied the law. A Government that pretends to be the leader of the Human Rights in Europe can not permit the imprisoning of many young people just because of their different opinion and conscience. So we turn the tables saying that from now on civil disobedience and noncooperation will make all the unjust laws inapplicable like the LOC, the military penal code, war-taxes and so on. Up to now Military Service was compulsory, and all those who objected had to do a Civilian Service. Now this is no longer necessary. In this country only those who want to are doing Military Service. Because all those who reject it, go to the Military authorities and they are set free. But this has to be on the condition that they don't go one by one but in an organized movement. We have recovered the real sense of conscientious objection, that is fighting for demilitarization and against all armies. And we see that we really have a chance to begin with the abolition of the army. We are not going to settle for a change of the law or of Military Service. Neither the creation of a new law nor voluntary Military Service is a solution for us because what we are pretending is the transformation of reality and the disbanding of armies and Military Service. The LOC is no more than a mechanism for the army to continue its role of imposing compulsory service which is a legal kidnapping of youth.

Referring to the detention of the total objectors who were - except one - released a few days ago, we declare that the only answer of the military to the social resistance of the total objectors has been selective repression. They have detained just a little part of all those who confronted the system with the aim of demoralizing the rest. From now on we are prepared to present ourselves every draft date with a large number of total objectors who will reject Military Service and who are ready to take all the risk of that, until we reach our aim: the disappearance of all armies.




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#### THE SOCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE TOTAL-OBJECTION'S CAMPAIGN

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In the state of Spain we are seeing nowadays an antimilitary campaign against compulsory Military Service that is reaching new heights. The campaign "Insumisión" is not limited to the direct confrontation of a small, radical group with the big power of the State and the military apparatus. With our fight against Military and Civil Service we are strengthening a general feeling in society against Military Service and militarization. This wide spread criticism has the effect on the other hand of promoting the MOC's campaign with the solidarity of a lot of social groups, trade unions, famous people and political parties.

The MOC's political posture has always been radical but at the same time participative.



This clarity without political manouvering prevents the social isolation of this antimilitary movement and thanks to our political independence, we can now count on support from all the social and political sectors and ideologies.

Not only do the news media supports us by publishing our message of total refusal of Military and Civilian Service in their full-page news reports. Discussion in universities and interviews on radio programmes promote the social discussion of the legitimacy of Military Service and increase the pressure on the Government to release the imprisoned COs.

Human-Right-Organization like the Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos (APDH) and Amnesty International, the Club de Amigos de la UNESCO support our struggle against conscription.

The most important trade unions, UGT (socialists, in conflict with the socialist Government), CCOO (comunists) and the anarchists' trade union CNT took part in a demonstration against Military Service in Andalucia.

the opinion", he added, "that neither the army nor Military Service should exist, so that no legislation regarding this should be necessary". Marcía is the son of a spanish army general who is already dead and his brother is a captain in the spanish army. "These facts allowed me to know the military structure from the inside. In various stages of my life I lived in military camps and this experience has influenced my rejection of the militarization of society". The "Defensor del Pueblo" (Ombudsman), Álvaro Gil-Robles will carry out all necessary measures to ease "the humanitarian aspects of the group of people called "insumisos", who have been or will soon be imprisoned in military jails because of their refusal to do Military Service" with these words the delegate of the National Basque Party PNV, Joseba Zubía expressed it after talking with the Defensor del Pueblo to ask him for arbitration in this matter on the 8th of March. Zubía presented a question in the Congress directed to the Government about

## NACIONAL



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Varias decenas de objetores ocuparon con una «sentada» la entrada al Gobierno Militar de Bilbao.

The judge responsible for the 1st magistrate's Court of Terrassa (Barcelona), Ramón Marcía Gómez, 30 years old, declared his solidarity with the insumisión on March, 8th. He said "that total objection is an illegal position but ethically justifiable". The judge showed his solidarity with the campaign against Military Service and in favour of total objection. He also made it clear that the present spanish Law on Conscientious Objection "is not good". "I share

the situation created after the imprisonment of the total objectors."

In this situation the City Council of Pamplona approved in full session on March 8th a motion in which they requested the release of **Ganzalo Mateo**, imprisoned total objector from this town. The motion was approved with the votes of the parties Euskerra Akatasuna(EA), Herri Batasuna (HB) and the Socialists Party(PSOE), representa-

tives from the same party that forms the central Government in Madrid. In this way the delegates of the PSOE voted against the policy of the central Government referring to the total resisters.

The University of Barcelona denied their availability of places for Civilian Service as an act of protest against the repressive policy of the Government.

The president of the Christian-Democratic Party (CDS) and former President of the Government Adolfo Suárez also requested the immediate release of the five total objectors imprisoned in the military jail of El Ferrol, Galicia. He said that it is suitable to abolish the Law on Conscientious Objection.

On the 15th of March there was a discussion in the Congress about the situation of the total objectors. The Minister of Justice, Enrique Múgica tried to link the CO's movement with violent groups. The Minister of Defence, Narcis Serra stated that he had given instructions to the military judges not to imprison the total objectors, although at the moment five total objectors were in military jails. During the debate a group of total objectors held a sit-in in front of the "Cortes" to demand the immediate release of the prisoners. They were thrown out and arrested by the police. Although there was a warrane issued fore their arrest, they were released after declaring from the police station.

We request your solidarity with the campaign against Military and Civilian Service. Please write letter to the imprisoned total objector:

GONZALO MATEO  
PRISIÓN MILITAR LA CARRANZA  
EL FERROL  
GALICIA  
SPAIN

We also ask you to press upon the Government and the army to abolish Military Service and the Law on Conscientious Objection so that the imprisoned conscientious objectors will be set free.  
Write to:

SR. PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO  
FELIPE GONZÁLEZ MÁRQUEZ  
PALACIO DE LA MONCLOA  
MADRID  
SPAIN

MINISTRO DE DEFENSA  
NARCIS SERRA  
PASEO DE LA CASTELLANA 109  
MADRID  
SPAIN

and send us a copy, please. We propose the following text, you can change, traduce it, etc:

Dear Mister President/Dear Minister of Defence,

with this we express our solidarity with the Movement of Conscientious Objection in Spain supporting its fight against Military and Civilian Service.

We reject unconditionally all kinds of conscription as a basical medium of militarization and war-preparation and (as we are integrated in the International Campaign against Conscription) we give all our support to the spanish antimilitary movement.

We are demanding the abolition of compulsory Military Service and the repeal of the Law on Conscientious Objection. Consequently we demand you immediately free the imprisoned total objector Gonzalo Mateo who is presently imprisoned in the military jail El Ferrol in Galicia.

NEITHER MILITARY NOR CIVILIAN SERVICE!  
FREE, UNLEGISLATED RIGHT OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION!  
LIBERTY FOR THE IMPRISONED TOTAL OBJECTOR!

We thank you for your support. In the next regular "newsletter insumisión" we will inform you about the future events of the campaing.

PS: For the summer/autumn we are planning a tour all over Europe with spanish total objectors. If you are interested in direct information from the anti-conscription-campaign - live and in colour - write us soon so that we can send you more detailed information about that.

UN CORDIAL SALUDO LA GENTE DEL EQUIPO, INTERNACIONAL, MOC

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Dear Friends,

Madrid, 15th February 1990

Here we are at the beginning of a new year and the insumisión-campaign has reached a decisive stage. In this letter we're going to make a brief summary of the progress of the campaign over the last year and tell you about the most recent events. The third part carries a reminder about the 15th May when we're going to concentrate on insumision and hopefully encourage you to act in solidarity with us.

## The Insumision-Campaign in 1989

20th February 1989 saw the start of a civil disobedience campaign against military and civil service in Spain. 400 youths joined the campaign during the year; they flatly refuse to obey the call to line and demonstrate this in public acts aimed at the military authorities. Selective repression is the military's answer: just 40 have been retained in custody for a few weeks before being freed. At present there is not one protester in prison, although if the laws in force were applied, they would be given a minimum sentence of one year and a maximum of six. Considerable controversy on Military Service has arisen in many sectors of Spanish society thanks to the disobedience of these youths. The Government is trying to establish the practice of Civil Service but there are relatively few who serve this substitute service. And there is a growing number of insumissives in this section too. Every insumissive against military service and the Substitute Social Service is backed up by 4 self-denounced persons who come from different social groups (parents, teachers, priests, judges, artists, etc.) who declare that they have encouraged and supported the insumissives. According to the law those persons are committing the same offence as the insumissives themselves and in this way they considerably increase the number of protesters.

## The first trials

On 16th November, the first court-martials (military trials) were held against the insumissives from Barcelona: Carles Hinojosa and Josep Moragriega. Due to the great public attention that the trial drew, the military court sentenced them to 13 months of military prison, which is a minimum sentence within the law's provision of 1-6 years. However, Josep and Carles are still free because the army doesn't dare to enforce the imprisonment order.

La guerra es un crimen contra la humanidad, por ello estoy decidido a no colaborar con ninguna guerra y a luchar por la abolición de todas sus causas \* Declaración de la Internacional de Resistentes a la Guerra (IRG)

### Amnesty for "old" objectors

A few days later, the Council of Ministers decided to announce an "amnesty" for the 20,000 and more conscientious objectors who had declared themselves as such before the Conscientious Objection Law had come into force and who were at least 18 years old at the time. They have been exempted from civil service and have placed in the reserve. The Government had been announcing this move way back in 1988 and they finally pulled it off just when they needed to improve their image of goodwill and generosity. At the same time they managed to get rid of large number of potential insubmissives who had also previously refused to fulfill any other type of substitute service. This amnesty is just a publicity trick on the part of the Government. It would have been impossible for them to call up all the objectors who have mounted up over the years for civil service; there simply aren't enough centres to take them all. And let's not forget either that it was as a result of a MOC campaign that many of the possible institutions refused to take servicemen at all.

In answer to the "amnesty", the MOC called on all the "old" objectors to protest against the decision. On 22.12.89 there was a sit out in front of Congress where the objectors burnt their official letters which granted them amnesty.

At the moment the MOC is preparing itself for the court-martials against the insubmissives which will be coming up in the next few months. We have also prepared an anti-repression campaign for when a decision is eventually made to send Josep Maria and Carles to jail.

### Campaign against conscription and for the abolition of armies.

If we add up all the political events which have taken place in Europe in the last few months, it is easy to see that now, more than ever before, there is a great opportunity for the promotion of the campaign against conscription, where the goal at the very end is the abolition of all armies. Many of our dreams of six months ago have become reality today. The knocking down of the Wall and the dissolution of the iron curtain do not just offer hopes for the future, they also disprove the main justification for maintaining armies in the East and the West. However, the politicians are already inventing new stories to make us believe that we still need armies. The USA and the USSR have shown us in Panama and Azerbaijan that their ideas still continue to be dominated by their military spirits.

We believe that we as objectors should make more of a stand. We must convince everyone, with more determination than ever, that the abolition of the armies is the real road to peace. A lot of others have already taken a stand. Take the referendum in Switzerland, for example. Despite their extreme military tradition, the majority of the population declared themselves to be in favour of the abolition of the army. And let's not forget the statement made by the objectors in East Germany either who have

demanded the immediate abolition of the armies on both sides of Germany. Poland should also be mentioned for the foundation of a group of insubmissives called "non serviam".

So the questions which we ask ourselves are: What can we do to speed up the process towards the abolition of the armies? What political methods should we choose for campaigns in our respective countries? How can we support one another?

ICOM '90 in Vienna will give us the possibility to discuss these and other questions so that we can make joint decisions on how we can best intervene at an international level.

#### 15th May - International Day of the Conscientious Objector

15th May this year will be our first opportunity to collectively demonstrate against the armies. In Spain this day will be focused on the Insubmission Campaign in Spain and so we would like to encourage you to use the day as an opportunity for questioning conscription both in Spain and your own country. The Insubmission Campaign could be used as an example of a concrete strategy which is developing under certain political and social conditions. With the different political context of each country, different strategies may be more appropriate. So we don't think that it would make much sense in other countries to sing the praises of Insubmission on 15th May and forget about the rest. What really matters at the bottom of it all is the overall goal of the campaign: To get rid of conscription and weaken the social base of the army so that everyone realises what is really happening and armies can be abolished for good.

The search for a strategy and the planning of the Insubmission Campaign has meant a lot of work for us. We have had to overcome - and have still to overcome in the future - many obstacles and problems: the indifference of the people, the egoism of objectors who don't want to work together but just want to drop out on their own, the press' manipulation of the news, the Government, the political parties, the army itself and the repression to which we are subjected. Well, what we want to emphasize is that Insubmission is not a primrose path; it represents reality and is within the reach of everyone who wants to take part. So don't bury your head in the sand on 15th May. Get involved, use your imagination and spur on others to work with you.

We hope that you will all participate in some way on 15th May. We'd like to know what you are preparing so that we can let others know too. So write and tell us.

Before we finish, we'd like to give you two small ideas for 15th May (although you're all very imaginative and we're sure you've thought up some great ideas already!).

1) When we toured round Europe last Autumn, we were asked if we could go back for 15th May. We aren't going to organize another trip but we are going to try and be with your groups on that day so that we can get together for talks, press conferences, or whatever.

2) We would also like to invite anyone who would be interested in coming over to Spain for 15th May, to join up with a MOC group here. We can offer basic accommodation in houses of MOC members and the opportunity of finding out about the Insumission Campaign at first hand.

For more details on the above ideas, please get in touch with us as soon as possible. Phone Pepe or Martin on ~34-1-475-3782 or Bernt on ~34-1-218-8244 or send a Fax to Bernt Schnettler on ~34-1-618-3505.

Yours in solidarity,

MOC International Team

P.S. "insumissives" means total resisters

## L A T E S T   N E W S

On 23rd of February 1990, coinciding with a presentation of total resisters, in which five of them have been arrested, the Supreme Court has publicized the annulation of the legal regulation of Civil Service in the State of Spain.

There is an obvious interest of the government to improve the image of "good" objectors - the sentence responds to the protest of the Conscientious Objectors' Association (AOC) against the fact that they had not been consulted about that regulation - as well as the interest of the Minister of War to "clean" his image. Both interests shall contribute to the establishment of Civil Service without questioning at all his military structure nor the right of the State to Conscription.

The AOC has called up civilian servants to stop their services and new incorporations until a new regulation "respecting the rights of COs" will be passed.

This gives special urgency to intensify our Insumission-Campaign in order to clarify that the question is not "the rights of COs" but fighting against conscription and militarism.

The denunciation of those tendencies by people from countries where it is well known that the establishment of civil service does not signify any advance in demilitarization will be very wellcome (at least from now to the 15th of May).

The five imprisoned total resisters are:

in Barcelona. Joan Cruz and Joan Behnake

MOC, Casal de la Pau, C/Cervantes 2, 08002 Barcelona

in Burgos: Guillermo de la Cuesta, Fernando Nicasio, Carmelo Sanz

MOC, C/Huerto del Rey 14-3 izq., 09003 Burgos

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**END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

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