

# End Conscription Campaign

P O Box 537  
Kengray  
2100

ECC PRESS RELEASE

10 JULY 1990

The End Conscription Campaign is concerned about the allegations that the Government's sinister National Security Management System (NSMS) has not, after all, been dismantled, but merely replaced by a new, equally sinister structure, labelled the National Co-ordinating Mechanism (NCM).

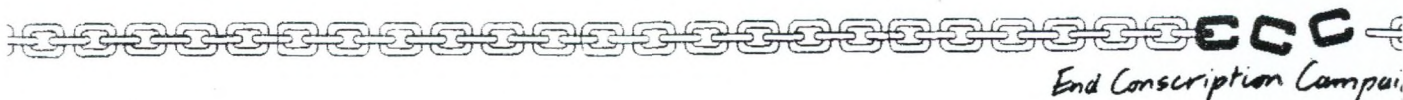
As victims ourselves of illegal harassment and smear campaigns, both by the SADF itself and by other shadowy bodies, we believe that such secret structures, designed to suppress and control political activity by dubious means, should be dismantled immediately.

The continued existence of such structures, and particularly of the CCB death squads, casts doubt on President de Klerk's apparent sincerity. The failure of the Harms commission even to scratch the skin of the CCB network, let alone "cut to the bone" as promised by President de Klerk, is symptomatic of an unwillingness or inability on the part of the government to tackle the militarists in government and in the security establishment. In particular, President de Klerk's refusal to disband the CCB and to repudiate its creators is an alarming sign of weakness or duplicity on his part.

This situation simply strengthens the resolve of thousands of young men who are resisting conscription into what is clearly still the military wing of the apartheid state, and makes a mockery of any claims made by the SADF that it is neutral and apolitical.

Chas de Vill.

Issued by CHRIS DE VILLIERS  
ECC CHAIRMAN (JOHANNESBURG) Tel : 880 1705



JOINT ACTSTOP/END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC) PRESS RELEASE

9 AUGUST 1990

ACTSTOP and the ECC will be conducting a joint flat cleaning and maintenance at 6 ACTSTOP buildings in Hillbrow, Joubert Park and Central Town on Saturday 11 August 1990.

People are expected to meet at the Central Methodist Church from 12.30 pm. onwards and the exercise will begin at approximately 1.30 pm. Members of the press are asked to arrive at the Central Methodist Church, corner Pritchard and Smal Streets at 12.30pm. for a briefing before accompanying members of ACTSTOP and ECC to the various buildings.

ACTSTOP and ECC regard this joint exercise to be of tremendous significance, both at a symbolic and practical level. We intend showing, through this joint effort that:

- \* the membership of both organisations, as well as other organisations assisting us, reaffirm our opposition to service in a defence force that is racist and is a major contributor to the oppression of the majority of the people in this country
- \* people can make a significant contribution to the upliftment of community life as an alternative to serving in the SADF.
- \* tenants in buildings do not simply protest against landlord exploitation, but are concerned about their living conditions and are contributing towards the maintenance of buildings, contrary to the claims of some landlords
- \* non-racial activity and inter-action is possible and necessary particularly during the political climate we are in now

We hope, by this exercise, to encourage similar joint efforts across racial lines to demonstrate the willingness of the S.African people to live together, work together and play together.

ISSUED BY ACTSTOP AND ECC



# END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 537  
Kengray 2100

Phone: 836-8423  
Fax: 834-3189

## ECC PRESS STATEMENT

10/8/90

### JAILED CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR CHARLES BESTER'S

### SENTENCE GOES TO SUPREME COURT FOR APPEAL.

Charles Bester, a 20 year old Conscientious Objector has served 20 months of a 6 year jail sentence. Charles's appeal against his sentence of six years is being heard in the Rand Supreme Court on the 13th of August 1990. It is expected that the appeal will be heard at 10:00 am in either court number 4, 6, or 8.

ECC wishes Charles all the best and hopes that he will soon be a free man.

ECC will continue to campaign for an end to military conscription and for the introduction of an adequate system of alternative service for South African conscripts. The sentencing of 18 year old Charles Bester to six years in jail showed to the world the inhumanity of a system that jails men who believe that to refuse to serve in the SADF is a stand against racism and apartheid and a commitment to the ideals of peace and justice in South Africa.

Issued by Roddy Payne, ECC National Organiser.



*End Conscription Campaign*

P O Box 537  
Kengray  
2100

**ECC PRESS STATEMENT**

**10 AUGUST 1990**

**MILITARY AREA PROTECTION UNITS**

The End Conscription Campaign is alarmed by reports that automatic weapons are to be issued to Commando and Citizen Force members of the SADF in suburban areas. According to the reports, the intention is to create area based protection units for the purpose of protecting homes, families and property.

In the first place, we do not believe that the SADF members concerned are trained in the kind of police work which is apparently intended to be carried out by them, and we believe that such duties should be carried out by properly trained members of a police force, whether the SAP or a municipal police force.

Secondly, we believe that the use of high velocity automatic weapons such as the R4 rifle in a suburban environment, particularly in the hands of untrained or inappropriately trained personnel, is extremely dangerous and, indeed, reckless.

Finally, the proposed system represents a dangerous escalation in the militarisation of our society, and is liable to be abused by individuals who will not be subjected to direct supervision. It also seems obvious that the weapons concerned will, inevitably, be the target of theft, contributing to the already unacceptable number of stolen weapons in circulation.

All in all, we consider the proposed system to be ill conceived and irresponsible. The last thing that South Africa needs is more heavily armed goons stalking the streets, licenced to kill.

Issued by Chris de Villiers, ECC Chairman (Johannesburg)



# End Conscription Campaign

---

P O Box 537  
KENGRAY  
2100

## ECC PRESS RELEASE

13 AUGUST 1990

### RELEASE OF CHARLES BESTER

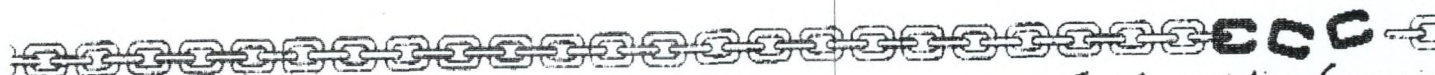
The End Conscription Campaign welcomes the decision of the Supreme Court to release Charles Bester from prison. It appears from the brevity of the proceedings that the court had no doubt that Charles had been punished enough for his principled refusal to serve in the SADF.

This reflects poorly on those who conceived the unjust legislation in terms of which he was sentenced to 6 years in prison. It reflects equally poorly on the refusal of the present government to recognise conscientious objectors and to provide non-military community service for them, as an alternative to military service, rather than to continue persecuting and jailing objectors.

A press conference will be held once Charles is actually released from prison. Details of the time and venue will follow.



Issued by Chris de Villiers  
ECC Chairman (Johannesburg)  
Tel. 880-1705



# END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 537  
Kengray 2100

Phone: 836-8423  
Fax: 834-3189

## PRESS RELEASE : SPECULATION ON CHANGES IN THE SYSTEM OF MILITARY CONSCRIPTION

7/11/90

Several articles have appeared in the daily press indicating that the system of military conscription could well be ended within 3 years.

ECC welcomes the work done by the press in bringing this issue to the public's attention and opening debate up on an issue which affects so many South Africans, yet which is treated by the SADF as its sole preserve.

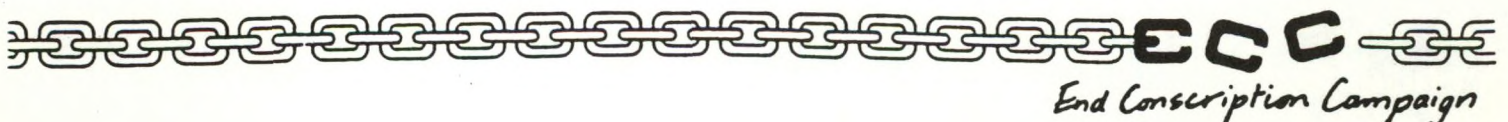
The newspaper articles confirm many of the comments and rumours that ECC has been collating over the last 6 months. However ECC notes with concern the comments from unnamed SADF sources stating that due to the "brittleness" of the situation, reforms to the system of military conscription would only take place once the constitutional negotiations had been "substantially completed". This statement is a clear acknowledgement that any change in conscription policy depends on the political thinking of the National Party and not on the economic and social well being of South Africa.

The ECC asks: If South Africa is entering a new era of democracy and peace, why is the system of military conscription still practised on a racist basis with only white males being called up? ECC believes that the maintenance of "whites only" conscription is clear evidence of the National Party's intention to use, and if necessary abuse, the SADF in its own interests during the process of constitutional negotiations.

The SADF is deluding itself if it considers itself to be the only structure that will determine if and when conscription ends. Already many hundreds of conscripts have publicly announced that they will not serve in apartheid's army and thousands more are protesting against the continuation of national service and camps by simply not reporting for duty. Only last week, a camp call up of 60 days to the Sandton Command saw only 30 citizen force members reporting of the 400 citizen force members who were supposed to report.

It is clear that the present racist system of conscription is crumbling rapidly, and we call on the government to urgently enter into genuine consultation with all interested parties on the future direction of the SADF.

*Roddy Payne* 7/11/90.  
Roddy Payne, ECC National Organiser.





# END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 537  
Kengray 2100

Phone: 836-8423  
Fax: 834-3189

6

PRESS RELEASE 28/11/90

## CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR MICHAEL GRAAF SENTENCED TO COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR REFUSING TO SERVE IN THE SADF.

Conscientious Objector (CO) Michael Graaf, 28, was sentence today to a period of community service for his refusal to serve in the SADF. Graaf, an officer in the Citizen Force, had notified the SADF of his decision to refuse to do any more service in the SADF after he received a call-up for a camp at the end of 1989.

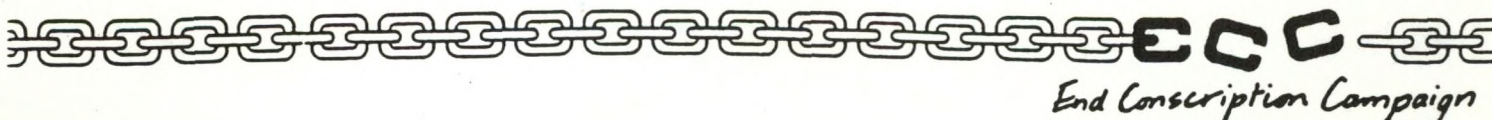
Magistrate J. Grebe, said in sentencing Graaf to 2400 hours community service, that he believed that the offence committed by Graaf did not warrant a jail sentence. Graaf's sentence of 2400 hours community service was calculated on the number of days that he still owed the SADF as a Citizen Force member and that a member of the Citizen Force usually works 8 hours of every day during a camp. Graaf will spend his community service sentence working 72 hours a month for four years with the St. Johns Ambulance at King Edward Hospital in Durban.

An ECC spokesman, Roddy Payne, welcomed the sentence as a victory for the anti conscription movement. He said "this is the fist time that a CO has been given community service in recognition that a jail sentence is not an appropriate punishment for refusing to serve in the SADF. The sentence is also recognition by the courts that community service in welfare organisations is of equal worth to the country as service in the SADF." Payne, however, stated that "Mike Graaf, while being sentenced to an equivalent time to a citizen force member who participates in all his camps, is still receiving no payment for his service and that the hours must be found out of his free time. While Mike's sentence is an important positive development, the courts should provide a sentence that is an equivalent to military service in every way. It must have the same rates of payment and the same time as military service".

Roddy Payne went on to say that "it is a strange situation where COs have to suffer long, drawn out, and expensive court cases to win the right to perform national service outside the SADF. With Magistrate Grebe's decision, the SADF should one more look seriously at instituting a system of alternative service in non government as well as government welfare structures that is of equal time, payment and conditions as military service."

Released by Roddy Payne, ECC National Organiser.

Phone	office 836 8423
	home 6487993
Fax.	836 6931
	834 3189



# END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 537  
Kengray 2100

Phone: 836-8423  
Fax: 834-3189

REMINDER REMINDER REMINDER REMINDER REMINDER REMINDER

## ECC / COSAWR PRESS CONFERENCE

DATE: 1/12/90

TIME: 10:00am

VENUE: SEMI V.I.P LOUNGE, JAN SMUTS INTERNATIONAL  
ARRIVALS HALL

SPEAKERS: ECC CHAIRMAN  
COSAWR REPRESENTATIVE  
CHARLES BESTER, REGISTER OF CO'S  
PETER SOAL, MP.  
ANC REPRESENTATIVE

For further information refer to ECC press release 28/11/90 or  
contact Roddy Payne at the ECC office:

phone	office	836 8423
	home	648 7993
fax		836 6931
	or	834 3189

Released by Roddy Payne, ECC National Organiser  
30/11/90

*Roddy Payne 30/11/90.*



# END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P.O. Box 537  
Kengray 2100

Phone: 836-8423  
Fax: 834-3189

PRESS RELEASE 28/11/90.

## PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE RETURN OF EXILED CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS.

On 1 December 1990 an "advanced party" of exiled war resisters will be returning to South Africa. This return represents the potential experience of many other South African conscripts who went into exile rather than serve in the SADF, an army which they still believe represents the interests of the National Party and defends its apartheid policies.

The ECC and COSAWR (the Committee On South African War Resistance) will be hosting a press conference at Jan Smuts airport on the 1/12/90 to explain why these people have returned with no guarantee that they will not be prosecuted for their ongoing refusal to serve in the SADF. The press conference will also examine more generally at the state of conscription in South Africa today. A representative from the Democratic Party, the African National Congress and the Register of Conscientious Objection will also be speaking at the press conference.

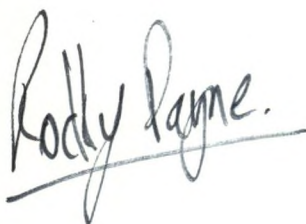
Press packs will be available to representatives of the media and will provide background information on issues covered at the press conference.

The press conference will start at 10:00am on the 1/12/90 in the Semi-V.I.P suite at Jan Smuts international arrivals hall. The flight (BA 057) lands at Jan Smuts at 8:25 am and there will be an opportunity for photographers and T.V crews to collect visual material as the group arrives.

If journalists require individual interviews with members of the returning group this can be arranged before or after the press conference by phoning Roddy Payne at the ECC office and requesting such an interview or by arranging such an interview after the press conference has finished.

Released by Roddy Payne, ECC National Organiser.

Office 836 8423  
Home 648 7993  
Fax 834 3189  
836 6931



**Collection Number: AG1977**

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

### **PUBLISHER:**

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

**©2013**

### **LEGAL NOTICES:**

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.