

A20.2.8

PUBLIC STATEMENT OF CONSCIENCE

NAME: ROB GOLDMAN

AGE: 31

OCCUPATION: CHURCH WORKER

SERVICE DETAILS (if applicable): _____

Jan '80 - Dec '81 National Service as a non-combatant

Sept '86 - Aug '88 Community Service as a religious objector

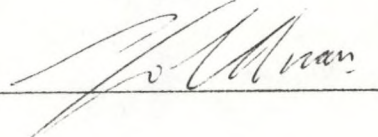
In good conscience, and of my own accord, I have decided not to serve in the South African Defence Force for the following reasons: _____

As a practising Christian I have been called by Jesus Christ to be a peacemaker. The waging of war as a method of solving conflict is incompatible with my understanding of the Christian faith. I therefore reject all participation in war or preparation for war.

The necessary foundation for the peace which God has called me to witness to and work for, is justice and righteousness. Therefore of equal concern to my pursuit of peace is the call to witness to ^{and work to eradicate} the injustices which make true peace unattainable.

That God's call to me as a pacifist has political implications in the specific context of South Africa is therefore obvious.

DATE: 16 August 1989

SIGNED (page one): 

PLACE / REGION PURBAN

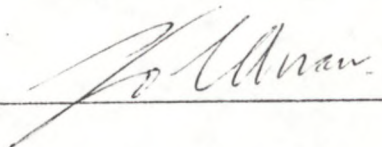
The fundamental obstacle to the achievement of this peace and justice in South Africa is Apartheid, enforced by racist and repressive laws chief amongst which are the Population Registration Act, the Land Act, the Group Areas Act, the Internal Security Act and the State of Emergency.

This policy of Apartheid has been declared a heresy by most churches since it directly contradicts the heart and central message of the Gospel: that Christ's death on the cross broke down the barriers of race, class and sex and that in Him unity and reconciliation is achieved.

The South African Defence Force is the chief pillar which the government is using to support its unjust, evil and unChristian policy of Apartheid. I therefore refuse to deny my faith by serving in it.

DATE: 16 August 1989

SIGNED (page two):



STATEMENT MADE AT PRESS CONFERENCE

ON 21 SEPTEMBER 1989

I have been asked to speak on behalf of the religious objectors who have signed the "Public Statement of Conscience", and in preparing to do so, have been privileged to read through the statements made by this group.

There appear to be two main reasons presented by the religious objectors and both have a long tradition in the Christian Church. The first, and this is the smaller group, with which I would associate myself, appear to be "universal pacifists" on religious grounds. They feel called to follow the life, teaching and example of Jesus and this they see as consistently non-violent. They hold that Christians are called to practise non-violence, and they would see this as holding true for all situations not only in South Africa.

The second group, which is larger, appear to subscribe to the "just war" theory. Like the "universal pacifists" they too feel bound to take decisions about military service on the basis of Christian teaching and Christian conscience. They believe that in certain clearly defined circumstances it can be legitimate for a Christian to take up arms, but these conditions are far from fulfilled in South Africa.

Basically this group regards the South African Defence Force as fighting an unjust war because it is defending and upholding apartheid - which has been declared a heresy by all the major Christian Churches. As one of the signatories states: "The crime of racism cannot be advocated, let alone protected, by a disciple of Christ." And another expresses it in these words: "The ideology of apartheid is intrinsically evil and morally indefensible."

In recent years the situation for those who hold the "just war" theory has become more acute in South Africa as the SADF has been used more extensively for internal repression. "The military" as one put it "has been used against the greater part of the inhabitants of this country. As such it has become an instrument of fear....."

...../The

The SADF has however not only been used for internal repression but in well-documented cases of destabilization in a number of Southern African countries. As another objector expressed it:

"The litany of crimes committed (by the SADF) both individually and corporately in the townships, neighbouring countries and Namibia leave me no alternative but absolute disassociation from this body."

The Rector of an Anglican Parish who signed the Statement of Conscience would not be willing to be a military chaplain because it would be lending credibility and legitimacy to this system.

A problem for Christians in refusing to do military service is of course the question of obedience to the State. This is very well dealt with by another of the signatories who writes:

"Jesus teaches obedience to the State. But where the State fails to fulfill its calling to be 'God's servant for good' rather than for evil and oppression then the scripture is clear that He alone is the supreme Lord and Saviour and it is to Him that we owe ultimate obedience."

Some people reading the statements of our group might claim that part of our argument is religious but basically the motivation is political. One of our number has stated clearly that he sees no division between his "political" reasons for objecting and his "religious" reasons. "The Gospel" he says "contains no dichotomy between individual salvation and holiness and our responsibility to pursue justice.... in the social sphere, and my political motivation (including my evaluation of the South African government and the war in which we are involved, and my consequent objections to serving in the SADF) thus flow directly from my Christian faith". I think we would all identify ourselves closely with that statement.

Ultimately the stand all of us are making here today, and I would include the so-called "religious" objectors and the so-called "political" objectors, is an appeal to all our fellow white South Africans to consider very carefully where our country is heading. Surely most people realise that the apartheid system is doomed: massive expenditure on a military machine to keep white domination alive is only reaping a harvest of bitterness and destruction.

...../And

And ultimately, of course, apartheid will have to disappear. Why not take the very different road of dialogue and negotiations? Why not embark on that road right now?

Paddy Kearney

DIRECTOR OF DIAKONIA

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR SUPPORT GROUP
20 St. Andrews St.
4001 Durban

21 September 1989

PRESS STATEMENT ON CONSCRIPTS' STAND

The public stand of hundreds of men eligible for the call-up is a clear indication to the government that

- * conscription into the SADF is still the cause of a severe moral dilemma to many in the white community;
- * conscientious objection is a reality which is here to stay as long as apartheid exists;
- * existing non-military alternatives to military service are wholly inadequate, both for those who qualify for them, and for those who do not.

We hope that the van Loggerenberg Committee (currently accepting submissions from the public on improvements to the military service system) takes note of this eloquent testimony to the inadequacy of the current system.

We call on the government, as a matter of urgency, to enshrine in law a genuine, non-punitive, non-military form of national service for all conscripts who for moral, political or religious reasons cannot in good conscience serve in the SADF.

As a sign of good faith we call on the government in the meantime to

- * release from prison conscientious objectors David Bruce, Charles Bester and Saul Batzofin;
- * suspend the sentence hanging over Ivan Toms, currently out on bail;
- * suspend all legal proceedings against all other objectors;
- * grant amnesty to all objectors in exile so that they can return home freely.

DURBAN COSG

End Conscription Campaign

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PRESS STATEMENT

CONSCRIPTS' STAND CAPTURES ESSENCE OF NATIONAL DEFIANCE CAMPAIGN

The End Conscription Campaign salutes the courageous stand of hundreds of men eligible for conscription nationwide this morning in their public declaration of refusal to serve in the SADF.

Their stand, representing the tip of an iceberg, is a sign of encouragement to many others who have equally strongly held convictions about fighting for apartheid but who, for a variety of entirely valid reasons, are not prepared to go public. This public stand says to them "You are not alone".

This stand is the single most powerful action of defiance which white South African males eligible for conscription can make. On the one hand it strikes at the very engine-room of apartheid and says "We are not prepared to be used as cogs in apartheid's machine of repression and white minority domination". On the other hand it strengthens the bonds of nonracialism, reconciliation, peace and democracy, giving a clear and unequivocal message to the black community, saying "We are not prepared to be party to your oppression. We will never come into your townships as adversaries with guns in Caspiers and brown uniforms, but only as friends, at your invitation. We join hands with you against apartheid". This stand captures the essence of the national Defiance Campaign by saying "No!" to collaboration with apartheid and "Yes" to a nonracial democracy based on peace and justice.

Magnus Malan incorrectly blamed the ECC for the stand of the 143 conscripts last year and Adriaan Vlok soon thereafter restricted our organisation. At the time we and other public commentators noted the inappropriateness of this authoritarian action. It was said that Malan was attacking the messenger bringing him the bad news, rather than dealing with the root causes of conscripts' grievances.

The public stand today by so many men eligible for conscription vindicates that view. It further illustrates that the government has done nothing in the intervening period since the last stand to address the root of the problem.



ECC
End Conscription Campaign

The stand therefore also confirms the correctness of our decision to unban ourselves. Conscription is still a burning moral issue in the consciousness of the white community. The ECC therefore still has a vital role to play in the body politic of South African life.

We pledge our renewed commitment to the task of abolishing conscription into apartheid's army.

We call for an end to conscription. We call for a just peace in our land.

DURBAN ECC
21 September 1989

REGISTER OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS LAUNCH

PRESS STATEMENT

We a group of 756 South Africans who are liable to be conscripted, have decided in good conscience and of our own accord, that we cannot serve in the SADF.

Our backgrounds and political persuasions are diverse. Each of us has our own individual reasons for objecting to military service which are recorded in the register of conscientious objectors.

We will respond to the call-up in different ways. Some will go to jail. Others will opt for religious objector status. Many of us will choose between a life in exile or constant evasion of call-ups.

294 of us have completed our initial period of service and 79 have also completed some of our camp liability. Many of us have done active service in Angola, Namibia and the townships of South Africa and 87 of us held rank. 397 of us have done no military service. 68 of us are doing, or have done "community service" as an alternative to military service.

Amongst us are lawyers, doctors, dentists, teachers, computer scientists, Bishops and ministers of religion, professors, university lecturers, students, scientists, engineers, business people, journalists, artists, musicians, actors, and a company director.

The solutions to the problems of South Africa are political, not military. We are committed to using our skills to serve our country in a positive and constructive way. We believe this cannot be achieved by participation in the SADF which has consistently been used to uphold apartheid and is an obstacle to peaceful change. We will not be conscripted into this army.

Namibia will shortly be independent, after two decades of war in which thousands died. Many thousands have already died in South Africa. There is no reason why the killing in South Africa should continue before a negotiated settlement can be achieved. We are not prepared to be part of the government's war.

We stand in solidarity with the imprisoned objectors, David Bruce, Charles Bester and Saul Batzofin and salute their courage. We call for their immediate release.

We stand here today as objectors, aware of the possible consequences of our action.

We refuse to serve in the SADF.

- Issued by the national coordinating committee for the launch of the register of conscientious objectors.

Stand Statistics: Professions

SUMMARY:

Scholars	:	1
Students	:	315
Academics	:	83
Medical Profession	:	33
Engineers	:	15
Computer scientists	:	7
Teachers	:	29
Law Profession	:	18
Business/Commercial	:	24
Clerics	:	56
Natural Scientists	:	18
Social Scientists	:	33
Arts	:	62
Journalists	:	29
Labourers	:	2
Other	:	32
Unknown	:	8
Total	:	755

Summary of rank:

Lance Corporal	:	10
Corporal	:	26
Sergeant	:	4
2nd Lieutenant	:	6
Lieutenant	:	31
Bombardier	:	4
Able Seaman	:	3
Leading Seaman	:	1
Total with rank	:	87
Private	:	25
Unknown	:	217
Not applicable	:	428
Total	:	755

Summary of community servers

Current community servers	:	52
Ex-community servers	:	16

Summary of army service rendered:

No army service	:	397
Initial servive	:	185
Initial + camps	:	70
Initial + now commandos	:	30
Initial + camps + now commandos	:	9
Only commando liability	:	41
Imprisoned for refusing to serve	:	7
Unknown	:	17
Total	:	756

Summary of numbers by centre

Cape Town	:	241
Stellenbosch	:	26
Johannesburg	:	260
Pretoria	:	12
Bloemfontein	:	4
Durban	:	82
Pietermaritzburg	:	30
Port Elizabeth	:	18
East London	:	9
Grahamstown	:	48
Other	:	26
Total	:	756

Professions

DETAILED BREAKDOWN:

University	
Students	213
Postgrad. student:	103
Researchers	14
Lecturers	53
Professors	16
Medical Doctors	27
Dentists	2
Medical Scientist:	2
Paramedic	0
Engineering	
Civil	3
Chemical	2
Electrical	4
Mechanical	2
Design	1
Surveyor	2
Unknown	1
Law	
Attorneys	8
Advocates	2
Articled Clerks	2
Judges	0
Other	6
Teachers	29
Computer scient.	7
Church	
Ministers/Priests	36
Bishops	2
Missionaries	3
Monks / Brothers	5
Church workers	6
Journalists	29
Businesspeople	
Estate Agents	2
Wholesaler	1
Personnel	3
Other	13
Restuaranteur	2
Accountant	3

DETAILED BREAKDOWN:

Natural sciences	
Chemists	1
Biologists	1
Botanists	2
Zoologists	1
Soil Scientists	1
Geologists	2
Environmentalists	2
Environ. Planners	2
Physicists	4
Horticulturalists	1
Social sciences	
Social Workers	4
Associated	3
Community workers	6
Sociologists	1
Historian	0
Economists	3
Statiticians	2
Town Planners	4
Architects	5
Librarians	2
Arts	
Actors	2
Writers	4
Musicians	8
Photographers	7
Artists	12
Publishers	3
Graphics Designers	3
Model builders	3
Draftspeople	7
Filmmakor	3
Other	
Labourers	2
Prisoners	3
Unemployed	1
Artisans	4
Clerks	1

**The present system
of community service
is discriminatory and punitive**

We, people who are performing or have performed up to six years "community service" as an alternative to military service, hereby declare that the present system of alternative service is discriminatory and punitive and is in urgent need of substantial transformation. This is shown inter alia by the following:

- only a few of the many people with objections to military service are eligible for alternative service (only religious pacifists qualify) and four conscientious objectors have already been imprisoned during the last 20 months;
- the period of alternative service is excessively long and the Minister of Defence has consistently refused to reduce alternative service to correspond to the actual average length of military service rendered;
- alternative service may only be rendered in government structures, while many community servers cannot be suitably placed in such structures and while their posts are often not of a socially useful nature;
- numerous conditions of service are punitive in nature and the Director-General of Manpower has reneged an undertaking by his predecessor to meet with a delegation of the National Community Servers' Group to discuss matters of grave concern regarding the system of alternative service.

Name	City
Bezuidenhout, Jurgens	Durban
Birtwhistle, Martin	Durban
Bosch, Dawie	Cape Town
Bownes, Robin	Cape Town
Campanella, Guiseppe	Johannesburg
Crudwell, Frank	Johannesburg
De Wit, Michael	Cape Town
De Gruchy, Anton	Cape Town
De Gruchy, Steven	Cape Town
De la Mere, Kevin	Cape Town
Dry, Alistair	Johannesburg
Eberhard, Rolfe	Cape Town
Fuss, David	Cape Town
Goddard, Alan	Johannesburg
Goldman, Rob	Durban
Granger, Steven	Cape Town
Heydenrych, Clive	Cape Town
Ivey, Phillip	Cape Town
Jackson, Roy	Cape Town
Jacobsen, Peter	Durban
Kantor, Peter	Cape Town
Lund, Chris	Cape Town
McKay, Rob	Cape Town
Meier, Bruce	Cape Town
Nel, Bobby	Cape Town
Patrick, David	Cape Town
Payne, Jonathan	Durban
Ridgway, David	Cape Town
Schmidt, David	Cape Town

Name	City
Sephton, Simon	Cape Town
Shorten, Richard	Durban
Snaddon, Chip	Cape Town
Snaddon, Bruce	Cape Town
Steinegger, Peter	Cape Town
Strauss, Gideon	Cape Town
Sturrock, Paul	Cape Town
Sturrock, Paul	Cape Town
Trauen, Glen	Johannesburg
Van der Riet, Koos	Cape Town
Vorster, Patrick	Durban
Walker, Dave	Cape Town
Warmbeck, Andrew	Durban
Weir, Gavin	Cape Town
Winkler, Gunter	Johannesburg
Wood, Roger	Cape Town
Tredrea, Dave	Johannesburg
Knige, Ken	Johannesburg

GO LIKE THE BLAZES
CITINAS

MUCH LOVE + GOOD LUCK

CAPE TOWN

MIKE + P.J.

Please phone 021-475043

to confirm receipt
immediately.

confirmed receipt. - yvonne.

National Co-ordinating Committee for the launch of the register for conscientious objectors

Transvaal
Paul Boule
Stephen Louw

East London
Carl Beuster

Durban
Steve Collins

Port Elizabeth
Glenn Goosen

Grahamstown
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Reverend Douglas Bax
Rondebosch Congregational Church
Rondebosch
7700

CO Register Launch Press Statement

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¹⁸⁵80 of us have completed our initial military service and ⁷⁰12 have also completed some of our camp liability. Many of us have done active service in Angola, Namibia and in the 428 townships of South Africa and ¹¹⁸6 of us held rank. ³⁸38 of us have done no military service. ⁶⁸68 of us are doing, or have done "community service" as an alternative to military service.

Amongst us are lawyers, doctors, teachers, Bishops and ministers of religion, university lectures, scientists, engineers, business people, artists, musicians, actors and students.

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Namibia will shortly be independent, after two decades of war in which thousands died. There is no reason why the killing in South Africa should continue before a negotiated settlement can be achieved. We are not prepared to be part of the government's war.

We stand in solidarity with imprisoned objectors David Bruce, Charles Bester and Saul Batzofin and salute their courage. We call for their immediate release.

We stand here today as objectors, aware of the possible consequences of our action.

WE REFUSE TO SERVE IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENCE FORCE

Issued by the National Coordinating Committee for the Launch of the Register of Conscientious Objectors.

Noting ^{the} political, moral and religious objections

Noting the individual reasons as outlined in our individual statements we collectively have come together to say that we can and will not serve in the SADF. South African Defence Force

We are ^{patriotic} loyal South Africans who are prepared and wish to work constructively towards peace and justice in our society. Our decision leaves us with the following options:-

- (a) exile
- (b) evasion
- (c) prison
- (d) "community service" for "religious objectors"

We realise that there are ^{thousands} hundreds of others who have also made the decision not to serve.

We reject the ^{State's legislature} present legislation's attempt to split political and moral religious objection. We also find this legislation punitive.

We therefore call for:- ^{collectively as being artificial. is an artificial one which we reject}

- (a) recognition of all conscientious objectors
- (b) constructive alternative national service outside state organisations
- (c) that this alternative national service be of an equal length of time to that required by military service

3 Aug 10 am

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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