

AA.6.2

P.O. Box 85207

Emmerentia

2029

6. February 1990

End Conscription Campaign

104 Dunwell House

35 Jorissen Street

BRAAMFONTEIN

2001

Dear Sir / Madam.

I am a young man who has just finished Matric and I am now legible to do Military Service. I do not however agree with conscription and wish you to please send me relative information regarding alternative service. My reasons for objecting to conscription are personal and can not be mentioned, considering the present situation in S.A.

Yours Sincerely

Brian Garland.

Replied
28-03-90

Mandy - this was sent to old ECU offices.

E7psik

90-02-15

Hello Mandy

Hope you're well - As it looks from news reports things seem to work in the right direction in your part of the world.

As you might well imagine things are a bit confused in this area as well. The whole politics of security and defence will have to be reconsidered.

And the Swedish gov. resigned yesterday on account that they didn't get support for an economic crisis program, including among

other things stop on higher wages
and a prohibition to go on strike
for two years. amazing that they
even (being social democrats) considered
putting out on vote.

well, well.

Spring is slowly crawling along
as is our little boy. We
just spent a week on our
own in London - which was great in
all aspects.

Writing this in a hurry, so be
in-time before the post-office close!
(in order to
excuse the bad handwriting -
the letter will short as it is - last
longer on that account.

I hope you're all ok. Give my
and VVF's regards to the brave
and jailed.

Love
Calle -

The paper with a lot of text announces two meetings with Manly T. and Alistair T.S. at Stockholm University and a union connected school building. Also it describes the work of ECC. arranging organisation is SPAS - Swedish Peace and Arb. Society

Second paper - in two sizes - (remember Ed's sketch? american comic the gun that came in schoolgirl size and elephant size) well well.)

it announces a rock concert
"Rock against conscription" held 29/5 - 89
in support for S.A. Ed's

arranging organisation "Union of CO's"
a local Spas organisation

Be well
Calle

End Conscription Campaign

56 Ecumenical Centre
20 St Andrew's Street
Durban
4001
Tel 304-5883

8 February 1990

ECC LAUNCHES RELEASE OBJECTOR CAMPAIGN

Viva ECC! Viva!

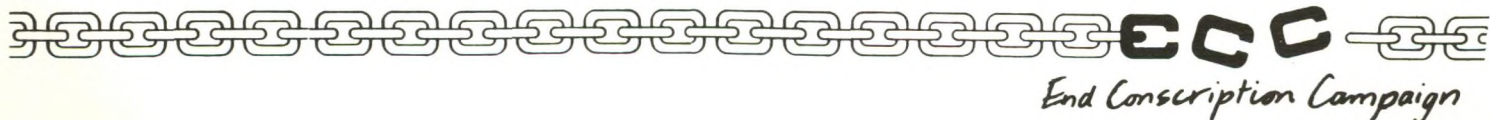
The good news is that we're back in action with another exciting campaign. You are invited to a General Body meeting to celebrate our achievements and to launch the Release Objector Campaign.

Date: Monday February 12
Venue: Ukuthula Room, Ecumenical Centre
Time: 19:00

Wine and snacks will be served!

DURBAN ECC CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

PS. See reverse for National ECC press statement on the Campaign.



History Research Group
University of the Witwatersrand
P.O. Wits
Johannesburg 2050
South Africa



UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

HISTORY WORKSHOP

Telegrams 'Uniwits'
Telex 4-22460 SA
☎ (011) 716-1111

THE HISTORY WORKSHOP OPEN DAY

The History Workshop will be holding its fifth Open Day on Saturday the 10th February 1990.

As before, the aim of the Open Day will be both to entertain and inform by presenting a cross-section of current work in the fields of popular history and popular culture.

We accordingly invite contributions and suggestions for:

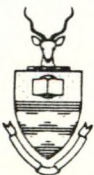
- plays,
- films,
- videos and slide tape shows,
- musical performances,
- poetry and other readings,
- photographic exhibitions,
- displays of publications,
- other historical/ cultural exhibitions or productions

Please direct suggestions and enquiries to
The Administrative Secretary
History Workshop
P.O. Wits
Johannesburg 2050
Tel : 716 - 2296

Sincerely

Philip Bonner.

Philip Bonner
(Open Day Committee)





BARCLAYS

Barclays-Nasionale Bank Beperk
Barclays National Bank Limited

Geregistreeerde Handelsbank/Registered Commercial Bank

25-02-05-00

CARLTON-SENTRUM/CENTRE JHB. 049

1312190

19

Betaal
Pay

The Objector

order.
of T^onder
or Bearer

Twenty-five rand

R 25-00

B EPSTEIN NON RESIDENT
TRANSFERABLE A/C

B. Epstein

⑈0278 ⑈250205⑈ 5008194548⑈ 02

BDM A/CB

13/2/90

Pauline Epstein
104 Wythenshawe Road
Northern Moor
Manchester M23 0PA
Tel: 061-998 3702

Asaf c/o Mrs H. Epstein
32 Schiptal
6th Road
Hyde Park Gardens.
Hyde Park. 2196.

The Editor
The Objector

Dear Sir,

I am here on holiday + my friend
Dr. H Davies, of Manchester, has asked me to forward
you on ~~my~~ his behalf, a donation of R25-00

Yours Sincerely,

B. Epstein

Please acknowledge to me to the above address.

Replied
skipped
Cheque

End Conscription Campaign

56 Ecumenical Centre
20 St Andrew's Street
Durban
4001

16th February 1990

Fax no. 3048891 / 3016611
Tel no. 3015663 / 3045883

Dear

CAMPAIGN FOR THE RELEASE OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

The End Conscription Campaign is back on the local scene at a time when South Africans face important challenges.

During 1988, David Bruce (27) and Charles Bester (19) were sentenced to six years in jail. They refused to be conscripted into the SADF because of its role in upholding apartheid. David and Charles are committed to working for peace and are willing to serve South Africa in a constructive way by doing non-military national service.

We note with deep regret that President de Klerk's announcement that political prisoners will be released does not apply to jailed objectors. David and Charles are clearly not criminals but are prisoners of conscience. We note further the extreme irony that if David and Charles had opted to join a banned organization they would be free today.

ECC together with concerned individuals views this situation as intolerable and is therefore embarking on a campaign to pressurize President de Klerk into releasing David and Charles immediately. The campaign involves:

- 1) The endorsement of a memorandum by prominent members of Durban's business, academic, sporting, religious and professional communities which will be published in the press, together with a list of those endorsing it.
- 2) A publicity campaign in the form of leaflets and posters.
- 3) A procession led by prominent Durbanites on Monday 26th February 1990 starting at 5.45 pm from the Amphitheatre, Snell Parade, to Natal Command in order to hand over the memorandum to the authorities. The procession precedes David Bruce's appeal to the Appellate Division on the 27th February.

Enclosed is a copy of the memorandum which we would invite you to endorse, either personally or in your capacity as a representative of your organization, and return to us per fax or by telephoning us in person by **THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY**, so that arrangements may be made to publish the memorandum in the Press on the 26th February.

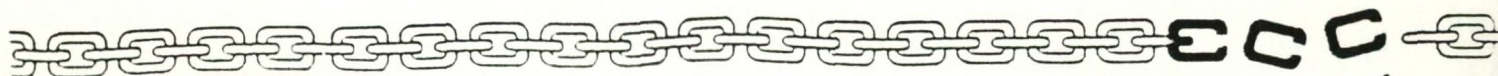
While it is not a requirement for endorsement, we would be most grateful to receive a contribution towards the cost of publishing the memorandum in the Press. Your contribution may be deposited in the following account:

C.O.S.G. a/c no. 050862596, Standard Bank, Smith Street West Branch

Finally, we urge you to attend the procession on 26th and to encourage others to join you. We believe this campaign has the potential to secure the release of David and Charles. Your assistance can make the difference.

Should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE



M E M O R A N D U M

We, concerned citizens of Durban, note:

1. President de Klerk's announcement that all political prisoners will be released;
2. That conscientious objectors are not criminals.

We therefore call for:

1. President de Klerk to regard David Bruce and Charles Bester as political prisoners and to release them immediately;
2. The introduction of alternative service for all conscientious objectors;
3. A moratorium on forthcoming trials of conscientious objectors;
4. Amnesty for objectors in exile.

Name:

Signature:

27/2/90
1,600
fax (a)
S.30 p.2

End Conscription Campaign,
P.O. Box 537,
Kengray 2100
Johannesburg.

Dr. N. Mandela,
C/O National Reception Committee,

22/2/90

Dear Dr. Mandela,

We trust this letter finds you in good health. ECC extends its congratulations to you on your release and wishes you strength in the time ahead.

The purpose of this letter is to request,

1. A meeting between yourself and a national delegation of the End Conscription Campaign.
2. A request that you investigate the possibility of visiting jailed conscientious objectors at their places of incarceration.

In response to Presidents De Klerk's opening of parliament speech and his announcement that all organisations restricted under the State of Emergency regulations would have their restrictions lifted, the End Conscription Campaign has restructured itself and is now operating as a national campaigning organisation.

While ECC is fully aware of the dramatic changes that have occurred in the nature of South African political society generally and military service and conscription more specifically, we still feel there is ample space and need for ECC to continue to campaign for an ending to conscription. Reasons for this belief include:

1. The continued jailing of David Bruce and Charles Bester.
2. Current debate and discussion around the release of political prisoners.
3. The forthcoming trials of five conscientious objectors, charged with refusing to serve in the SADF and all expecting prison sentences of between 18 months and 6 years.
4. The lack of any form of non-military community service for those conscripts who object to serving in the SADF for moral, political and humanitarian reasons.

Because of the above ECC has launched a campaign called the "Release Objector Campaign" which seeks to:

1. Highlight the plight of jailed objectors and the fact that they should be considered political prisoners
2. Calls for their immediate release.
3. The halting of any further objector trials.
4. The introduction of non-military community service for all conscientious objectors.

In terms of the campaign and the issue of anti-conscription work more generally, ECC would formally request a meeting with yourself to discuss our work and the specific issue of jailed objectors. Also ECC feels that a visit by yourself to one or more of the jailed objectors would make a strong public statement to the effect that jailed conscientious should be considered political prisoners and therefore should be included in any consideration around the release of jailed political prisoners.

Attached to this letter is a briefing document sent to the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress explaining in more detail the strategies and issues of the Release Objector Campaign specifically and current analysis of anti-conscription work more generally. We trust that this letter and the attached document should give you enough material to consider our request in its political context.

Should you need to contact ECC for any further information around our request or to make appointments in light of this letter please do not hesitate to contact us through,
Mandy Taylor, ECC National Worker, ph. (w) 836 8423, (h) 648 3181 or,
Roddy Payne, ECC Johannesburg Executive, ph. (w) 339 1191, (h) 648 7993.

Yours in the struggle for peace and justice in South Africa,

as Roddy Payne.

The End Conscription Campaign.

Attention: VICKY QUINLAN

End Conscription Campaign

P O Box 537
Kengray
2100

28 February 1990

56 Ecumenical Centre
20 St Andrew's Street
Durban
4001
Tel 304-5883
Telex 621403
Fax 3042823

The Editor
The DAILY NEWS

Dear Sir

The End Conscription Campaign views with concern recent revelations about the role of the so called Civil Co-operation Bureau (CCB) of the SADF.

This unit is currently being investigated by the police in connection with the murders of Dr David Webster and Advocate Anton Lubowski, as well as bombing incidents, acts of arson, assaults and intimidation. According to newspaper reports, the CCB is organised into cells, each operating in secret and in isolation so that members of one cell do not know who the members of the other cells are. This structure is obviously calculated to allow the unit to operate beyond the law in a completely unaccountable way.

The SADF has admitted that the CCB exists and that its task is to act against "aggressors". According to the police, the CCB targeted organisations such as the UDF and the ECC.

We are not at all surprised by these revelations, dismal though they are. Since 1985, the End Conscription Campaign and its members have systematically harassed, intimidated and assaulted. The harassment has taken various forms. The security police have, in the past, detained almost 100 ECC members without trial, for periods ranging from a few hours to many months. ECC members have been raided and harassed by the security police. No charges have ever been proven against ECC members. At the same time, innumerable incidents of violence and intimidation against ECC members have been carried out. Members' homes have been petrol bombed, bricks have been thrown through windows, car tyres have been slashed, brake lines cut, individuals have been assaulted and have received threatening phone calls, and ECC activities have been disrupted by thugs spraying tear-gas, for example. Needless to say, the police have had no success whatsoever in investigating any of these incidents.

In September 1988, the ECC obtained an interdict against the SADF, after an officially sanctioned campaign of unlawful harassment and intimidation by the SADF was exposed. The court found that the SADF had acted unlawfully and dismissed its arguments that South Africa was in a state of war and that the SADF could therefore do as it pleased.

The inference is almost irresistible that many or most of the abovementioned attacks on the ECC and its members formed part of the SADF's illegal harassment of the ECC. We challenge General

Magnus Malan to deny that the CCB has ever committed any unlawful acts against the ECC or its members.

It is clear to us that some elements of the SADF still consider themselves to be above the law. Such an attitude would be serious enough if it were confined merely to the lower echelons of the Defence Force. As the proverb states, however: "The fish rots from the head", and it is regrettably obvious that acts of murder, terror and intimidation have been condoned, if not actively promoted, by the most senior members of the SADF and, probably, members of the cabinet. In this regard, we note that the CCB is headed by a General and that it is part of the Special Forces, whose activities are controlled by the Chief of the Defence Force. It is hard to believe that the activities of these secret units were not sanctioned by the State Security Council, of which the Minister of Defence was a member. Thus, the Government itself, and the Minister of Defence in particular, must be held responsible for the actions of the CCB.

We believe that the CCB should be disbanded immediately. The ECC believes that it is crucial to re-build respect for the rule of law and for human rights, and to create a culture of openness and accountability in Government. There is absolutely no place in this scenario for death squads within the Security Forces, with a mandate to operate illegally.

We are concerned that the SADF shows no sign of taking appropriate action regarding the CCB. On the contrary, it has defended the unit's existence. General Magnus Malan has attempted to divert attention from the CCB and its murderous activities by making allegations about Advocate Anton Lubowski. As a notorious, repeatedly exposed liar, General Malan can hardly expect that the public will be impressed by his expedient "revelations". General Malan should resign immediately, before he brings further disgrace on the Government and the SADF.

At present, the SADF remains primarily a conscript army. At the very least, conscripts have the right to expect that the force into which they are conscripted will operate legally and will remain politically neutral. The SADF is manifestly unable to meet these requirements. Until such time as the SADF is accountable to all the people of South Africa and its adherence to the rule of law is guaranteed, conscription cannot be justified, and the ECC repeats its call for an end to conscription.

The revelations about the CCB further vindicate the position of conscientious objectors. The continued imprisonment of Charles Bester and David Bruce, at a time when other political prisoners are being released, gives cause for shock and disbelief. They should be released immediately.

Yours faithfully



CHRIS DE VILLIERS

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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