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# Servizio Civile Internazionale

Membro consultivo dell'UNESCO e del Consiglio d'Europa

Segreteria Nazionale: via dei Laterani 28, 00184 ROMA - Tel. 7005367/7005994 c/c postale 79042008 - C.F. 97004220584

Rome, 26/1/1989

To : conscientious objectors and  
SCI friends

PROTOCOLLO N° 104.89/42

Dear friends,

last September SCI Italy, together with 200 pacifist and antimilitarist groups, promoted a national campaign focussing on conscientious objection problems in Italy. In fact the situation both of C.O.s and organization which can employ C.O.s is very serious.

In Italy conscientious objection is ruled by an old law (passed in 1972) which is contradictory and inadequate: conscientious objection is not acknowledged as a right; civil service is eight months longer than military service; the management of civil service is remitted to the Ministry of Defence that as a matter of fact in the last few years has sabotaged the alternative service, making it more difficult for young boys to choose conscientious objection.

The campaign we promoted together with other associations is called "Soldiers out of civil service". During this campaign 1500 C.O.s have already gone on hunger strike for one or more days in order to attract the attention of the national public opinion and political and parliamentary forces on this problem.

Now we want to ask you a solidarity action with Italian C.O.s and SCI-Italy (that in the last few months has been incessantly persecuted by the Ministry of Defence). We invite you to go on a symbolic European hunger strike of C.O.s on 21<sup>st</sup> March. That day we will call a press conference to serve notice of the initiative. We will be grateful if you send us the names of the hunger strikers.

This initiative is important not only for Italian, but for all C.O.s. We thank you in advance for the solidarity you are surely going to demonstrate us.

Best greetings

GIULIO MARCON

(National Secretary)



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Segreteria Nazionale: via dei Laterani 28, 00184 ROMA - Tel. 7005367/7005994 c/c postale 79042008 - C.F. 97004220584

Roma, 20.4.1989  
Prot. 298/89 M2

- EGYEB

Dear friends,

we are promoting since february a national campaign for a new law on conscientious objection in Italy that include the right of objection (actually objection is just a benefit allowed from the State), the same lenght of civilian service and military service and the exclusion of the military from the management of the civilian service (actually the Defense Ministry is in charge for this matter).

During this initiative -that became parte of a larger campaign promoted from about 200 pacifist and CO groups- S.C.I./Italy has organised a hunger strike of 256 italian CO, pacifists and volunteers whom joined, in solidarity with italian campaign, about 40 europea CO (from France, Finland, Austria, Hungary, FRG, Slovenia, etc.).

We 'll continue to promote these initiatives, trying to maintain a european and international approach, in according with the aims of our organisation, too.

So, now, we would to organise the 15th May -for the international CO day focused on South Africa- a solidarity initiative with southafrican COs, and particularly with David Bruce, imprisoned in the southafrican jails. Benny Nato (representative of ANC in Italy) and some italian MPs will atend to this public meeting. So we want to ask you if you know some useful address to contact and host a southafrican CO for this meeting.

To finishing we hope better and frequent contacts with you and we inform you that we are preparing a seminar, for thr next autumn in Italy, on the subject: "Conscientious objection and civilian service in Europe".

Many Greetings

Giulio Marcon

National Secretary

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## **END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

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