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Your ref.....

Verw. 3/A10/13/3(18/89)
Ref.....



Republiek van Suid-Afrika • Republic of South Africa

Tel. No. (012) 323-8880
(012) 323-3106

**Ministerie van Wet en Orde
Ministry of Law and Order**

PRIVAATSAK X463
PRIVATE BAG
PRETORIA
0001

1989-08-21

Mr C de Villiers
Acting Chairman
End Conscription Campaign
P O Box 537
KENGGRAY
2100

Dear Mr De Villiers

RESTRICTION OF THE END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

By direction of Minister Adriaan Vlok, I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 17 August 1989.

The Minister is giving the necessary attention to the matter and will again communicate with you in due course.

Yours faithfully


ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 237-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

P.O. Box 537
Kengray
2100

17 August 1989

The Minister of Law and Order
Private Bag X463
Pretoria
0001

Sir

Restriction of the End Conscription Campaign

On 22 August 1988, you published an order in the Government Gazette, restricting the End Conscription Committee (later corrected to End Conscription Campaign) in terms of Regulation 7 of the Security Emergency Regulations, 1988. In terms of the restriction, the End Conscription Campaign was prohibited from carry on or performing any activities or acts whatsoever.

At the time that this restriction was placed on the ECC, various allegations made by yourself were published in the press. Inter alia, you stated that:

- * "The ECC is attuned to discouraging the citizenry from supporting the SADF and from doing national service in its true sense."
- * "It is not difficult to see the organisation's role in the revolutionary onslaught against South Africa."
- * "As a result of the ECC's campaigns, many liable for national service are influenced to refuse to do military service. Their refusal is not necessarily founded on political convictions. The result is that such persons are tried and sentenced in terms of the ordinary laws of the land. This would probably not have happened had it not been for the ECC's campaign against military service."
- * "It is also known that the ECC actively assists service dodgers who leave South Africa to acquire residence permits in the UK."

All of these statements, and others made by you, are untrue. Of course, the ECC was not given an opportunity to defend itself against these allegations and was not given a hearing before its arbitrary restriction, in order to refute the allegations. If we had been allowed to defend ourselves, we believe that we would have been able to convince an impartial tribunal that your allegations were without foundation. In fact, we would go so far

as to say that the only question is whether you yourself fabricated the allegations, or whether you are merely the unwitting tool of sections of your security establishment who have fed you this disinformation in order to achieve their own dubious ends.

In any event, in the light of court decisions at the time, we felt that it would serve no purpose to challenge the restriction, since the truth or otherwise of your allegations would not have been at issue, but merely whether or not you had followed a technically "correct" procedure.

Now, one year later, it is instructive to review the position. Despite the fact that the ECC has ceased to operate, there is growing support for an end to conscription and for a system of alternative, non-military national service. Even right wing political parties propose to reduce the length of military service. The Democratic Party has adopted an official policy of phasing out conscription. More conscientious objectors have been jailed, and thousands more young men have left the country to avoid military service. The State of Emergency appears to have become semi-permanent. Many legal, non-violent organisations have been restricted.

Despite the restriction of the ECC and the cessation of our activities, we have continued to be the target of vicious smears, both by well funded extremist right wing groups, and also by government representatives. Most recently, General Magnus Malan has been reported as uttering outrageous allegations that the ECC has been responsible for acts of terror. Such actions indicate the utmost bad faith on the part of your government.

We believe that current developments illustrate that the call for an end to conscription is endorsed by many South Africans and is entirely legitimate. Your unjustified restriction of the ECC is revealed in the light of recent history to have been nothing more than the opportunistic silencing of an embarrassing opponent, and part of a broad strategy of repression.

We demand that you lift the restriction on the ECC and allow free debate on the crucial issue of conscription.

Yours faithfully

C. de Villiers

C de Villiers
Acting Chairman (Johannesburg)
for: End Conscription Campaign

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ECC-ALISTAIR
JOHANNESBURG AUG 22 SAPA

THE CONSCRIPTION DEBATE IS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE NATIONAL PARTY'S DEFENCE POLICY AND THE ROLE OF THE SADF IN ANGOLA, NAMIBIA AND THE TOWNSHIPS, MR ALISTAIR TEELING-SMITH SAID TODAY.

REACTING TO RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON THE END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN TODAY, THE ECC NATIONAL SECRETARY, SPEAKING IN HIS PERSONAL CAPACITY, SAID THAT BY BANNING ECC, THE GOVERNMENT WAS IGNORING THE REAL ISSUE:

+THE PROBLEM HAS NOT BEEN ECC, BUT RATHER CONSCRIPTION.

+MANY YOUNG WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS FACE VERY REAL DILEMMA'S ABOUT PARTICIPATION IN THE SADF. THESE DILEMMAS ARE A DIRECT RESULT OF THE NATIONAL PARTY'S DEFENCE POLICY AND THE ROLE OF THE SADF IN ANGOLA, NAMIBIA AND THE TOWNSHIPS.+

HE STRESSED ECC HAD ALWAYS BEEN AN INDEPENDENT ORGANISATION THAT HAD NOT BEEN MANIPULATED OR HAD ITS POLICIES FORMULATED BY ANY OTHER GROUPING, INCLUDING THE ANC AND THE UDF.

+IT HAS BEEN A GROUP THAT HAS OPPOSED CONSCRIPTION AND ARTICULATED THE VERY REAL DILEMMAS THAT CONSCRIPTS FACE ABOUT BEING CONSCRIPTED INTO THE SADF.

+ECC HAS NEVER BEEN AN ORGAN OF OBJECTORS AND HAS REPRESENTED ALL CONSCRIPTS. MANY OF OUR MEMBERS HAVE BEEN, ARE, AND WILL GO INTO THE SADF,+ MR TEELING-SMITH SAID.

SAPA /CAW/OWN

08/22/12-51'88

NNNN

**INTERNATIONAL
FELLOWSHIP OF
RECONCILIATION**

54 Ecumenical Centre
20 St Andrews Street
4001 Durban
P.O. Box 2861 Durban
4000 South Africa

Tel: 031-3015663
Fax: 031-3042823
(att: IFOR)
Telex: 621403 - SA
(att: IFOR)

Thursday, Oct 20
1988

Dear Alistair

Enclosed are two letters from Quakers in Geneva, and a resolution passed by the UN Human Rights Commission at the Summit of ECC, amongst other things.

I received these indirectly, so they took a long time arriving.

In peace,
Richard

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

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JOHANNESBURG

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID STRONGLY CONDEMNS REGIME'S
MEASURE WHOSE AIM IS TO SILENCE ECC SPECIAL COMMITTEE
CONSIDERS THAT WORK OF ECC HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT IN
RAISING THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF WHITE YOUTH AND OTHER TO THE INJUSTICES
APARTHEID AND THE ROLE SADF PLAYS IN THE FURTHERANCE OF
REGIME'S AGGRESSIVE POLICIES INSIDE SOUTH AFRICA AND IN THE
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VOICE OF HOPE AND A BRIDGE IN EFFORTS TO PROMOTE A JUST AND
PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT IN SOUTH AFRICA SPECIAL
COMMITTEE SALUTES TODAY THE COURAGEOUS ACTIONS OF WHITE YOUTH IN
SUPPORT OF FPEACE FREEDOM AND EQUALITY FOR ALL IN A NON-RACIAL
UNITED AND DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA JAI PRATAP RANA (NEPAL)
ACTING-CHAIRMAN UNITED NATINSXXXXX NATIONS SPECIAL
COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID
COL CKD
NOOR 3577F AME

COL CKD

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486519 SACC SA

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

PROHIBITION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

Conscription affects the lives of thousands of young university students, and even under the severe restrictions of the Emergency regulations, remains a perfectly legitimate subject for debate.

Many fine young people who want nothing more than to devote their energies and knowledge to building a better South Africa, leave the country because they cannot in conscience accept conscription at this time in South Africa's history, particularly service in the townships. Our country cannot afford the continuing loss of so many of its brightest and best educated young minds. The shortage of skilled young people is already a serious problem for the professions, for commerce and industry and for the universities.

The introduction of a community service alternative to military service surely deserves careful consideration. This was one of the proposals advocated by the End Conscription Campaign, whose members, a number of whom have served in the South African Defence Force, put their views in a reasoned, dispassionate and sincere way which deserves an equally reasoned response. Instead their activities have been prohibited. This is not a productive way of addressing the concerns of millions of South Africans. I call on the Government to lift the restrictions on the End Conscription Campaign, and to renew its discussions with its representatives in an attempt to resolve a matter of such fundamental importance to the country.



R W Charlton
Vice-Chancellor and Principal
25 August 1988

STATEMENT FROM DR S J SAUNDERS,
VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL OF
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN, ON THE
BANNING OF END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

I DEPLORE WHAT IS EFFECTIVELY THE BANNING OF THE ECC.
BANNING AN ORGANISATION LIKE THE ECC DOES NOT MAKE THE
PROBLEM GO AWAY. DEBATE ON ISSUES SUCH AS THE NATURE
OF ALTERNATIVE SERVICE IS IMPORTANT ESPECIALLY ON THE
UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.

23 AUGUST 1988

STEP STATEMENT

Every week STEP (Students' Teaching and Education Programme) tutors witness the harsh realities of apartheid education, but the governments oppressive policies go much further - on Monday the 22nd of August 1988 the End Conscription Campaign was effectively banned.

If we, as South Africans, are to work toward a peaceful democratic South-Africa then alternatives to the present situation must be sought and acted upon.

The government, however, responds by banning and silencing such attempts. ECC's call for alternative national service was one such attempt. The call for alternative education was another.

ECC has served as a voice for the thousands of patriotic conscripts who for moral, political or religious reasons find themselves unable to serve in the SADF. On campus ECC has been both a friend and ally to both the tutors and students of STEP.

We believe that the crisis in our country will never be resolved by repression, whether it be by the banning of organisations or the occupation by the SADF of township schools. Peace can only be achieved by the establishment of a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa.



Issued by STEP. The views and opinions expressed do not necessarily appear to be those of the council, the SRC, of Wits University

STATEMENT FROM CANDIDATES STANDING IN 1988 SRC ELECTIONS.

WE, THE CANDIDATES STANDING IN THE 1988 SRC ELECTIONS UNRESERVEDLY CONDEMN THE BANNING OF THE END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN.

ECC HAS BEEN A VIBRANT CAMPUS ORGANISATION AT WITS SINCE 1986 AND HAS ENJOYED POPULAR SUPPORT. IN ITS CAMPAIGNS, ECC HAS REFLECTED WIDESPREAD CONCERN ABOUT COMPULSORY CONSCRIPTION AND THE ROLE THE SADF PLAYS BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE SOUTH AFRICA.

THE BANNING OF ECC WILL NOT DIFFUSE OPPOSITION TO CONSCRIPTION OR THE CALL FOR ALTERNATIVE SERVICE.

ONE OF THE CANDIDATES WAS STANDING ON AN ECC TICKET. HE IS STILL STANDING FOR THE SRC AND IS STILL COMMITTED TO TAKING UP THE ISSUE OF CONSCRIPTION WHERE IT AFFECTS STUDENTS.

WE GIVE OUR FULL SUPPORT TO DAVID KIMBER IN HIS ONGOING CAMPAIGN,

SIGNED;

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Patrick Brennan
Edmund Couzens
Shaun Dicks
Mary-Ann Holland

Nikki Howard
David Jammy
Leora Rajak
Lynn Rees
Anton Roskam

Bettina Von Lieres
J.J. Van Wyk
Andrew Woolfson

STATEMENT ON BANNING OF ECC: WITS BUSINESS SCHOOL

WE, THE STUDENTS OF WITS BUSINESS SCHOOL, CONDEMN THE BANNING OF ECC. IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT ALTERNATIVES ARE NEEDED.

FURTHER, THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT DEALING WITH THE REAL ISSUES WHICH ARE CAUSING AN ACUTE DILEMMA FOR THOUSANDS OF CONSCRIPTS IN THIS COUNTRY.

24 AUGUST 1988

STATEMENT ON BANNING OF ECC : FINE ARTS STUDENTS
UNION

The Fine Arts Student Union (F.S.U) condemns the banning of the ECC in the strongest possible terms. This is a direct attack on Democracy and Freedom of Speech, then we as artists believe essential to any society. Banning democratic organisations such as the ECC, UDF etc, etc serves only to complicate the process of peaceful change. This was demonstrated when the A.N.C, after being banned decided to form their armed wing Mkonto We Sizwe.

We call on the South African government to unban the ECC and all other democratic organisations, to release all political prisoners, and provide conscripts with the option of non-punitive community service.

This government was only prepared to negotiate with Angola after there was a shift in the balance of power. This delay cost South Africa countless lives and millions of rands. Do we have to wait for shift in the balance of power within our borders before the negotiating tables are set up?. It may then however be too late.

STATEMENT ON BANNING OF ECC : SALT

SALT, AS AFFILIATES OF THE END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN IS SHOCKED AND ANGERED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S DEFENSIVE AND UNCALLED FOR ACTION IN BANNING THIS ORGANISATION. WE AS CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THAT CONSCRIPTION FOR WHITE MALES IN AN APARTHEID SOCIETY, UNDERMINES THE GOSPEL VALUE OF HUMAN DIGNITY.

HUMAN DIGNITY MEANS RESPECT FOR THE LIFE AND RIGHTS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL AND, AS LONG AS CONSCRIPTION UPHOLDS THE UNJUST NATURE OF OUR SOCIETY, WE CALL FOR ALTERNATIVES TO CONSCRIPTION. CONSCRIPTION INTO THE SADF HAS EXACERBATED CIVIL WAR AND WE BELIEVE THAT A TRUE SERVICE TO THE NATION WOULD BE TO WORK TOWARD A JUST AND UNITED SOUTH AFRICA. IT IS OUR CHRISTIAN BELIEF THAT COMPELS US TO TAKE THIS STAND AGAINST CON_ SCRIPTION AND TO REJECT THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION.

24 AUGUST 1988



SOUTH AFRICAN UNION OF JEWISH STUDENTS

WITS

התאחדות הסטודנטים היהודים דרום אפריקה

c/o SRC Student Union Building
University of the Witwatersrand
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Johannesburg 2000
Tel. (011) 716-3062

National Office
P.O. Box 18
Johannesburg 2000
Tel. (011) 29-0417
Telex 4-85024 SA

STATEMENT

AT THE RECENT SAUJS NATIONAL SEMINAR, A RESOLUTION WAS TABLED CALLING FOR ALTERNATIVE NATIONAL SERVICE IN SOUTH AFRICA. IN THIS WAY, YOUNG CONSCRIPTS WOULD BE ABLE TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE INSTEAD OF A GOVERNMENT BENT ON UPHOLDING APARTHEID. JEWISH CONSCRIPTS COULD ALSO SERVE THOSE IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY WHO ARE IN NEED.

ECC WAS AN ORGANISATION REPRESENTING CONSCRIPTS AND TRYING TO SECURE ALTERNATIVE SERVICE FROM THE SADF. THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOW SEEN FIT TO BAN THE ECC, AN ORGANISATION WHICH WAS GAINING MUCH SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY.

THE GOVERNMENT CAN BAN THE ORGANISATION, BUT THE ISSUE WILL NEVER DIE.

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POSSIBLE TERMS THE GOVERNMENT'S LATEST ENCROACHMENT
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WITH ECC EFFECTIVELY SILENCED, YET ANOTHER STEP
HAS BEEN TAKEN TOWARDS THE TOTAL ALIENATION OF
ALL THINKING SOUTH AFRICANS FROM THE MINORITY
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24 AUGUST 1988

STATEMENT ON BANNING OF ECC : ANGLICAN SOCIETY

WE CONTINUE TO BE DISMAYED BY THIS GOVERNMENT'S
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24 AUGUST 1988

ECC BANNING: Student's Community Action Group

The Student Community Action Group condemns in the strongest terms the recent banning of the ECC. We have through the course of this year worked with ECC in number of campaigns in the community and are appalled that an organization working for peaceful S.A. through constructive alternatives has been silenced. It is clear that the banning of the ECC cannot be seen in isolation from the bannings of the 17 Democratic organizations in February this year. These actions perpetrated by the apartheid government are in direct contradiction to the aspirations of the majority of people fighting for alternatives in order to achieve a non-racial democratic S.A.

Scag resolves to continue support and work for the call for alternative service so that all peace loving S.Africans can look forward to a free South Africa.

ERC Statement

ERC believes that the S.A.D.F is playing a clearly political role in our Country and is preventing the development of non-racialism and democracy. In this light the need for political and moral objection to serving in the S.A.D.F is fundamental. We therefore see the existence of an organisation like the ECC as an absolute necessity.

In addition to its political role, the S.A.D.F has massive ramifications for our economy. The abnormally high defence budget, ensures that the S.A.D.F is utilising much of our country's resources. This is an additional reason for all South Africans to question the role of the S.A.D.F.

We in the Economic Research Committee believe that all South Africans have the right to follow their conscience and to participate in determining our common future.

We therefore condemn the restrictions on the ECC with a sense of outrage. Restrictions will not solve the problem of conscription. The South African government must address the legitimate grievances of our people.

V I V A the spirit of the ECC

STATEMENT ON BANNING OF ECC: WITS STUDENT

WITS STUDENT CONDEMNS THE BANNING OF THE END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN. SINCE ITS FORMATION IN 1983, THE ECC HAS PLAYED A PATRIOTIC ROLE REPRESENTING THE REAL CONCERNS OF MANY CONSCRIPTS BY CALLING FOR AN END TO COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE.

THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS ON OUR CAMPUSES ARE LEAVING SOUTH AFRICA EACH YEAR BECAUSE THEY REFUSE TO SERVE IN THE SADF. THEY REFUSE TO SERVE IN THE SADF BECAUSE IT IS NOT AN ARMY DEFENDING ALL SOUTH AFRICANS, BUT AN ARMY DEFENDING APARTHEID - ON OUR BORDERS AND IN THE TOWNSHIPS.

THE ONLY SOLUTION TO SOUTH AFRICA'S PROBLEMS LIES IN THE ABANDONMENT OF THE BELIEF IN APARTHEID AND ITS INSTITUTIONS. BANNING THE ECC SHOWS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS MOVING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION.

25 AUGUST 1988

STATEMENT ON BANNING OF ECC : WITS WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

ECC IS AN ORGANISATION WHICH WORKS FOR:

- * ALTERNATIVE SERVICE
- * DE-MILITARISATION IN OUR SOCIETY
- * THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE WHETHER OR NOT TO SERVE
IN A MILITARY WHICH PROPS UP THE UNJUST SYSTEM
OF APARTHEID
- * AN END TO THE CIVIL WAR IN OUR COUNTRY

ECC BELIEVES THAT WHITE CONSCRIPTS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO FACE
THEIR BLACK CLASS MATES OVER THE BARREL OF A GUN.

WITS WOMEN'S MOVEMENT THEREFORE STRONGLY CONDEMNS THE
RECENT RESTRICTING OF THE ECC.

FURTHERMORE WE SALUTE THE BRAVE STAND RECENTLY MADE BY
THE 143 MEN WHO OPENLY STATED THAT THEY REFUSED TO SERVE
IN THE SADF ON THE BASIS OF MORAL AND POLITICAL CONVICTIONS.

25 AUGUST 1988

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UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

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The introduction of a community service alternative to military service surely deserves careful consideration. This was one of the proposals advocated by the End Conscription Campaign, whose members, a number of whom have served in the South African Defence Force, put their views in a reasoned, dispassionate and sincere way which deserves an equally reasoned response. Instead their activities have been prohibited. This is not a productive way of addressing the concerns of millions of South Africans. I call on the Government to lift the restrictions on the End Conscription Campaign, and to renew its discussions with its representatives in an attempt to resolve a matter of such fundamental importance to the country.



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ERC Statement

ERC believes that the S.A.D.F is playing a clearly political role in our Country and is preventing the development of non-racialism and democracy. In this light the need for political and moral objection to serving in the S.A.D.F is fundamental. We therefore see the existence of an organisation like the ECC as an absolute necessity.

In addition to its political role, the S.A.D.F has massive ramifications for our economy. The abnormally high defence budget, ensures that the S.A.D.F is utilising much of our country's resources. This is an additional reason for all South Africans to question the role of the S.A.D.F.

We in the Economic Research Committee believe that all South Africans have the right to follow their conscience and to participate in determining our common future.

We therefore condemn the restrictions on the ECC with a sense of outrage. Restrictions will not solve the problem of conscription. The South African government must address the legitimate grievances of our people.

V I V A the spirit of the ECC

STATEMENT ON BANNING OF ECC: WITS STUDENT

WITS STUDENT CONDEMNS THE BANNING OF THE END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN. SINCE ITS FORMATION IN 1983, THE ECC HAS PLAYED A PATRIOTIC ROLE REPRESENTING THE REAL CONCERNS OF MANY CONSCRIPTS BY CALLING FOR AN END TO COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE.

THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS ON OUR CAMPUSES ARE LEAVING SOUTH AFRICA EACH YEAR BECAUSE THEY REFUSE TO SERVE IN THE SADF. THEY REFUST TO SERVE IN THE SADF BECAUSE IT IS NOT ANY ARMY DEFENDING ALL SOUTH AFRICANS, BUT AN ARMY DEFENDING APARTHEID - ON OUR BORDERS AND IN THE TOWNSHIPS.

THE ONLY SOLUTION TO SOUTH AFRICA'S PROBLEMS LIES IN THE ABANDONMENT OF THE BELIEF IN APARTHEID AND ITS INSTITUTIONS. BANNING THE ECC SHOWS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS MOVING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION.

25 AUGUST 1988

STATEMENT ON BANNING OF ECC : WITS WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

ECC IS AN ORGANISATION WHICH WORKS FOR:

- * ALTERNATIVE SERVICE
- * DE-MILITARISATION IN OUR SOCIETY
- * THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE WHETHER OR NOT TO SERVE
IN A MILITARY WHICH PROPS UP THE UNJUST SYSTEM
OF APARTHEID
- * AN END TO THE CIVIL WAR IN OUR COUNTRY

ECC BELIEVES THAT WHITE CONSCRIPTS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO FACE
THEIR BLACK CLASS MATES OVER THE BARREL OF A GUN.

WITS WOMEN'S MOVEMENT THEREFORE STRONGLY CONDEMNS THE
RECENT RESTRICTING OF THE ECC.

FURTHERMORE WE SALUTE THE BRAVE STAND RECENTLY MADE BY
THE 143 MEN WHO OPENLY STATED THAT THEY REFUSED TO SERVE
IN THE SADF ON THE BASIS OF MORAL AND POLITICAL CONVICTIONS.

25 AUGUST 1988



2 43 REFUSE fight for APARTHEID

nd Conscription Campaign anned

On the morning of 22 August 1988, the South African Government issued a restriction order against the End Conscription Campaign. Under the terms of the Emergency Regulations, this means that the ECC is not allowed to engage in any political activity - it cannot publish or be quoted, it cannot hold public meetings, no-one may speak on its behalf. Similar restrictions were earlier imposed on the United Democratic Front (UDF) and 17 other anti-apartheid organisations.

The move follows the public declaration, on August 3, by 143 young white men, that they would not serve in the South African Defence force. Coming just a week after David Bruce was sentenced, their action was the biggest challenge yet to conscription in South Africa. Although the ECC has not itself endorsed the declaration of the 143, several activists are among the signatories, including some who have been detained for ECC activities and some who have held posts in the organisation.

At simultaneous meetings in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Grahamstown and Durban, on the second day of the mid-year military call-up, the 143 young white men announced their refusal to serve in an army which upholds the racist regime.

The 143 include students, doctors, lawyers, engineers, journalists, artists, musicians, clergy and teachers. Several have participated in WRI activities. Some are pacifists, rejecting all conscription on religious or moral grounds; others more specifically refuse to fight in the SADF.

The silencing of the ECC was not unexpected: In response to the August 3 declaration, Defence Minister General Magnus Malan had denounced the Campaign as being "in the vanguard of those forces that are intent on wrecking the present dispensation and its renewal. Any person or organisation disrupting and undermining the responsibility entrusted to the SADF is acting in conflict with the constitution. No self-respecting state can tolerate such subversive action." He made the further remarkable claim that, "the SADF is representative of the full spectrum of South African society."

An ECC statement called Malan's response a "bitter and emotive attack" that was "unwarranted and not very constructive in resolving the dilemmas of those conscripted." For the ECC, it had already been illegal to campaign directly against conscription. It now seems likely that the ECC's work against conscription will be carried on by student groups and within the churches.

Adriaan Vlok, the Minister of Law and Order, justified the restriction order on the grounds that the ECC had close links with the UDF, which he described as "an ANC tool for a revolutionary onslaught

was most positive in regard to those refusing to do national service." He also claimed that the ECC assists "service dodgers" to obtain residence permits in Britain, an allegation that COSAWR - the main organisation working with exiled South African war resisters - denies.

The restriction order is evidence that the South African government sees the ECC as an effective part of the opposition. The declaration by the 143 made it clear that the exemplary sentence imposed on David Bruce has not had the desired intimidatory effect. But to have to jail large numbers of highly-skilled middle-class whites would be both embarrassing and inconvenient for the government. To the 143 who publicly declared their objection must be added many thousands of conscripts who quietly do not respond to their call-ups. The ECC estimates that the army is actively tracing up to 2400 "missing" soldiers each month. There are also an estimated 35,000 white South African men who have emigrated in order to avoid conscription.

At present white South African men have to complete an initial two-year period of continuous service, followed by military camps for an additional two years spread over 12 years. At any time there are about 64,000 conscripts in the SADF. Conscription applies to all white men: those with disabilities are put into sections where their skills can be used, and religious objectors are sometimes allowed to do alternative community service. There is however no provision for those who object on moral or political grounds.

Many of the 143 are due for their first call-up, and potentially face the same six-year sentence as David Bruce. Others, who have already served time in the army mentioned their experiences in Namibia and Angola.

Etienne Marais, who served in Namibia from 1981 to 1982 described how the "intimidation and degradation" carried out by the SADF included soldiers stealing beer, exposing themselves to Ovambo women, tearing down village fences and shooting rifle grenades into villages without checking to see if people had been evacuated. He said he had also witnessed the shooting of a 13-year-old Namibian girl in cold blood, and the eight-hour torture of a 16-year-old Angolan girl.

Other objectors cited their experiences in the South African townships; Stephen Louw, who had been stationed in the townships around Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage described "the total disrespect with which the SADF treated people in the townships." He said that the SADF commonly sjambokked small boys, and that soldiers were ordered to "drop people at the other side of the township and deal with them."

Protests to:
Adriaan Vlok, Minister of Law and Order,
Civitas Building, Pretoria, South Africa.
Telex 3-21353.

Support messages to:



Bruce Sentenced To Six Years

On July 25, 25-year-old David Bruce became the second South African CO to be imprisoned this year for refusing to serve in the South African Defence Force (SADF). He received the maximum sentence of six years imprisonment. Speaking in court before being sentenced he said, "It is my understanding that the state does not protect people, and is seen by many black people as an enemy and an active oppressor of black people".

A total of about 12 COs have been imprisoned in South Africa, David Bruce being the second to have been convicted under the 1984 Defence Act. Earlier this year, Ivan Toms was jailed for 630 days for refusing to attend an army camp. Bruce's longer sentence is because he has refused to serve any of a total of four years' in the army. They both received sentences of 50 percent longer than they were due to serve in the army.

Bruce is not a pacifist. His objection is specifically to service in the SADF, which he says "is not a neutral peacekeeping

Bruce sees clear parallels between the South African situation and the persecution of Jews in Nazi Germany - his mother came to South Africa in 1939 as a Jewish refugee, and 12 members of his family were killed in the Holocaust. "Being aware of how European Jews - and in fact the entire people of Eastern Europe - suffered during the period of the Holocaust, I feel I have no choice but to set myself against those who choose the path of increasing racial intolerance and racial hatred."

Asked during his trial why he had not left the country like so many other South African COs, Bruce explained that he was born in South Africa and was committed to the country and its future. "Leaving the country would be running away from racism. I'm not prepared to become another refugee from racism I would prefer to stay here and that is why I face the consequences."

Letters of support for David Bruce can be sent to:

STUDENTS PROTEST AGAINST ECC BAN

On August 23, about 1000 students met at a rally at the University of Cape Town to protest at the restrictions placed on the ECC.

Cape Town chair of the ECC, Dr Crispian Oliver, said that the banning would not mean an end to the movement against conscription. "They are unable to ban the campaign to end conscription because we are not simply talking about an organisation, we are talking about a movement," he said. Eight students were applauded as they came up to the podium to announce that they would not serve in the army.

Students later marched round the campus chanting and holding posters with the words "Unban ECC" and "Let conscripts speak".

WEEKLY MAIL BANNED

The August 5 issue of the Johannesburg "Weekly Mail" was banned, partly for reporting an incident in which municipal police opening fire on Soweto school pupils, killing one and injuring two others, and partly for "undermining the system of conscription" by its full coverage of the declaration of the 143 and its publication of a full-page advertisement placed by War Resisters' International. The advert supported "all those who, for reasons of conscience, choose not to serve in the South African Defence Force", and called for the government to recognise COs and permit non-governmental alternative service.

PRISON ASSAULT ON IVAN TOMS

Ivan Toms - a gay conscientious objector serving a 21-month sentence in Pollsmoor Prison - has been sexually assaulted. Noting the assault, the Justice and Reconciliation Division of the South African Council of Churches has called on the South African prison authorities to classify imprisoned COs as security prisoners "since their refusal to comply with the law is not criminally motivated".

The Council of Churches supports the right to conscientious objection and in particular commends and supports the courageous step that Ivan Toms and David

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FROM: COSATU

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INFO OFFICER FRANK MEINTJIES

TO: PRESS, MEDIA

DATE: 23 SEPT. 1988

RE: BANNING OF END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

THE BANNING OF THE END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN IS NOT A REFLECTION OF GOVERNMENT STRENGTH, IT IS SIGN OF WEAKNESS AND AT A CERTAIN LEVEL EVEN DEFEAT.

A GOVERNMENT IS IN A SERIOUS CRISIS WHEN IT FEELS GRAVELY THREATENED BY A SMALLISH CAMPAIGN MOVEMENT QUESTIONING AN ASPECT OF ITS POLICY SUCH AS MILITARISATION. THE BANNING IS AN INDICATION THAT, DESPITE THE POWERFUL PROPAGANDA INSTRUMENTS AT ITS DISPOSAL, IT IS NOT ABLE TO STEM THE GROWING DISQUIET AMONG WHITES ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE DEFENCE FORCE IN THE SOUTHERN AFRICA AND IN THE TOWNSHIPS.

IN EUROPE, THERE SCORES OF ORGANISATIONS LARGER IN SIZE AND INFLUENCE THAN THE ECC THAT ARE PART OF THE MOVEMENT AGAINST MILITARISATION. THEY LEAD A PERFECTLY LEGITIMATE EXISTENCE AND SOME, SUCH AS THE GREENS OF WEST GERMANY, ARE PART OF PARLIAMENTARY STRUCTURES.

BUT SO FRAGILE IS THE CONTROL OF THE NATIONAL PARTY IN SOUTH AFRICA, THAT IT CANNOT ALLOW THE WHITE COMMUNITY TO EXERCISE THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHT TO QUESTION AND CRITICISE. THE GOVERNMENT - PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF THE ALLEGED EXTERNAL THREAT - BELIVES IT CAN RULE EASIER IF THE WHITE ELECTORATE IS KEPT IGNORANT WHILE THE BLACK MAJORITY IS OPPRESSED.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO ACKNOWLEDGE IS THAT ORGANISATIONS WHICH IDENTIFY WITH THE PERCEPTIONS OF THE BROADER SOUTH AFRICAN MAJORITY, ARE HELPING TO BREAK DOWN POLARISATION.

THE ECC MAY BE EFFECTIVELY BANNED, BUT THE MANY YOUNG WHITES WHO WANT TO HELP BUILD A DEMOCRATIC POST-APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA, WILL CONTINUE TO CALL FOR AN END TO COMPULSARY CONSCRIPTION. IN RECENT WEEKS WE HAVE SEEN AN UNPRECEDENTED NUMBER OF WHITES SPEAKING OUT AGAINST THE CHOICE OF 'BORDER' OR TOWNSHIP DUTY AND A MEANINGLESS PRISON SERVICE.

ORGANISATIONS IN THE MASS DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT HAVE HAILED DAVID BRUCE AND THE 143 WHO FOLLOWED THE DICTATES OF THE CONSCIENCES AND 'REFUSED TO FIGHT APARTHEID'. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT THEIR STAND WAS MADE INDEPENDANT OF THE ECC. IT IS LIKELY THAT MORE WHITE YOUTH WILL TAKE A SIMILAR STAND DESPITE THE EFFECTIVE BANNING OF ECC.

ENDS.



UNIVERSITY OF NATAL

The Durban Students' Representative Council
Phone 812203

NUSAS-SRC Statement

The Banning of the End Conscription Campaign

The NUSAS-SRC is deplored by the banning of the End Conscription Campaign. Campus ECC has for the last three years been actively raising the issue of conscription on the UND campus. The conscription of white males into the SADF to defend apartheid is an issue of relevance to all South Africans. The growing support that the ECC has been earning is obviously a major threat to the illegitimate Government. The banning order is a knee-jerk response which will have disastrous consequences on the morale of young men, thousands of whom are already leaving the country to avoid military service. The ECC can be banned but the reluctance of young men to serve in the SADF can never be banned.

There is no doubt whatsoever that the End Conscription Campaign has enormous support amongst South Africa's people, both black and white. This has now been confirmed by the banning. There would be no point or need to ban an organisation that was only a small band of extremists intent on the overthrow of the state, as the Government has consistently tried to label the ECC since its inception. Increasing numbers of whites have looked to the End Conscription Campaign to represent their fears and concerns about the role that the military plays in the maintenance of Apartheid. In particular, reluctant conscripts have looked to the ECC to campaign for changes in the law relating to conscription so that there would be an opportunity for them to serve South Africa in a way that they see as constructive. The black community has looked to the ECC as a sign of hope in that they have seen whites who have been committed to working actively for an end to apartheid. This has often involved sacrifice and suffering, as the detention of numerous ECC members and the attacks on homes of yet others have shown.

The stand taken by the 143 conscripts a few weeks ago to never serve in the SADF had no direct connection to the ECC. It does, however, reflect a tide of discontent about the role that the military plays, and it was this discontent that the ECC was harnessing constructively in its recent campaign for alternative forms of national service. It is ironic that in this campaign the ECC met with the SADF just a few months ago in order to make proposals as to how the legislation can be changed to accommodate people who for genuine and sincere religious, moral or political reasons cannot serve in the SADF. Not only were the ECC's sound and reasonable proposals contemptuously dismissed by

The Students' Representative Council is affiliated to the National Union of South African Students

General Malan, but now the End Conscription Campaign has been banned for its efforts to make South Africa a better place for all its citizens. This is not only deplorable but quite frightening. It appears that the Nationalist Government is committed to violence and confrontation before anything else. The banning of the ECC will do nothing but worsen the South African crisis as even more people will have no organisational home by which to make their voices heard.

The NUSAS-SRC puts its full support behind the numerous calls that have been made for alternative national service. We believe that such service should be of equal duration to military service, and not the punitive one-and-a-half times which is currently in force. Furthermore, such service should be available to conscientious objectors who base their objections on religious, moral or political grounds, and not only universal religious pacifism which is currently recognised. Finally, this service should be available in non-governmental agencies which serve the interests of all South Africans, black and white. Ideally, we argue, there should not be conscription at all until there is a just, democratic and non-racial order in South Africa. Notwithstanding this, we have no hope of the present Government abolishing conscription as they rely on it too much for the entrenchment of their own power. However, the very least that they can be expected to do is to make provision for alternative service of the sort that we have demanded.

I reiterate our condemnation of the banning of the End Conscription Campaign as senseless and destructive, and our call for appropriate alternative national service.

ANGUS STEWART
PRESIDENT - NUSAS-SRC, UND
23 AUGUST 1988

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Durban Democratic Association
Media Release 23 August 1988

The End Conscription Campaign has proven itself to be the most creative and responsible organisation ever to have come out of the white community. In representing the legitimate grievances of thousands of conscripts who want the right to choose alternatives to military service, the ECC has grown rapidly in popularity and membership amongst a wide range of South Africans.

The courageous stand of 143 conscripts who refuse to do military service, the willingness of Ivan Toms and David Bruce to go to jail rather than act against their moral convictions, the hundreds of applications annually to the Board for Religious Objectors, the thousands of white South Africans living in Sydney, London and Harare (and the consequent negative effects of this 'brain drain' on the economy), the anxiety of families of troops in Namibia and Angola, demonstrate that the ECC is articulating a deep concern amongst conscripts. Their dilemma will not be solved by restricting the ECC; what they need is positive alternative national service.

In their June meeting with the SADF, the ECC presented conscripts' demands for alternative service which is available to all who in good conscience cannot do military service, which can be served in community and religious institutions, and which is of equal length to military service. They also demanded that conscripts be able to refuse to fight in Angola, Namibia and the townships.

The wholly inadequate response from the SADF was an all out smear campaign which obscures the genuine basis of the ECC's position, threats and blusterings from government ministers, and this final step of restricting the organisation.

The problem has not gone away.

The Durban Democratic Association commends the hard work done by the ECC over the last four years. We stand in solidarity with them and with all conscripts calling for the right to choose.

We call on the public to stop this government eroding our democratic right to freedom of association and freedom of speech. It cannot be said that the ECC in any way promoted violence, or engaged in activities which endangered the public; yet, like many community and worker organisations it has been effectively banned. We must all act to defend our right to legitimate opposition before it is too late.

P O Box 3776

PRETORIA

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A27.6

11th October 1988

Mr A J Vlok
Minister of Law and Order
PRETORIA

Dear Sir

On Wednesday, 5th October 1988, a lunchtime meeting of which I was the chairman, was held by Lawyers for Human Rights in the UNISA Building at the corner of Van der Walt and Skinner Streets, Pretoria. The meeting was concerned with militarization, and the ways in which this adversely affects human rights in our society. As you will know the question of human rights is under consideration by a special commission appointed by the government, and is a matter of serious concern to all responsible people in South Africa today.

At 2:10 p.m., as the last of those present at the meeting were leaving the hall, two people who had been waiting at the door approached Mr Alistair Teeling-Smith, who had been one of the speakers, and identified themselves as policemen. They then served on him a restriction order in terms of regulation 8(1) of the Emergency Regulations. The letter was signed by yourself, and was dated 19 August, 1988.

The meeting was openly advertised, and was a lawful one. In case it may be relevant, Mr Teeling-Smith spoke in his personal capacity. What he said was conciliatory in its tone, positive in the contribution it made to the meeting, and balanced in its content.

If what Mr Teeling-Smith said at the meeting is at all typical of his actions and his attitudes (and I have no reason to think otherwise) then I cannot see that the restriction order can be justified in any way. And if this is the sort of person against whom banning orders are issued, then I must say that not only is the system seriously at fault, but the judgment of those who advise you on these matters must be called into question. I have little doubt that your proper course is to withdraw the order.


Furthermore, it seemed to me that service of the notice at that particular time and place was intended to intimidate and harass those present. I wish to record that I take exception to this, and so do many of the people who were present.

Members of your government have often said that it is your wish to uphold the standards of the Free World, and this is the reason and the justification for the opposition to the Communist system which we share. I do not therefore imagine that the action in serving the notice at the time and place in question had your sanction. It was nevertheless carried out by people in the employ of your Department, and I shall be grateful if you will instruct those who have control of such matters to avoid the repetition of anything similar in the future.

I would welcome a discussion with you on these, and related subjects, at any mutually convenient time, and in the meantime look forward to receiving your assurances in regard to the above matters.

As the subject matter of this letter is of concern to a wider circle of people, I think it fair to tell you that I have communicated its contents to other people and organizations.

Yours faithfully


O J PRICE
CHAIRMAN, PRETORIA BRANCH,
LAWYERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

REGSLUI VIR MENSEREGTE
LAWYERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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A27.6

Tel (012) ~~346-1070~~ 342-2186

P O Box 3776
Pretoria
0001

Dear Alistair

I do apologise for the photocopied letterhead - have just started running out and the printer is not performing!.

Thank you so much again for your talk the other day, and commiseration with the aftermath! I am sure now that it was in fact issued on 19 August, and they just waited for an opportune moment to serve same. I enclose a letter John Price wrote to Adriaan Vlok, and I really hope that we will get some reaction to it.

My very best regards

Gladia
19.10.88

A27.6 27.9

**INTERNATIONAL
FELLOWSHIP OF
RECONCILIATION**

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20 St Andrews Street
4001 Durban
P.O. Box 2861 Durban
4000 South Africa

Tel: 031-3015663
Fax: 031-3042823
(att: IFOR)
Telex: 621403 - SA
(att: IFOR)

October 19, 1988

Martin Macpherson
Quaker United Nations Office
Quaker House
Avenue du Mervelet 13
1209 Geneva
Switzerland

Dear Martin

Angus Morton passed on to me your letter to Ambassador Sheerar (August 25, 1988) and your letter regarding adoption of 1988/4 regarding, inter-alia, the banning of ECC. I have sent copies of both documents to the ECC head office in Johannesburg. For your information, their address is: P.O. Box 537, 2100 Kengray, Johannesburg. The National Secretary is Alistair Teeling-Smith.

Thank you for your good work in this respect. It is very encouraging for us to feel the support which your work in general, and this resolution in particular, conveys to us.

Government and military officials still make negative references to ECC in public speeches, and we are still regularly criticised by various right-wing publications, notably right-wing Christian publications. In view of this, I have taken the liberty of giving copies of the resolution to sympathetic journalists on daily and weekly newspapers. It is highly likely that at least some newspapers will carry the story. Publication of such stories will show that ECC is well respected internationally, and will thus help counter the propaganda mounted against us.

Formally, ECC can still exist, but is restricted to administration work only i.e. it can do no campaign work whatsoever. For this reason, the various ECC branches are in the process of closing down their activities leaving only an administrative shell behind. Activists are then moving into other organisations where conscription related issues can still be taken up. Our structures are severely restricted (in fact, virtually banned), but the issue remains alive, and our motivation in taking it up remains high, so anti-conscription work is not going to disappear from the scene!

There are three organisations which remain that have conscription as their central task. They are: Conscientious Objector Support Groups, the Conscription Advice Service, and the Churches Alternative National Service Program. I am particularly active in the first two. The latter organisation is at an early stage of development, and is campaigning for the broadening of conscientious objection and alternative service. Churches and other organisations such as the Black Sash and the National Union of South African Students continue to deal with the political aspect of conscription and the role of the SAD.

Conscientious objection as such is now more vital than ever, because each objector becomes a rallying point for broader campaign work related to the role of the SADF, the right of conscientious objection, and the nature of alternative service. Enclosed are pamphlets concerning three current objectors. Ivan Toms is serving 21 months in prison, David Bruce 6 years, and Charles Bester will be tried on November 7th. They are the leading edge of a new wave of objection which is having a marked conscientising effect in the white community but also in the broader community, and is very inspiring.

Thanks again for your hard work and support.

In peace

Richard Steele

cc: Alistair Teeling-Smith

A27.6 27.9

22/3/88



Diakonia
1st Floor Ecumenical Centre
20 St. Andrew's Street · Durban 4001
PO Box 1879 · Durban 4000
South Africa
Telephone: (031) 305 6001/2/3/4/5
Telex: 6-21403 S.A.
Fax: (031) 304 2823

PRESS CONFERENCE CONCERNING ALTERNATIVE NATIONAL SERVICE

I speak on behalf of Diakonia which has actively supported campaigns for alternative national service since 1979. Our motive for supporting such campaigns is that we are aware that there are many people who for reasons of conscience are unwilling to serve in the South African Defence Force. We realise that these reasons of conscience can be based on religious, moral, ethical, humanitarian or political grounds.

While we welcome the fact that the government recognised that there are problems in conscience when they established the Board for Religious Objection, ^{in 1983} we felt that that legislation didn't go far enough. It did not make any allowance for those people whose conscience prevents them from serving in the defence force for moral, ethical, humanitarian or political reasons.

South Africa prides itself on being a Christian country. The preamble to our constitution begins with these words: "In humble submission to Almighty God." The first of the "national goals" listed in this preamble is "to uphold Christian and civilized standards". Our member churches believe that it is essential to Christianity, and indeed a mark of civilization, to respect conscience. These member churches teach that people are obliged to listen to their consciences not only if these are informed by religious considerations but also if they are informed by moral, ethical, humanitarian or political considerations. In a country which calls itself Christian one would expect the government to respect conscience.

...../This

An organisation of the
African Methodist
Episcopal, African
Presbyterian, Anglican,
Evangelical Lutheran,
Methodist, Presbyterian,
Roman Catholic
(Archdiocese of Durban
Diocese of Manamthill)
United Congregational
Churches in the greater
Durban area and of the
Belydenking (Natal
Region).
PATRONS
Rev John Borman
Bishop Eros Dlamini
Rev Ezrome Dlamini
Archbishop Denis Hurter
Rev Sam Khumalo
Rev Amos Malingoni
Bishop Paul Mngoma
Bishop Michael Ntshali
Rev Nimrod Sikakane

This is why our Chairperson, Bishop Philip Russell, our founder, Archbishop Denis Hurley, and the Chairperson of the Durban and District Council of Churches, Rev R. Marshall, had this to say about the "143" who recently declared their refusal to serve in the SADF. I'd like to quote their statement in full:

"As church leaders, we are moved to support the courageous stand of 143 conscripts who have chosen to obey the call of their consciences. In publicly stating their refusal to serve in the South African Defence Force, they risk imprisonment for up to six years. It is a powerful witness to the strengths of their moral convictions that they are prepared to suffer rather than act in contradiction to their beliefs.

We also support their reasons for taking this stand. Some have served in the SADF and have personally witnessed the suffering caused by the presence of troops in Angola, Namibia and our own townships. Others have lost friends and family in a war that they do not believe in. All have stated that they cannot support an army that upholds an unjust system of racial discrimination and denial of human rights.

We join them in their call for constructive alternative service for all who in conscience cannot serve in the army, whether motivated by religious, political or moral reasons. The government must recognise the sincerity of those who are willing to serve the people of their country, but who do not believe that they can do this in the SADF. Furthermore, the government should make it possible for such people to do alternative service in church and community organisations and institutions, rather than only in government departments; and the duration of this service should not be more than that of military service".

Our Executive Committee has also expressed its deep concern about the six-year sentence imposed on David Bruce and the harassment experienced in prison by Dr Ivan Toms. Convicted conscientious objectors like David Bruce and Ivan Toms should be regarded as political prisoners and be removed from prisons or sections of prisons where those convicted of criminal offences are held.

I would like to express once again our admiration for David Bruce, Ivan Toms and the "143". We regard them as true patriots and people of conscience. They could have chosen easier options but we believe that their decision

...../has

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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