

Campaign of support for John Downie and John Kelly

Questionnaires sent - 50.

Replies received - 15.

Willing to participate in stand - 12 (of these 4 have been called-up since September 1 1992).

Those who are not able to participate in the stand gave reasons such as:

- family commitments (otherwise would participate)
- prefer to keep low profile at this stage
- feel it would be detrimental to my career with my superiors being extremely pro-conscription.

Other comments:

- in order to be effective as many campers as possible should participate. Political organisations should be requested to endorse this stand.
- would prefer the stand to include demands in respect of a single military and interim government.

Other suggestions:

- (i) - promote the ECC and its objectives in the business sector.
- ~~attempt to promote the ECC and its objectives amongst campers whilst doing camps as this would give the ECC a distinct psychological advantage over the SADF.~~
  - encourage people to write to the press in their personal and professional capacities. This could be done under a nom de plume if necessary.

- (ii) - ~~possibly obtaining lists of addresses from the units themselves for distribution of info to them.~~

- (iii) - ~~I think the SADF's back has been broken.~~ The strategy of ECC has been successful so far. Keep along these lines.

- (iv) - ~~investigate indemnity from prosecution under Further Indemnity Bill~~

- contest all call-ups at all levels through the courts. Despite the verdict in the Pretoria court in support of racist conscription, we do not know that all judges would uphold this ruling. Those that do rule in favour of a whites only call-up can then be added to a list of people who need to be prosecuted for enforcing apartheid (see below). In every case, call specialist evidence alleging SADF crimes, brutality, racism etc. This will be extremely embarrassing for the SADF. Recent exposure of SADF covert operations greatly strengthens our stand in this regard.

- compile a list of individuals implementing whites-only conscription (e.g. Minister of Defence, Chief of SADF, individual officers signing call-ups etc.). We should then demand that these individuals be held accountable for continuing with apartheid (a UN defined crime against humanity) after its official scrapping in SA (scrapping of Population Registration taken as official scrapping in SA).

- compile list of all individuals involved in enforcing the

call-up and ask political organisations sympathetic to our cause to endorse prosecution of these individuals for enforcing apartheid after its alleged scrapping.

- ask political organisations to endorse our stand.
- Investigate Unfair Labour Practice against SADF, where campers have already done 2 years. This is patently unfair when many others have done 1 year or nothing.

(v) - broaden poster campaign to other centres (haven't seen them in Durban yet).

(vi) - encourage more concerted effort to challenge section 121(c) as part of non-co-operation campaign.

(vii) - picket outside main army headquarters?

- international support? (U.N.)
- publicly burn army clothes?
- find newspapers to sponsor daily/weekly advertising?
- survey for all campers on their attitudes towards present conditions (passive)?

(viii) - ECC with the assistance of other interested organisations should organise some sort of a peaceful protest - actions speak louder than words.

(ix) - keep up the good work!

(x) - don't give in!



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# END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

P O Box 537  
Kengray 2100

Phone: 836-8423  
Fax: 834-3189

29 January 1993

Dear Friends

## APPEAL TO CAMPERS FOR SUPPORT FOR JOHN DOWNIE AND JOHN KELLY.

Two campers, both members of Vaal commando, have been charged with refusing to do military service. Their cases are being heard in the Vanderbijlpark magistrates court.

John Downie is due to appear in court on Friday, the 26th of February. His case will most likely be remanded to round about the middle of March which is when he is likely to go on trial.

John Kelly was first charged towards the end of last year. He will be appearing in court again on the 12th of February. His lawyers have objected to the charges against him so it is possible that the charges against him will be withdrawn. If not he will also be going on trial sometime in the not too distant future.

You may be aware that on the 14th of December in Cape Town 18 people who were liable for the January call-up publicly announced that they refused to do military service. ECC would like to suggest that some action, similar to the one in Cape Town, be taken by a group of people who are liable for SADF camps. What is being suggested is something along the following lines:

(i) ECC would hold a press conference to inform the press about the prosecution of John Downie and John Kelly. At the press conference we will make a call on the government to suspend all prosecutions under the conscription laws. At present we are in the process of approaching a range of political and other organisations for them to support this call.

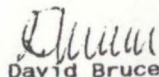
(ii) At the above press conference or at another soon thereafter we would also announce the names of a group of individuals who, in support of John Downie and John Kelly, publicly announce their refusal to do any further camps.

(iii) The people in this group would also individually inform the SADF in writing that they refuse to do any further camps.

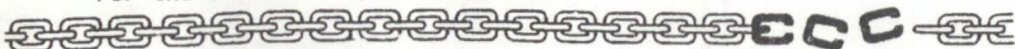
In Johannesburg we have invited a group of campers to a meeting on the 6th of February to discuss the possibility of holding a stand in support of John Downie and John Kelly.

If you are willing to be part of a group who publicly refuse to do any further camps, or if you have any other suggestions as to how we can take up the issue of camps and the prosecution of campers, please contact us, or return the enclosed questionnaire.

Yours sincerely

  
David Bruce

For the End Conscription Campaign



End Conscription Campaign

## ECC Questionnaire

Please phone us at 465-6574 or fill in the following form and fax it to 301-6611 or return it to P O Box 15045, Bellair, 4006.

Name.....

1. When was the last time that you were in the SADF?  
.....

2. Have you been called up for a camp beginning after the 1st of September 1992?  
Yes .....No.....

3. If yes, when did/does the camp start?  
.....

4. Are you willing to be part of a group of campers who publicly state that they refuse to do any more army camps? (Note: this form is being circulated for the purpose of getting an initial indication from people as to the viability of organising a stand. A statement on this form to the effect that you are willing to participate in a stand will not be taken as a final commitment on your part and will be confirmed with you at a later point.)

Yes.....No.....(please tick one)

Comments.....  
.....  
.....

5. Will you be attending our meeting on the 22nd of February?

Yes.....No.....(please tick one)

Comments.....  
.....  
.....

6. Do you have any other suggestions about what campers can do in order to be more effective in opposing army camps?

Comments.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....



# End Conscription Campaign

## WHAT'S UP WITH THE CALL-UP?

The January call-up may be the last! See the enclosed article. Despite this, the SADF is still threatening to prosecute people who did not report for the January call-up, or for camps. In our opinion, this is sheer hot air. It would be logistically virtually impossible for them to follow everybody up, and it would not be in their political interests to have a large number of trials.

However, two campers from Vanderbijlpark in the Transvaal are in the process of being prosecuted on the charge "Refusal to render service" for camps they refused to attend last year. The national ECC office in Johannesburg have begun a campaign of support for them, and we are all invited to participate. Please read the enclosed letter from David Bruce, and complete the questionnaire if you feel able to.

"Today's announcement constitutes an acknowledgment by the government that the present Whites-only call-up system is no longer viable or morally justifiable.

"It would appear that it can be taken as an indication that the government is in the process of moving towards an entirely voluntary system of recruitment for the military. We are confident such a voluntary system will be the most effective in meeting South Africa's military personnel needs," the statement said.

THE CITIZEN  
3 FEB 1993

WE INVITE YOU TO ATTEND A CALL-UP INFORMATION MEETING TO DISCUSS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING CONSCRIPTION AND MILITARY SERVICE.

A lawyer and counsellors from the Conscription Advice Service will be present to answer your questions.

Date: Monday, February 22, 1993  
Time: 7.30pm  
Venue: Ecumenical Centre,  
20 St Andrew's Street,  
Durban

by an interim government, Mr Louw said this was part of the negotiation process.

• The End Conscription Campaign (ECC) said yesterday it welcomed the announcement by Minister of Defence Gene Louw that the Whites-only call-up system would be phased out during the course of the year.

"We hope the announcement implies that all prosecutions in terms of the call-up laws will immediately be suspended," the ECC said in a statement.

It said the announcement was a vindication of what they had said in recent months that the call-up laws were no longer seriously being implemented and that conscripts could in general disregard them.

# No more White call-ups likely

By Brian Stuart and Sapa

CAPE TOWN. — There is likely to be no further call-up of White conscripts for the army, with the SA Defence Force relying on volunteers to provide its manpower needs, Mr Gene Louw, Minister of Defence, told The Citizen yesterday.

"We are phasing out national service, and let's hope it can be done during the course of this year," Mr Louw said the White call-up in January was probably the final military call-up. However, the SADF still needed soldiers to serve the country, and would be dependent for its future needs on its reserve forces. The SADF had started

FROM PAGE 1

employing a new voluntary army under the voluntary period service system, which began on December 1. There was a potential of 9 500 recruits, and 2 340 volunteers

TO PAGE 2

two years and a maximum of six years in the SADF. Mr Louw said White conscriptions would end with negotiations aimed at instituting a Bill of Rights and a transitional or interim government.

Regarding "joint control of the security forces"

*This meeting is being hosted by the End Conscription Campaign in conjunction with the Conscription Advice Service and the Conscientious Objector Support Group.*

For more information, contact Richard Steele or Anita Kromberg at 031 465 6574.



End Conscription Campaign



# MOTIVATION FOR SUSPENSION OF PROSECUTIONS UNDER CALL-UP LAWS

The following is a motivation for the government to suspend all prosecutions under the call-up laws:

\* **The call-up laws are racially discriminatory and therefore morally indefensible.** Individuals who object to this aspect of the call-up system face prosecution for acting in accordance with their rejection of racism.

\* **The call-up system plays a disruptive role in the country's economy.** In a context of widespread unemployment the camp system in particular continually pulls economically productive people out of the economy. This might be justified if they were fulfilling an essential function in protecting our society but most of what they do in the SADF is waste time.

\* **South Africa is currently facing a crisis of widespread crime.** The courts are overloaded, and the jails overfull. Call-up prosecutions add to the burden on the criminal justice system.

\* **No one in Military Intelligence or in the SADF special forces has been charged for unlawful activities.** The exposure of the CCB and DCC has revealed that elements of the SADF have been involved in criminal and unauthorised activities including some that, according to the State President, "led to the deaths of people". Those who are being charged under the call-up laws are basically law-abiding citizens many of whom have already completed extensive periods of service as disciplined members of the SADF.

\* **The SADF does not have a shortage of personnel.** The Minister of Defence has stated that the present call-up system will probably be phased out during 1993. At the same time the SADF has embarked on a rationalisation program, with units being disbanded, major military bases being closed and thousands of staff members being retrenched. They announced that the recent January intake exceeded their requirement by 16%. According to the Minister of Defence they have also already recruited over 2400 members towards the new Voluntary Personnel Service System. SADF analyses predict that there will be no conventional attack on South Africa for at least the next 10 years. The SADF clearly does not have a problem meeting its present personnel needs. If prosecutions are suspended this will not prevent existing SADF units from functioning on a voluntary basis.

\* **The call-up laws are being disregarded en masse.** Over the last few years there has been a dramatic escalation in the number of those disregarding the call-up. Reports consistently indicate that less than 20% of those called-up report for camps in the Witwatersrand area. Thousands did not bother to report for the national service intake this January. Enforcing the call-up laws in a consistent manner would involve prosecuting thousands of people.

\* **There is no chance of the call-up laws being enforced other than in an extremely arbitrary manner.** Many young white South Africans have not completed any military service whatsoever. The SADF has simply lost track of thousands of those who, in law, are liable for military service. Others have bribed military officials to get exemptions or have their names erased from SADF records. In 1989 771 individuals publicly indicated that they refused to do any or any further military service in the SADF. By mid-1991 seven of the people in this group had been prosecuted under the conscription laws. Of those remaining, none have since been charged.

\* **People who have the backing of major political organisations have little chance of being prosecuted.** The general approach of the SADF to call-up related prosecutions is to prosecute a handful of individuals in order to maintain the appearance that the call-up laws are being enforced. Those who have been charged are isolated individuals whom, the SADF feels, it can victimise at little political cost.

\* **In the recent period many individuals who have committed acts of a serious nature have been indemnified from prosecution.** The indemnities were granted to individuals who had acted on the basis of political motivations. Many had been responsible for acts of violence. People who are prosecuted under the call-up laws are often motivated by political or moral considerations. Their offences do not involve violence.

\* **We believe that all prosecutions for call-up related offences are unacceptable, particularly in this period of transition.** Whether one supports the adoption of a conscription or voluntary system under a democratic dispensation the continuation of prosecutions under the present call-up should not be condoned. We therefore ask you to endorse our call on the government to halt all call-up related prosecutions and to declare a moratorium on any further prosecutions of this kind.

THE END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN, FEBRUARY 1993



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\* **We believe that all prosecutions for call-up related offences are unacceptable, particularly in this period of transition.** Whether one supports the adoption of a conscription or voluntary system under a democratic dispensation the continuation of prosecutions under the present call-up should not be condoned. We therefore ask you to endorse our call on the government to halt all call-up related prosecutions and to declare a moratorium on any further prosecutions of this kind.

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THE END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN, FEBRUARY 1993



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