

# END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 537  
Kengray 2100

Phone: 836-8423  
Fax: 834-3189

3 February 1992

Transkei Government delegates  
Working group 1  
CODESA

Dear Messrs Ntsubane and Ntshingu

The End Conscription Campaign (ECC) has been involved in campaigns against the system of military conscription into the South African Defence Force (SADF) for the last eight years. The ECC believes that the current system of military conscription is a fundamental affront to the principle of freedom of conscience—a freedom which most countries that regard themselves as democracies respect. In addition the current system of "whites only" military conscription represents a dangerous legacy of our recent Apartheid past, and has no place in a changing South Africa. The ECC regards the current conscription system as an attempt, by the National Party, to ensure that the SADF remains an army geared to the protection of White economic and political privilege.

It is clear that the National Party will propose legislation in this current parliamentary session to deal with the criticisms that ourselves and other organisations have made against the system of conscription. We believe that minor amendments at this stage are cosmetic. Any change that does not end "whites only" military conscription should be rejected. The ECC therefore believes that an extension in the option of community service is not an appropriate reform at this time in our country's history. At the same time a multi-racial call-up into an army still controlled by the National Party is an equally unrealistic option. Rather, the ECC believes that the only change to the system that will promote peace and ensure that the SADF begins to become the army of all South Africa's population, is an ending of the conscription system and the introduction of a volunteer professional army. Concomitant with this development should be the management of the SADF by a committee made up of all political parties represented at CODESA. The SADF is too vital an entity to be allowed to be controlled by one political party.

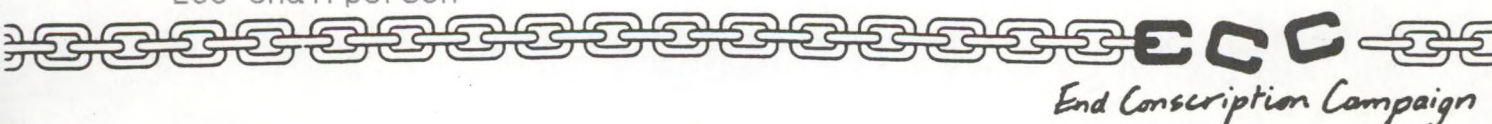
As your party has participant status within CODESA, and you sit on the CODESA working group dealing with the role of the security forces in the "transition period", the ECC urges you to consider carefully your responsibilities to the nation, and press for positive change to the system of military service.

If you have any questions with regard to the content of this letter or wish to find out more about the policies of the ECC, please do not hesitate to contact us at our national office.

We wish you and your party all the very best in this challenging and momentous year in the history of our nation.

Yours sincerely

Chris de Villiers  
ECC chairperson



*End Conscription Campaign*

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3 February 1992

Ciskei government delegates  
Working group 1  
CODESA

Dear Messrs Maqona and Webb

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It is clear that the National Party will propose legislation in this current parliamentary session to deal with the criticisms that ourselves and other organisations have made against the system of conscription. We believe that minor amendments at this stage are cosmetic. Any change that does not end "whites only" military conscription should be rejected. The ECC therefore believes that an extension in the option of community service is not an appropriate reform at this time in our country's history. At the same time a multi-racial call-up into an army still controlled by the National Party is an equally unrealistic option. Rather, the ECC believes that the only change to the system that will promote peace and ensure that the SADF begins to become the army of all South Africa's population, is an ending of the conscription system and the introduction of a volunteer professional army. Concomitant with this development should be the management of the SADF by a committee made up of all political parties represented at CODESA. The SADF is too vital an entity to be allowed to be controlled by one political party.

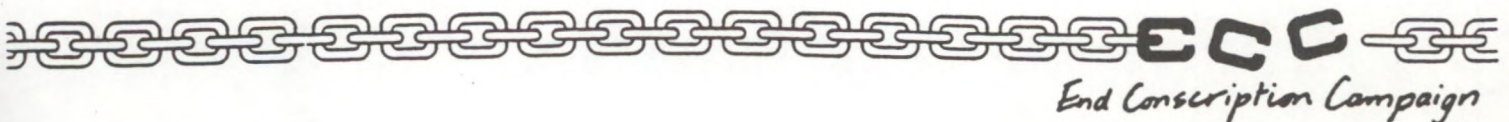
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Yours sincerely

Chris de Villiers  
ECC chairperson



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P.O. Box 537  
Kengray 2100

Phone: 836-8423  
Fax: 834-3189

Karl Liebenberg  
Poste Restante  
1371 ASKER  
Norway.

4 February 1992

Dear Karl,

A copy of your letter to Paula at Lawyers for Human Rights has been sent to us, with a request that ECC give you an update on the present situation with regard to conscription. Paula assures me that the technicalities of applying for indemnity will be dealt with by the UN and that she will see that they get the necessary information.

With regard to your return, you will still be liable for call-up under the Defence Act, which has not changed much since you left (except for the 1983 Amendment which made provision for some sort of civilian service for Religious Pacifists and increased the penalties for all other COs).

But the 64-million dollar question now is: is the call-up of white males still legal in the light of the repeal of the Population Registration Act in June last year? ECC says no, and has legal opinion to support this view, but the call-up continues, and the ideal thing would be a test case in court. The state appears to have been sidestepping the issue by not prosecuting objectors. The last people to have been charged were Alan Storey (refused national service in January 1991) and Wally Rontsch (refused a Dad's Army camp), but they never stood trial as the Attorney General withdrew the charges.

At least two of the group of COSAWR exiles who returned to this country in December 1990 have since received call-up papers, and both refused to serve, quite publicly - Francois Krige in January 91 and Fritz Joubert in July 91. Neither has been charged, and both are feeling thoroughly frustrated by the lack of reaction.

Ever since July, both ECC and the Conscription Advice Services have had to deal with a lot of queries from confused conscripts, both National service conscripts and campers. The message of the possible illegality of the call-up has got through, and many people are choosing to "vote with their feet" by simply failing to report. The situation became even more confused last month, when just after the new National service intake the Deputy Minister of Defence, Wynand Breytenbach blandly admitted that people who had not reported would not be prosecuted since there was the possibility of some change of legislation in the pipeline. This led to a lot of media publicity in which the Minister and his Deputy appeared to be contradicting each other, and generally increasing the confusion over the issue. In practice it seems that while a few people are being charged with "Failure to Report", there is still no follow-up on those who refuse to serve.

I enclose a few recent press-clips and ECC's latest pamphlet which has been widely distributed. Good luck and keep in touch.

*Nan Cross*  
Nan Cross. National worker.



**ECC**  
End Conscription Campaign

# NATIONAL DIRECTORATE

113 Van Erkom Building  
Pretorius St., Pretoria 0002  
Telefax: (012) 325-6318  
Telephone: (012) 21-2135

Our ref:  
Your ref:  
Date:

LAWYERS  
for  
HUMAN  
RIGHTS

ECC  
Johannesburg

ATTENTION : CHARLES BESTER

4 FEBRUARY 1992

FAX : 011 834 3189

Hullo Charles,

RE : KARL LIEBENBERG

I have attached to this a copy of the letter which I discussed with you, and hope you will be able to assist. If there is any way in which we can help, please give me a call.

with thanks

*Paula*

Paula McBride

Paula McBride  
L.H.R.  
Pretoria.

Karl Liebenberg

Poste Restante

1371

ASKER

NORWAY.

26/11/91

Dear Paula

Just to refresh your memory I phoned you from Norway on the 21/11. I got your address from Thor who worked for L.H.R. in '90. (greetings from Thor). We discussed the matter concerning exiles wishing to return to S.A. regarding indemnity.

I was born in P.E. 080862 and brought up in South Africa. In July 1981 I was called up for national service to 7 S.A.I. Phalaborwa and from there transferred to 11 commando, Diskobolos at Kimberley. In February 1982 after some reflection I realized I could not support the army and what it stood/stands for any longer and AWOLed. I left the country illegally on the 30/7/82 from JAN Smuts.

My old ID. Number is 080862 5130 006

RSA. passport Number J 37 38 77

I received Norwegian citizenship in 1987 so I'm presently holding a NORW. passport. -

Number F 0887056-35

Regarding my family in S.A. my father passed away in '81 but I can supply the following contacts.

My Uncle in Johannesburg;

Leon Liebenberg

P.O. Box 39994, BRAMLEY 2018

TLF: 786-1075/6/7 (Hawaiian Pools)

HOME: 802-4646

FAX: 440-2929

My Uncle and AUNT in Port Elizabeth;

Edward and Chrystal Walker

60 KINNERSLEY street

Newton Park

P.E.

TLF: SEE DIRECTORY

I hope you now have sufficient information to start processing, I understand that this will go through the U.N. Should you require telephone contact with me you can use the following number between 0800 and 11:00 hrs WEDNESDAY TO FRIDAY.

OSLO: 90 49 32

yours sincerely

Karl Liebenberg

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Kengray 2100

Phone: 836-8423  
Fax: 834-3189

## FAX TRANSMISSION

TO UNITED NATIONS (Centre Against Apartheid)  
FAX NUMBER 091 212 9635305  
ATTENTION Aracelly Sanbana (Ms.)  
FROM End Conscription Campaign  
NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet) 1  
DATE 7/02/92

7 February 1992

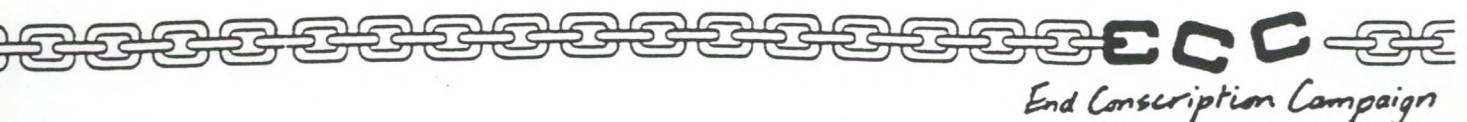
Dear Aracelly

Thanks for your Fax. From next week, the full time worker in the ECC office will be David Bruce. You are on our international mailing list, and so shall be kept informed of developments regarding conscription.

Best regards



Charlie Bester  
ECC office worker



FROM U.N. C.A.A.

02.06.1992 20:00

NO. 2 P. 1

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIESPOSTAL ADDRESS—ADRESSE POSTALE: UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017  
CABLE ADDRESS—ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE: UNATIONS NEWYORK

REFERENCE:

2

6 February 19992

TO END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

KENGRAY SOUTH AFRICA FACS. 2711 834 3189

FROM ARACELLY SANTANA (MS)

SENIOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS OFFICER  
CENTRE AGAINST APARTHEID / UN FACS / 212 9635305  
ROOM 3577D, NY, NY 10017

THANK YOU FOR THE MATERIAL YOU SENT THE CENTRE/

I HOPE THAT YOU SHALL CONTINUE TO KEEP US INFORMED

ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE ISSUE OF CONSCRIPTION! et.al.

I SHOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU SENT ME THE NAME OF A CONTACT

PERSON IN JHB FOR ANY COMMUNICATIONS IN THE FUTURE/

BEST REGARDS

ARACELLY SANTANA



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**END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

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