

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

The Editor
Business Day
11 Diagonal Street
Johannesburg 2000.

13 July 1987

Dear Sir

The accelerating brain drain is of concern to many sectors in South Africa. The Business Day (9/0787) reports the Wits University Accountancy Department head, Margo Steele, expressing concern that the majority of CA graduates emigrating had left only after receiving their national service call-up papers..

The End Conscription Campaign has long made public that the system of compulsory military service forces young white males into a situation of very limited choices. The present Defence legislation only makes provisions for those classified by the Board for Religious Objectors as universal pacifists, to do alternative forms of national service. We believe that young men genuinely want to serve their country by doing some form of national service but it is clear that as the conflict in this country intensifies, so will the number increase of those who are faced with the moral dilemma of whether or not to participate in the SADF. We believe that with the limited options available to conscripts that many are forced to choose exile.

This dilemma of whether or not to participate in the SADF quite clearly plays a significant role in decisions of emigration. In January 1985, The Minister of Defence, released figures of those who had failed to report for service - approximately 7 000. Since then, no further figures have been released, but we can assume that there has been an increase in that figure, as more and more conscripts are faced with the reality of the role of the army both in the townships and on our borders.

ECC reiterates its call for all conscripts to be given the right to do alternative

service in non-governmental organisations for a period of equal duration,
and to have the right not to serve outside South Africa's borders or in the
black townships.

Yours Sincerely,

A Kirsten .

Adèle Kirsten (ECC National Secretary)

End Conscription Campaign

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Johannesburg
2000
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Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

ECC LEADER TO ADDRESS WAR RESISTERS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN IRELAND

End Conscription Campaign National Secretary, Adele Kirsten, left for Ireland today to attend an international women's conference on feminism and non-violence.

The conference, organised by the War Resisters international, will take place near Dublin from July 26 to August 1. Three South African women - Kirsten, Anita Kromberg of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and a representative of the Federation of Transvaal Women - will be among the 100 delegates from five continents.

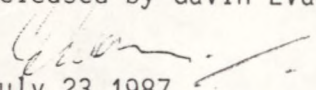
The aim of the gathering will be for women to share their experiences and views of violence against women, and to discuss non-violent methods of opposing militarism and war. The role of feminism in different countries and the repression of women activists will also be discussed.

Kirsten, 30, has a five year background in women's organisation and non-violent forms of opposition to apartheid. In October last year she was one of 15 ECC women who opted for a five day jail sentence rather than pay a R20 fine for participating in a protest action outside the Witwatersrand Command military base.

She will address the conference on the role played by women in opposing conscription and militarism in South Africa, and on the repression faced by women in doing this. She will also call for support for ECC Port Elizabeth leader, Janet Cherry, who is now in her 12 month of Emergency detention, and for former ECC Grahamstown publicity secretary, Sue Lund, who is in her ninth month of Emergency detention.

After the conference Kirsten will spend two weeks meeting with various British and European peace and anti-apartheid groups.

Released by Gavin Evans (ECC publicity secretary, Johannesburg)


July 23 1987

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN PRESS RELEASE

ECC Takes Legal Action Against SABC

The End Conscription Campaign's attorneys have sent a "lawyer's letter" to the SABC demanding that they refrain from re-broadcasting a section of a controversial programme on the ANC which was defamatory of the ECC, its leaders and its members.

The letter states that should the SABC decide to re-broadcast the programme, ECC will apply to the Supreme Court for an urgent interdict. Failure to inform ECC of an intention to repeat the programme will result in a claim for aggravated damages.

The programme, a "Network" documentary on the ANC, was broadcast on July 21. Mr Christo Kritzinger, executive director of the SABC's news and public affairs division, was quoted in the Sunday Times (26/7) as saying; "We will very likely screen the programme again soon".

ECC regards the entire programme as a crude attempt to mobilise white opinion against the ANC, the Dakar visitors and others within the white community opposing apartheid. Included in the narration of the programme are the following:

"At its (the ANC's) 1985 conference it called for mobilisation of the white community and the main aim it gives whites is to popularise the End Conscription Campaign

"... In its May edition Sechaba warns that 'revolutionary movements seldom achieve their objectives unless they convert the soldiers ... or weaken their spirit' and to this end, the ANC is intensifying its End Conscription Campaign".

Although the final quote from Sechaba ends with the words "... weaken their spirit", the narrator does not make it clear that the rest of the sentence, namely, "and to this end the ANC is intensifying its End Conscription Campaign" does not come from Sechaba. ECC's lawyers examined the May edition of Sechaba and it made no reference to the ECC, and certainly does not claim it as its own organisation.

The End Conscription Campaign is an independent organisation which operates democratically and autonomously, and is not under the control of any other organisation. It is controlled by its members and affiliates and "has a vast range of support within the South African community", the lawyer's letter states.

ECC believes this attack to be a smear to create an atmosphere in which the white public are softened up for further action against the ECC. It is consistent with a pattern of smear attempts from a wide range of right wing groups, government spokesmen and state functionaries over the past six months.

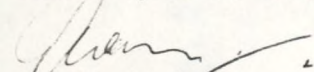
The letter states that ECC is a "lawful and open organisation with tens of thousands of supporters throughout the country".

"Its leadership is well known to its supporters and to the wider South African community. Thus, the smear against the ECC is a smear against its leaders. Accordingly both the ECC and its leaders have suffered damages as a result of the broadcasting of these allegations".

ECC and its leaders have reserved their rights to institute action for damages against the SABC, and are quantifying their damages at the moment.

Similar allegations to those made by the SABC were made by the Aida Parker Newsletter in March last year. ECC took the issue to the Media Council which found in ECC's favour on all points of dispute. In February last year Rapport newspaper agreed to allow ECC full right of reply to a series of articles linking the ECC with banned organisations, after Media Council mediation.

Issued by Gavin Evans (ECC publicity secretary, Johannesburg)



August 11 1987.

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
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PRESS RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL NAMIBIA DAY - 26 August 1987.

Today, August 26th, 1987, is International Namibia Day - a day which marks the beginning of the armed struggle in that country. It is a day when we are reminded that South Africa has occupied Namibia illegally for over twenty years. Two decades of war have produced over 100 000 refugees, 10 000 deaths, billions of wasted rands and a huge burden on the average family which supplies the troops for South Africa's occupying forces.

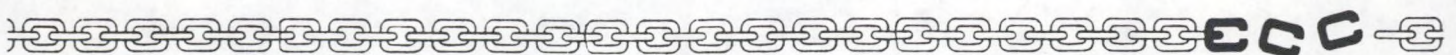
The war in Namibia seems to have been forgotten by many, perhaps because of the more immediate conflict occurring in the South African townships, yet the war there goes on. Little is reported in the South African press about the deaths and destruction, of the casualties, or of the hopelessness of the people for whom war has become a way of life and for whom survival is a daily uncertainty.

1988 will see the tenth anniversary of the passing of Resolution 435 and the people of Namibia seem further away from their liberation than they have ever been.

Nicholas Borain, ECC National Organiser, who served some time in Namibia during his 2 year national service in 1980, believes that the SADF has involved conscripts in this country's Vietnam. He said, " Conscripts into the SADF are still being forced to fight in an illegal war in a foreign country. Atrocities continue to be committed by the security forces operating within Namibia. The conscripts, their families and friends have to bear the emotional and practical consequences of this war."

The End Conscription Campaign believes that the conflicts, problems and dilemmas which confront soldiers when forced to make a choice about serving in the townships are as prominent when faced with this same choice about serving in Namibia.

ECC wants to express its support for the people of Namibia as we believe that the continuance of the war is not the solution to the crisis in Namibia. We call on



End Conscription Campaign

South Africa to withdraw from Namibia and to allow the Namibian people to determine their own future. In the interim we also demand that conscripts have the right to choose :

- * whether to serve in the townships
- * whether to serve in Namibia
- * to do non-military alternative forms of national service.

ECC, nationally has planned several public meetings, cultural and religious events as a focus on Namibia and in support of the Namibian people's right to determine their own future.

In Durban a 3 and a half week fast was held, which began on August 3 (Call-up day) and will end on International Namibia Day. Hundreds of people have fasted in support of the ECC's demands for troops to be withdrawn from the townships and for troops to be withdrawn from Namibia.

In Johannesburg, ECC is hosting a photographic exhibition, depicting a society under siege and titled NAMIBIA - 21 YEARS OF WAR. The opening of the exhibition is tonight at 7pm at the Black Sun in Berea - by invitation.

Issued by :

Adèle Kirsten (ECC National Secretary)

26 August 1987

Adèle Kirsten

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
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ECC INTERNATIONAL NAMIBIA DAY PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION - AUGUST 26

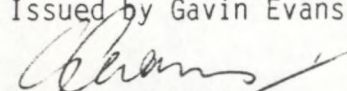
A photographic exhibition on "Namibia - 21 Years of War" will open at the Black Sun in Olivia Road, Berea at 7pm tomorrow.

The exhibition, displaying the photographs of leading South African and Namibian photographers, has been organised by the End Conscription Campaign to celebrate International Namibia Day. It depicts a society under siege since the war in Namibia began on August 26 1966. A South African conscript who did two years military service in Namibia will speak about his experiences there.

ECC believes the cause of the war in Namibia to be South Africa's illegal occupation of the territory. In 1978 South Africa agreed to the implementation of United Nations Resolution 435 which allowed for the complete independence of Namibia, yet today, nine years later, the SADF has shown no sign of withdrawing and the South African government is trying to impose an apartheid-style constitution on the Namibian people.

ECC supports the call for the immediate withdrawal of the SADF from Namibia, and the speedy implementation of UN Resolution 435. We believe this is the only way to end a war which has killed hundreds of South African conscripts and thousands of Namibian people.

Issued by Gavin Evans (ECC publicity secretary, Johannesburg)


August 25 1987.

End Conscription Campaign

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Tel: 337-6796
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PRESS RELEASE

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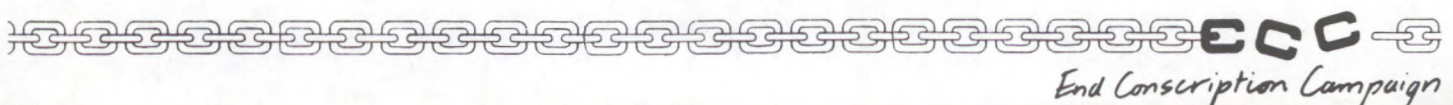
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Adèle Kirsten (ECC National Secretary)

26 August 1987

Adèle Kirsten

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AM-SAFRICA-CONSCRIPTS

:AM-SAFRICA-CONSCRIPTS (EXPECT PIX)

WHITES MARCH TO TELL SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY THEY WILL NOT SERVE

CAPE TOWN, Aug 5, Reuter - Two white South Africans marched to Cape Town's army headquarters today to declare that they and 21 friends would refuse to serve in their country's army.

The decision, which could cost some of them up to six years in jail, was taken to state their opposition to apartheid which they say the army defends.

Military service is compulsory in South Africa for white South African men.

Glenn Goosen, 25, and Mike Rautenbach, 28, delivered a declaration, signed by the 23 and made public at a news conference on Monday.

"We believe our country is best served if we refuse to fight in the South African Defence Force.

"We believe our country is experiencing civil war... The root cause of that war is apartheid. It is indefensible," the declaration said.

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AM-SAFRICA-CONSCRIPTS

AM-SAFRICA-CONSCRIPTS (EXPECT PIX)

WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS DECLARE THEY WILL NOT SERVE IN ARMY

CAPE TOWN, Aug 3, Reuter - A group of 22 young white South Africans today announced they would not serve in the country's army, a decision which could cost some of them up to six years in jail.

The men stood before the pulpit in a Cape Town Methodist Church -- directly opposite the city's main police station -- to identify themselves to the media and to state their opposition to apartheid, which they say the army defends.

"We believe our country is best served if we refuse to fight in the South African Defence Force (SADF)," said Glenn Goosen in a statement on behalf of the group.

"We believe this country is in civil war ... the root cause of the war is apartheid. It is indefensible."

He added: "The laws of this country make this a serious step ... some of us may choose to serve prison sentences, others may leave the country."

The men, ranging in age from 20 to 35, include Afrikaners from the Dutch-descended community which traditionally backs the ruling white National Party. About half the group has already served part of the four years' military service for which all white men are liable.

Conscientious objectors can do other work for the government if they can prove their objections are religious, otherwise they are subject to prison terms of up to one and a half times the period they are refusing to serve in the army.

The statement was signed by 23 men, one of whom could not attend the conference, Goosen said.

Conscripts do two years' training and can then be called back for short-term "camps", usually fighting black nationalist

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Conscripts do two years' training and can then be called back for short-term "camps", usually fighting black nationalist guerrillas in neighbouring Namibia (South West Africa), which South Africa rules in defiance of the United Nations.

Since 1984, conscripts have also been sent into South African townships to quell outbursts of political violence.

Student Mark Behr told the news conference he had served his initial two years, including training other conscripts.

He said he changed his views after he met a Namibian woman student at a university seminar. Behr said she told him that he must know the area she came from -- the war zone of Ovamboland. "Possibly you shot at me or one of my sisters," she told Behr.

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2000
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PRESS RELEASE

ECC condemns Security Police harassment of our members.

Judith Soal (21 years), regional worker for the Johannesburg branch of the End Conscription Campaign was briefly detained today. She was arrested at 2pm as she was leaving Khotso House where she had been doing some administrative work. She was released after an hour, but was subjected to physical abuse and personal insults while being held at John Vorster Square.

The ECC strongly condemns the arbitrary nature of this attack on our members and has sought legal advice on the matter, as well as making a statement to the DPSC.

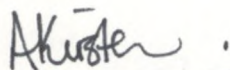
Judith was searched as she left Khotso House today and apparently on seeing some of the contents of her bag (ECC material), she was then arrested. Despite several requests, the Security Police refused to identify themselves, and would not tell her where they were taking her and would not give reasons for her arrest. She was handcuffed and led to a waiting car. While at John Vorster Square she was physically assaulted in several ways : she was pushed into a corner and someone shouted close into her face; she was slapped across her face; her hair was frequently pulled; she was grabbed by her handcuffs and they were twisted hard behind her back; personal abusive insults were shouted at her.

The room in which she was being held had a copy of Sechaba, an official publication of the ANC, on the table. One of the Security policemen asked if the publication belonged to her, and she said No. At this point there was some consultation between the Security policemen. Two of them then grabbed her handcuffed hands, forced her fists open and then forced her hands onto the publication. Two women who had originally searched her belongings, came into the room and signed a paper saying that they had seen the Sechaba in Judith's possession. Judith refused to sign or accept the receipt for the publication.

Ian Jeffrey, chairperson of the Johannesburg End Conscription Campaign branch, said, " Our organisation views this action of the Security Police against one of our members in a very serious light. Affidavits have been made to our legal representative and further action will be taken."

These attempts by the Security Police to incriminate and intimidate ECC members will not deter us from continueing to do our work in building a just and democratic future in South Africa.

Issued by :



Adele Kirsten (ECC National Secretary)

1 September 1987

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

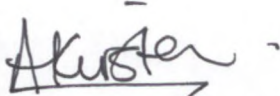
ECC Condemns the Government Crackdown on the Universities

The End Conscription Campaign (ECC) views with grave concern the set of stringent conditions universities would have to meet, as laid down by the National Education Minister, F.W. De Klerk. We see these regulations as an attempt to suppress freedom of speech and to curtail the activities of various student organisations, notably the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS) and other organisations such as Sanso and the ECC.

The ECC will support the efforts of NUSAS and other student organisations in their fight to continue to exist and in their work for a democratic alternative in South Africa. ECC, who enjoys the support of a large number of students and organisations on the campuses, regards these restrictions as a strategy on the part of the government to clamp down on all student activity which questions the escalating civil war conflict in our society, and works to build a non-racial, democratic and peaceful alternative.

We believe that this attempt on the part of the government to crush extra-parliamentary opposition will not succeed in the long term, and that it will not prevent the ongoing work for justice in South Africa. We believe that there will be sufficient protest and an outcry on the part of the public, the university administrations and the various student bodies, to prevent the government from enacting these conditions.

Issued by :
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Adele Kirsten (ECC National Secretary)

16 October 1987

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

ECC REJECTS ARMY DEATH NOTICES

The End Conscription Campaign takes strong exception to the inference made by the Defence Headquarters and Chief of the Army, Lieutenant Kat Liebenberg, with regard to the underhand tactics of so-called anti-conscription organisations.

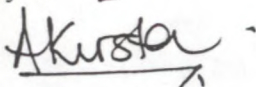
This allegation of false notifications of deaths in the operational areas being sent to parents of national servicemen was made on the SABC TV news on Monday, 19 October 1987 and again in the press on Tuesday, 20 October. (Business day). The ECC itself is not directly mentioned but as one of the only organisations which directly work for a change in the law with regard to compulsory military service, we must assume that the allegations refer to the activities of the ECC.

We deplore the attempts on the part of the SADF to smear and discredit the End Conscription Campaign in this way. ECC has been in existence since 1983 and have been engaged only in legal and non-violent forms of work. At no point has our work been intended to break down the moral of the next of kin of serving soldiers.. Rather we have recognised the increasing dilemma faced both by the conscript and his family when faced with the choice of serving in the SADF, particularly as the role of the army has been one of taking up arms against fellow South Africans. We have addressed this dilemma by offering practical advice and support to the conscript and his family and many of our campaigns have focussed on presenting the alternatives to military service as well as educating the public about the role of the SADF in upholding the unjust system of apartheid. ECC has spoken on behalf of the conscript (and continues to do so) and as such has not been opposed to the conscript per se but rather opposed to the actions undertaken within the structures of the SADF.

We believe this attempt on the part of the SADF to discredit the legitimate activities of the End Conscription Campaign, is part of a sophisticated and nationally co-ordinated smear campaign. We have seen this in the past few months emerging in the form of anti- ECC stickers, posters and pamphlets; intimidation of our members through abusive phone calls, slashed vehicle tyres; and vitriolic anti- ECC publications eg: THE Veterans for Victory and Aida Parker Newsletter.

ECC condemns this action on the part of the SADF to discredit a very successful, legal and legitimate campaign.

Issued by :



Adèle Kirsten (ECC National SECRETARY)

"= October 1987

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR - CITIZEN

The letters which appeared in the Citizen last week (Meno 21 /10/87 ; Knoesen of 28/10/87) contain no accurate information about the End Conscription Campaign and serves to illustrate the gross misconception which has been fostered by the distorted perspectives presented through predominantly government backed media about organisations such as ourselves.

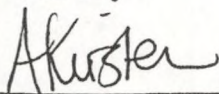
The ECC is an organisation which grew out of the real dissatisfaction and moral objection of those young men who could not see themselves participating in the SADF, precisely because of the role which that armed force has been called upon to play : the defence of apartheid and having to take up arms against fellow South Africans.

The ECC has been consistent in its stand about forced participation into the SADF, demanding that the government make clear provisions for those who want to serve their country other than through military means. ECC is not opposed to the concept of national service but seeks to uphold the freedom of choice in this matter.

As a sign of our commitment to this country, we have acted in a constructive manner through the "Working for a Just Peace" projects which are community based and have served a practical purpose, such as the painting of an old age home and creating a recreational area in downtown Durban in the Casbah Triangle. It is those people Knoesen should speak to if she/he questions our patriotism.

ECC will continue to work for real alternative service to conscription.

Yours Sincerely



Adele Kirsten (ECC National Secretary)

4 November 1987

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227/9 Khotso House
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PRESS RELEASE

ECC concerned about SADF involvement in Angola

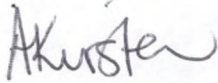
Since early October this year there have been clear indications that South Africa is involved in the war in Angola. The End Conscription Campaign strongly condemns the continued presence of the SADF in Angola. We believe that the government's attempts to deny the presence of the SADF in Angola confirms South Africa's direct involvement in that conflict. We saw how in 1975 the government continually denied the presence of the SADF in Angola, yet that fact was revealed by them to the South African public at a later stage.

We demand that the government immediately make known the exact number of casualties and wounded soldiers. We believe that the public needs to be better informed about what is happening in Angola, particularly those conscripts who will be required to do their national military service and who will be the people in the frontline of this conflict.

We believe that as the conflict intensifies within the Southern Africa region that more and more conscripts will face a real crisis of conscience in choosing whether or not to serve in the SADF. This choice becomes even more of a dilemma when the role of the SADF is clearly more than just one of "protecting South Africa's borders", as is the case in Angola presently.

The action of Dr. Ivan Toms is to be commended. He is prepared to take a 3 year jail service rather than serve in the SADF precisely because of the role it plays. The ECC recognizes that there are many conscripts who are unable to make those kinds of choices because of the very limited alternatives open to those who have genuine objections to serving in the SADF. It is on behalf of these people and all those who continue to serve 'unwillingly' in the SADF that we call on the government to expand the definition of conscientious objection and reiterate our call for the SADF to leave Angola.

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PRESS RELEASE

ECC calls for the SADF to get out of Angola.


The End Conscription Campaign believes that South Africa is involved in an undeclared war in Angola and that the SADF is being used to oppose the legitimate government of the Angolan people and therefore has no right to be there. By their actions they are destabilising another country. This cannot be seen as an action "in defense of South Africa's borders." It has long been recognised internationally that South Africa's occupation of Namibia is illegal.

It is the South African conscript who is being asked to fight this war and he has no option but to serve in the SADF. In WWII, the present government leaders were free to choose whether to serve in the Union Defence Force and whether or not to serve outside of South Africa's borders. The ECC believes that the present South African soldiers must be given the same right to choose.

In addition we are concerned about the governments attempts to conceal what is actually happening in Angola. We believe the public has a right to know why we are there. who is there(how many battalions and which ones), what the numbers are for soldiers both killed and wounded. We want to know the real facts and figures.

The ECC strongly condemns the presence of the SADF in Angola and demands the withdrawal of the troops.

Issued by : -



Adele Kirsten

(ECC National Secretary)

16 November 1987



End Conscription Campaign

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

The Star
Sauer Street
Johannesburg 2000

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir

It is encouraging to note the questioning attitude being raised through the editorial of both the Star and the Business Bay (respectively 10/11/87 and 4/11/87) around the issue of the SADF's involvement in the war being waged in Angola.

We ,in the ECC would share some of the same concern expressed through the Star's editorial, particularly in reference to the secrecy surrounding the exact numbers of soldiers wounded and killed in action.

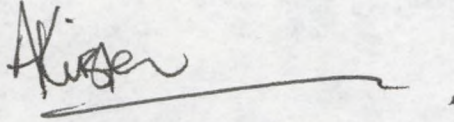
We have also been concerned about the apparent lack of protest and concern expressed by the public about the war in Angola. This government continues to ' exact a high price for freedom' from the young white male conscripted population in this country and in so doing has asked also that their families pay that price. We believe that the 'price ' we need to be paying for the creation of a just , future South Africa, be one which serves the interest of all the people of this country - such as enabling someone like Dr. Ivan Toms to continue his medical work amongst the people of KTC, rather than imposing a 3 year prison sentence on him for refusing to report for service in the SADF.

The majority of young South African men killed in Angola lat week were conscripts. How many of them were there unwillingly? For those who have a crisis of conscience in choosing whether or not to serve in the SADF, the alternatives are severely inadequate. The ECC therefore continues to call upon the government to:

- give recognition to all objectors
- allow alternative community service to be extended to non-governmental and church organisations

- reduce the length of community service to the same length required by the conscript doing military service.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Adele', followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that extends to the right.

Adele Kirsten (ECC National Secretary)

12/11/87

End Conscription Campaign

227/9 Khotso House
42 De Villiers Street
Johannesburg
2000
Tel: 337-6796
Telex: 4-86519 S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

Dr. Ivan Toms faces army call-up.

Doctor Ivan Toms, a conscientious objector from Cape Town, has been called up for an army camp to-morrow, November 12th. Dr. Toms is one of the 23 Cape Town men who took a public stand in August this year, declaring their refusal to serve in the SADF.

Dr. Toms has completed his two year period of national service in 1979. He did his basic training as a combatant and it was after spending 6 months in the operational area that he applied for and was granted noncombatant status. Dr. Toms said, "I realized that to kill another person was impossible for me to reconcile with my conscience. I unwillingly served my 2 years in the SADF as a medical doctor." Even as a noncombatant doctor servicing the mission hospitals in the operational area, he felt the dislike and rejection of the people. He came to realise that his noncombatant status did not separate him from the military machinery. It was his experience in Crossroads where he had founded the SACLA Clinic in 1980, that cemented his decision never again to wear a SADF uniform

As a result of his refusal to participate in any way in the SADF, Dr. Toms faces a 3 year prison sentence. He was preparing for jail this year in July when 5 days prior to his date of reporting to his unit his call-up was withdrawn.

Ivan's position clearly highlights the inadequacies of the Defence Act's provision for conscientious objection. The Board for Religious Objection was established by an amendment to the Act in 1983, and by its term of reference the Board can only deal with religious pacifists. Ivan is a committed and practising Christian, with a strong bias towards the saving and preservation of life : his medical work in the squatter areas of the Western Cape is clear testimony to this. But he cannot in good faith claim to be a pacifist and has precluded himself from applying to the Board for 'Religious Objector' status. He also wishes to identify himself with others who have a moral or ethical base for conscientious objection, and for whom no allowance is made in the law.

Dr. Toms is totally committed to working for justice and peace in South Africa, and this excludes him from leaving the country. He said, "I am committed to South Africa

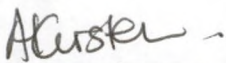
and believe that a truly patriotic action would be to go to prison rather than to deny my faith and beliefs. "

The End Conscription Campaign supports this courageous stand taken by Ivan , in choosing to go to jail rather than fight against his fellow South Africans. We believe that there are many who are faced with this same crisis of conscience and continue to call upon the government to recognise and provide appropriate alternatives for all those young men who wish to serve their country other than through military means, and therefore recognise all who refuse on moral, religious, ethical or political grounds, to serve in the SADF.

Dr. Toms has just completed a national speaking tour with public meetings being held in Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Johannesburg, Pretoria and Port Elizabeth. He returned to Cape Town on Sunday and addressed a public meeting in Cape Town last night. He has received messages of support from a range of national and international organisations which included the SACC, the SACBC (South African Catholic Bishops Conference), the Methodist Church of South Africa, Archbishop Tutu, the SRC of Wits University, Young Christian Students, The Black Sash, Jodac, the Conscientious Objector Support Groups, Student Union for Christian Action (SUCA), the Quakers and all 14 branches of the ECC. Internationally, messages of support have been received from the Catholic Institute for International Relations (CIIR), the War Resisters International, the European Parliament , the Quaker United Nations Office, and the Australian Board of Missions (Anglican).

Enclosed are some of the messages of support received here in Johannesburg.

Issued by :



Adele Kirsten (ECC National Secretary)

11 November 1987



UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

1 Jan Smuts Avenue, Johannesburg

☒ P O WITS
2050, SOUTH AFRICA

☒ 'Uniwits'
✉ 4-27125 SA
☎ (011) 716-1111

Reference:

Enquiries:

☎ (011) 716-

Date: 5 November 1987

S T A T E M E N T

The SRC salutes the courageous decision of Dr Ivan Toms.
He has chosen to go to jail for three years rather than to
fight against his fellow South Africans.

We condemn the Government for requiring such sacrifices
of the very people whose love for their country goes beyond
the desire for personal comfort and which love is expressed in
the willingness to serve the best interests of its people.

We call on the Government to provide appropriate alternatives
for people who refuse, on moral or political grounds, to serve
in the SADF.

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