

1.7.6

# HAS THE ARMY INVADED ● YOUR LIFE?



- CADETS
- CALL-UP
- CAMPS
- CAREER/STUDY INTERRUPTION
- PERSONAL RELATIONS



*End Conscription Campaign*

# ECC - WORKING FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE



The army invades the lives of all South Africans. White South Africans of all ages are directly affected.

Cadet training at schools prepares youth for army service.

All white men are eligible for conscription. At present all conscripts render the following service:

## **National Service:**

An initial period of 2 years continuous service, followed by 720 days over the next 12 years, in 6 two-year cycles of 120 days in each cycle. Not more than 90 days can be done in any one year.

## **Active Citizen Force Reserve:**

for the next five years.

## **Commando Service:**

until the age of 60, can be called up for regional duty for 12 days a year.

This affects all white South Africans and their families. It affects you! We call for an end to conscription.

## The army invades the life of all South Africans

The army has invaded the townships

- 1961 - Sharpeville
- 1976 - Soweto
- 1980 - The Schools Boycotts
- 1984 - Sebokeng  
Port Elizabeth  
Grahamstown  
Soweto
- 1985 - Crossroads  
Uitenhage  
Alexandra  
Tembisa  
Vosloorus

Every time the army invades the township, every time the army "supports" the SAP in quelling unrest - the fact of civil war is brought home to us

The ECC believes that the best way to ensure peace is to work for Justice. As long as there is apartheid, people will protest against it, and the army will be used to suppress the protest.

The ECC calls for an end to conscription because we believe that in a civil war our young men cannot be forced to fight against each other.



## End conscription campaign

The End Conscription Campaign unites a range of church, womens', student and human rights groups against militarisation and conscription in our society.

We call for an end to conscription because we believe:

● Conscription intensifies the violent conflict in our society.

Conflict can only be resolved by dismantling the apartheid system and recognising all South Africans as full citizens.

● Conscription prolongs the war in Namibia. South Africa's occupation of Namibia is illegal in terms of international law. The Catholic and Anglican bishops, the Namibian Council of Churches and many other church and human rights groups have called for the withdrawal of South African troops and immediate elections supervised by the United Nations so that the people of Namibia can determine their own future. Forcing the people to fight in Namibia will slow down this process.

● Conscription violates a human right - the right of any individual to refuse in conscience to render military service and be granted instead a non-military alternative. Present conscription does not recognise this right. The Defence Amendment Act of 1983 imposed a harsh and punitive six year prison sentence on all conscientious objectors who are not religious pacifists.

● Conscription conditions South Africans to accept the growing militarisation of our society - ever higher defence budgets at the expense of better housing, equal education, less poverty; the intrusion of the military into all areas of life, even to the highest levels of political decision making; destabilisation, raids into neighbouring countries; army involvement in resettlement. In short, military solutions to political problems.



## TOWARDS A JUST PEACE IN OUR LAND

### A Declaration to End Conscription

We live in an unjust society where basic human rights are denied to the majority of the people.

We live in an unequal society where the land and wealth are owned by the minority.

We live in a society in a state of civil war, where brother is called on to fight brother.

We call for an end to conscription.

Young men are conscripted to maintain the illegal occupation of Namibia, and to wage unjust war against foreign countries.

Young men are conscripted to assist in the implementation and defence of apartheid policies.

Young men who refuse to serve are faced with the choice of a life of exile or a possible six years in prison.

We call for an end to conscription.

We believe that the financial cost of the war increases the poverty of our country, and that money should rather be used in the interests of peace.

We believe that the extension of conscription to coloured and indian citizens will increase conflict and further divide our country.

**WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS THE MORAL RIGHT OF SOUTH AFRICANS TO EXERCISE FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE AND TO CHOOSE NOT TO SERVE IN THE SADF.**

**WE CALL FOR AN END TO CONSCRIPTION**

**WE CALL FOR A JUST PEACE IN OUR LAND**



# DID YOU KNOW?

- In 1984, 1 596 conscriptees did not report to the SADF, and in 1985 the figure rose to a staggering 7 589?
- Cadets are not compulsory?
- ARMSCOR is the third biggest industry in South Africa?
- In the second half of 1984 there were 67 attempted suicides in the SADF (and this is Malan's figure)?
- According to Professor Green of the United Nations in 1982 850 military personnel in Namibia died. If 60% of these were white South Africans, then between 1975 and 1983 there were 2 000 to 2 500 deaths. As a proportion of the white South African population, this amounts to 3 times the number of American lives lost in Vietnam.
- In 1984, 34 393 people served in the SADF?
- There is a maximum penalty of 6 years for not rendering service to the SADF?
- Malan says that there is an increase in the number of suicide attempts among the new intake of national servicemen?

## DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE?

**PHONE:** BENITA at 728 1211 (day)

CLARE at 648 9282 (night) or 238405 (day)

OR

**WRITE TO:** END CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEE

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*ecc peace festival*  
*wits 28~30 june*



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