

37 Olivia Road
Berea
2198
21 September 1985.

A4.1

The Editor
The Sowetan

Dear Sir

The ECC has launched a national campaign to call for the removal of troops out of the townships; and for the individual soldier to have the right to refuse to serve in the townships. I have decided to support this End Conscription Campaign, by fasting for three weeks. I face the dilemma of going into the townships myself - I am called up for the 13th January 1986. I do not believe that I can go to the army and remain sincere in my understanding of my Christian faith. I am therefore objecting to military service on religious grounds.

Fasting is a time-honoured Christian tradition, being used for personal cleansing, and also for a whole nation to reflect on its situation, mourn its sinfulness, and petition God for help. (Neh 9:1; Jona 3:5; Acts 13:12). Having grown up in a Christian family, I have come to know fasting as an effective means of purification and protest. Therefore, I have chosen this method of expressing my deep horror at what is happening in the townships.

Statements such as the one by Magnus Malan, that troops are only in the townships to rout criminal elements (Star 21/9/85) are clearly contradicted by the facts. Troops allegedly enter schools, do house-to-house searches, and rob civilians. They are generally seen to perform the same functions as the police, who teargas, sjambok and shoot people. The SADF's role in the townships is obviously to coerce people into submission (emphatically called "law and order"), to stifle any form of protest, and then to force through the government's "reforms".

In this situation, I believe it is important for concerned people, black and white, to continue to protest against such atrocities, for example by fasting for a day, from sunset 6 Oct to sunset 7 Oct, to support the End Conscription Campaign call for troops out of the townships.

I believe that the 3 week fast will also help me personally, to reflect on my faith, and what that means for the situation in this country. Integrating my faith and life in this way is something I am continuously working towards, in the Young Christian Students, an ecumenical non-racial student movement. This fast is my small contribution toward a Just Peace in a non-racial, democratic South Africa.

Yours sincerely

Harald E. Winkler. H-E. Winkler

37 Olivia Rd
Berea
2198
Johannesburg
21 September 1985.

The Editor
City Press

Dear Sir

Troops out of the townships.

The End Conscription Campaign has launched a national campaign to call for the removal of troops out of the townships, and for the individual soldier to have the right to refuse to serve in the townships. I have decided to support this campaign by fasting for three weeks (17 Sept to 7 Oct). I am drinking only water and herbal tea with no sugars. Dr Ivan Thoms from Cape Town and Richard Stele from Durban are fasting for the same call.

I face the dilemma of going into the townships myself - I am called up for the 13 Jan '86. I do not believe that I can go to the army and remain sincere in my understanding of my Christian faith. I am therefore objecting to military service on religious grounds.

Statements such as the one by Magnus Malan, that troops are only in the townships to rout criminal elements (star 21/9/85) are clearly contradicted by the facts. Troops allegedly enter schools, do house-to-house searches and rob civilians. They are generally seen to perform the same functions as the police, who tear gas, spamban and shoot people. The SADF's role in the townships is obviously to coerce people into submission (emphatically called "law and order"), to stifle any form of protest, and then to force through the government's "reforms".

In this situation, I believe it is important for concerned people, black and white, to continue to protest against such atrocities, for example by fasting for one day (sunset Oct 6 to sunset Oct 7) to support the ECC call for troops out of the townships.

I hope that the fast will have effects on a far wider group of people. My particular concern is that the churches consider urgently where they stand in the growing conflict in South Africa. This fast is my small contribution towards initiating such processes, so that one day, we may see a Just Peace in a non-racial, democratic South Africa.

Yours sincerely

Harald E. Winkler. H. E. Winkler

A4.4.

Room 227
Khotse House
42 De Villiers St.
Johannesburg
10 March 1986

The Editor
THE SUNDAY STAR

Dear Sir

KAGISO:SYMBOL OF SOUTH AFRICA

Three Conscripts fasted for 3 weeks in September 1985. Thousands fasted for 24 hours on 7 October. They all went without food as part of the "TROOPS OUT" campaign of the END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN. ECC alongside other organisations, continuously calls for the withdrawal of the troops from the townships. We do so because we believe that their presence in the townships further increases conflict in our war-torn country. We believe that the mere presence of young white men brandishing guns and SADF uniforms increases the hatred among black and white in South Africa.

We believe that all South Africans must be concerned about the increasing level of militarisation and must work towards a just peace. It is clear that we must work harder and faster now in a time when white civilians are taking it upon themselves to wage war against neighbouring black residential areas. We refer to the horrifying incidents of Kagiso.

The ECC will launch a national "WORKING FOR A JUST PEACE CAMPAIGN" in April. In ECC centres all round the country we will demonstrate in a practical way that we should use pick-axes to build peace rather than destroy it.

WE CALL FOR AN END TO CONSCRIPTION
WE CALL FOR A JUST PEACE IN OUR LAND!

Yours sincerely
Ms A. Rademeyer
Publicity Officer
END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN.

Letter sent only to Star.

Room 227
Khotse House
42 De Villiers St.
Johannesburg
7 March 1986

A4.4

THE EDITOR
THE CITIZEN

Dear Sir

SADF-OUT!

I would like to respond to the letter from Pro-Patria of 6/03/86.

The principal question is not how "defenceless" and innocent black people will defend themselves from radical elements but rather how they will be protected from the SADF!

We cannot assess the activities of the SADF in the townships accurately due to the restrictions on the press.

Can Pro-Patria inform us where he/she collects their well-informed facts?

Why are there so many funerals in the townships?

Certainly not for local entertainment!!

The Institute for Race Relations has released the figure of over 1000 deaths in the past 18 months of unrest.

Does the Pro-Patria believe these deaths are all caused by "radical black elements"?

Let's rather be Pro-Peace!

Yours sincerely
Ms. A. Rademeyer

ECC
Room 227

A44

Khotse House
42 De Villiers St.
Johannesburg

Fiona Higginson
HAPPENINGS
THE STAR

Dear Ms Higginson

I would like to inform you of another ECC concert. It is really a pity that you were unable to carry the concert of the 14 March. The concert was very successful. Approximately 700 people attended.

This time we are offering a concert to High school students. They will be entertained by school bands as well as by THAYIMA! There will also be a disco.

INFO: "END OF TERM SCHOOL CONCERT; JOEL OF THE YEAR"

Time: 8 pm

Venue: Church hall 3'rd St. VICTORY PARK

Entrance: R2

Featuring: Thayima

4 local school bands

Disco

Any band that is interested in playing at the concert are welcome. We assure all attenders an end of term celebration to beat all celebrations.

Yours sincerely

Ms A. Rademeyer

Tel: 643-6405

Dear Sir

On 2 April 1985 the End Conscription Committee held a public protest meeting. The following statement of demands was endorsed by the 30 organisations and prominent individuals listed below, and by the 300 people who attended the meeting.

South Africa is facing a Civil War.

The massacre of mourners in Uitenhage is the latest of a grim toll of violence killing our country.

We believe this conflict between township residents and the security forces is rooted in the unjust discriminatory practices of this government.

Peace can only come through the building of a democratic, non-racial, undivided South Africa.

1. We demand an immediate stop to State violence.

We demand that the army and the police force stop implementing indefensible State policies.

2. We demand the abolition of all apartheid laws.

We demand the release of security detainees and negotiations with the silenced leaders of our people.

3. We demand that the government stop conscripting young South Africans into a war of its own making.

We demand the cancellation of the July call-up.

4. WE CALL FOR A JUST PEACE IN OUR LAND

Signed by or on behalf of:

1. United Democratic Front
2. Western Province Council of Churches
3. Black Sash
4. NUSAS
5. UCT Student Representative Council
6. Conscientious Objectors Support Group
7. Women's Movement for Peace
8. International Youth Year Committee
9. Student Union for Christian Action
10. Catholic Justice and Peace
11. Retail and Allied Workers Union
12. Clothing Workers Union
13. Revd Alan Boesak
14. Revd David Russell

15. Revd Syd Lockett
16. Mrs Sheena Duncan, National President Black Sash
17. Mrs Mary Burton, Western Cape Black Sash
18. Mrs Noël Robb, Western Cape Black Sash
19. Mr Zoli Malindi, Western Cape President, UDF
20. Prof Mike Savage
21. Prof Francis Wilson
22. Revd Abel Hendricks, Past President Methodist Church
23. Revd Wilfred Abrahams, Regional Chairman Congregational Church
24. Revd Doug Bax
25. Revd Lionel Louw, Chairperson WPCC
26. Prof J V O Reid, Deputy Vice-Chancellor UCT
27. Ministers Alliance AME Church
28. Women's Front
29. United Women's Organisation
30. End Conscription Committee

Submitted by:

Michael Evans
 Chairperson, End Conscription Committee
 P.O. Box 208
 Woodstock

(I would be very grateful if you would publish the full list of endorsers; if this is impossible, then at least a representative selection.)

14 St Michaels Road
Observatory 7925
9 April 1985

The Editor
The Argus

Dear Sir

I am writing on behalf of the End Conscription Committee which ten days ago submitted an advert to your newspaper. The advert was for a public meeting and was headed: "Civil War Protest Meeting..."

It was apparently on your instruction that the advert was withdrawn from publication. We are therefore requesting reasons for your action, considering that we followed all the correct procedures in submitting the advert.

More importantly, the ECC is concerned at the attitude your newspaper would appear to be taking to the End Conscription Campaign. The committee which heads the campaign in the Western Cape represents 19 organisations (including inter alia, the Western Province Council of Churches, the United Democratic Front and the Black Sash). The campaign has been endorsed by many prominent individuals, including Sir Richard Luyt, Professor Francis Wilson and the Revd Alan Boesak. In the year since the campaign was launched it has attracted wide-spread support.

Yet Argus coverage has not reflected the campaign's growth or impact. All letters submitted have been spiked and important events have received little or no coverage, notably the recent public protest meeting. We in ECC have heard from reliable sources that it is unwritten Argus policy to give as little coverage to the campaign as possible. Is this the position, and if not, what are the reasons for the limited coverage which you are giving the campaign?

In the past the Argus has been consistently critical of government policy, and of the injustice and violence of apartheid. The ECC is asking no more than that individual conscripts have the freedom to choose whether they participate in an army which is seen to be defending the apartheid system. Surely it would be consistent with Argus policy to give coverage (even if not outright support) to such a campaign?

I would be happy to discuss any of these issues with you personally, or to forward you with ECC literature. I look forward to hearing from you.

Michael Elphinstone

P.O.Box 208,
Woodstock.
7195

2nd May, 1985

The Editor
Cape Times
77 Burg Street
Cape Town
8001

Dear Sir,

Your editorial, "The Call-up" of Monday 29 April highlights one of the key problems facing our troubled and divided country. You correctly argue that the SADF is playing a role which, far from being in defence of South Africa, is further aggravating conflict. And you rightly condemn the use of young white conscripts in quelling the legitimate protest we now see in black townships around the country.

The violent confrontations in the Eastern Cape over recent months have seen South African fight against South African. Does this not point to the intensification of the civil war our country is experiencing. And in many of these instances it would appear that it is the mere presence of the SADF in the townships that has exacerbated the anger of the people living there. The use of the SADF and the police in an often brutal and highly repressive way, indicates a further worrying tendency. This is best summed up in the words of Professor John Dugard of Wits University, who was quoted in Time magazine (8/4/85) as saying that, "the Eastern Cape can best be viewed as Gestapo Country."

In a year when the democratic world is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the defeat of fascism in Europe, it is disturbing to note the increasing ease with which the authorities resort to violence to solve problems. When one adds the continued denial of political and human rights to the majority of South Africans and the inherently violent nature of the apartheid system, one is forced to ask: Are there not parallels between the South Africa of today and the Germany of the thirties and forties?

The pill becomes an increasingly bitter one to swallow when we see that young white men have little choice as to whether to participate in the SADF, a body so closely tied to the maintenance of apartheid. It is interesting to note that in the war that ended 40 years ago South Africans were allowed to choose whether they would fight against fascism. The same can not be said in South Africa today. Young white men are being forced increasingly to take up arms on the side of the SADF against their fellow South Africans.

It is in this light that we in the End Conscription Committee call for an end to conscription. The growing condition of civil war in South Africa has furthermore made the call for peace an ever more urgent necessity. Therefore at the same time as we call for an end to conscription, it is vital that this is accompanied by a just peace in our land. It is only on this basis that we might avoid the disastrous consequences of our country sinking further into the abyss of violence and reaction.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Evans

Michael Evans
Chairperson End Conscription Committee

5 Lower Trill Road
OBSERVATORY
7925

13 May 1985

Mr Hugh Robertson
The Argus
122 St George's Street
CAPE TOWN

Dear Mr Robertson

We in the End Conscription Committee are concerned that our views on the issues of militarisation and conscription are fairly reflected in the press. To this end we have on numerous occasions submitted comment in the form of press releases to your newspaper. These have, however, often not been published. This is probably a consequence of their not being topical by the time they reach your offices.

To overcome this problem we would greatly appreciate it if we might be contacted for comment by your journalists when writing stories on the issues of the SADF, conscription and the state of unrest in South Africa, especially where the military have been deployed.

I can be contacted at the above address or by telephone (47-0519). Your response to this request would be appreciated.

Yours

DAVID SHANDLER

The following is a statement released by the ECC National Office on 27/5/85
The End Conscription Campaign is angered by the ban placed on our Stellenbosch branch by the university Council. It is disturbing to note the university's denying a legitimate + lawful organisation the right to freedom of expression. The issue of freedom of speech is a particularly topical one at present especially after recent events in the ~~Pietermaritzburg~~ ~~Transvaal~~ ^{these events}. The university would do well to listen to the extensive calls that have been made since ~~for the~~ ^{for the} right to freedom of speech to be ~~an absolute right~~ ~~given~~ allowed to all. ECC nationally calls on the University to recognize ECC's right to organize and share its views in accordance with internationally recognized standards of academic freedom. ~~Not only does~~ ~~ECC have~~ ~~demanded~~ ~~this~~ ~~fight~~, ~~but~~ ~~there~~ ~~is~~ ~~also~~ ~~extensive~~ ~~calls~~ ~~support~~ ~~for~~ ~~ECC's~~ ~~call~~. ~~Banning~~ ~~ECC~~ ~~is~~ ~~not~~ ~~going~~ ~~to~~ ~~stand~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~way~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~widespread~~

Telex: Attn ^{of the} Chairman University Council
the ~~Rector~~
~~Phiso's Bosch~~
University of Stellenbosch

Letter - for publication

*Copy for file
I did try!
Dok C*

The Editor
CAPE TIMES

Dear Sir,

The Civil Rights League has much appreciated the reports by Mr. Riaan de Villiers on the situation in black townships. These humanise the bare facts and figures issued by officialdom and help us keep an informed and balanced view in our racially polarised society.

With the entry of the SADF into the Vaal townships last October (vigorously protested by the League) it seems many have become conditioned to accept a new level of confrontation. We must guard against this process. Too frequently media reports to-day refer only briefly, almost incidentally, to the presence of soldiers assisting in the policing of black townships. We must never lose sight of the fact that a privileged white minority rules over an unenfranchised black majority, and that the sons of the white minority only are conscripted, i.e. compelled to serve in the SADF. For their sake, and for the future of all South Africans, the League continues to call for an end to military conscription, for the state of emergency to be lifted, and for genuine negotiations to begin for the restructuring of government to meet the just and reasonable demands of all our people.

Yours faithfully,

Newlands.

Mrs. D. Cleminshaw, Committee Member
for CIVIL RIGHTS LEAGUE

2, Buchan Rd.,
Newlands 7700

1st August 1985.

Beverly
(Frontline
article)

Ends of the
Rifle

FOR INFORMATION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MEMORANDUM
DATE: 10/11/50
TO: SAC, NEW YORK
FROM: SAC, ALBANY



End Conscription Campaign

PO Box 208
Woodstock
5 August 1985

The Editor
Cape Times
77 Burg Street
Cape Town
8001

Dear Sir

Amidst the blinded vitriol that has come from the authorities over these past weeks, the words of Dr Beyers Naude as quoted in your newspaper (5/8/85) offer much hope. In these times of acute conflict and debate, his suggestion of a just peace should be seriously considered by all South African democrats.

His simple statement that "peace is only possible through justice", gives the lie to the Nationalist government's intentions in declaring the present state of emergency. The Government has claimed that through resorting to this action it intends to restore peace to our country's troubled townships. There can be few who do not agree that our land is in dire need of peace. But there can be no doubt that the present government has little hope of achieving this.

The peace that P.W. Botha and his government talk of is a peace without justice. As long as they maintain their hated apartheid system we will see no justice or peace in our country. Employing the SADF and SAP to put down the legitimate protest that has grown throughout South Africa further impedes the cause of peace. Rather than being seen as peace-makers the security forces are increasingly being recognised as the defenders of apartheid.

And it is young conscripts, without any right to object, who are being forced into these situations. We simply cannot allow this to continue. If we agree with Dr Naude's proposal we must begin to work for peace, not by deploying troops in the townships, but by pulling them out. Young men should not be forced into the SADF against their will. And indeed, the SADF, the SAP and the great apartheid machinery should cease to be used against the will of the majority of our people. If we want peace in our land, we must work for justice.

Yours faithfully

David Shandler
End Conscription Campaign Press Officer

The Editor
CAPE TIMES.

Dear Sir,

Since 1967, when military conscription was first imposed on white males, the Civil Rights League has urged greater recognition rights of conscientious objection, and provision of alternative, constructive forms of national service.

As a signatory to the Declaration to End Conscription, the League has participated in the End Conscription Campaign. Thus we have been privileged to meet some of the small number of C.O.s and their relatives and friends, many of whom have rejected voluntary exile and remained in South Africa in order to campaign legally and non-violently for recognition of human rights. Among them are Richard Steele, Michael Evans, Anita Kromberg and Sue Britton, whose recent detention is an outrage and compels us to demand their immediate release.

We reject the transparent attempt by Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr. A. Vlok, to smear them by linking the End Conscription Campaign with what he perceives as "the evil goals of the ANC". Mr. Vlok's thinking demonstrates a monstrous reassertion of the principle of certainty that underlies apartheid ideology. We believe that what he actually fears and wishes to stop are the fasts planned by C.O.s which may awaken many to the existence of moral choice in any situation.

We hope it is not the state's intention to continue crushing the ascent of talented and dedicated youth. These youngsters are forward-looking, confident of success in the conflict between moral intellectual leadership and outmoded civil authority. It is time for the Nationalist Government to yield. New men and women are knocking at the door.

Yours faithfully,

for: CIVIL RIGHTS LEAGUE

Newlands.

Mrs. D. Cleminshaw, Committee Member.

2 Buchan Rd., Newlands 7700 12th September 1985.

30 Malleson Road,
Mowbray
7700.
12th September, 1985.

Dear Editor,

I wish to respond to Mr Ken Owen's column published last week in your newspaper in which he made some very unfair statements about the End Conscription Campaign.

You might ask on what grounds do I respond? I am a committed Christian doctor and part of the SACLA Clinic team serving the Crossroads squattercamp. I have been involved in the ECC since its launch in September 1984; a conscientious objector to undergoing further military service and will be starting a 20 day fast in St George's Cathedral, Cape Town, on the 17th September as a central part of the ECC's present campaign. I think I represent all aspects of the End Conscription Campaign that Mr Owen finds offensive.

In the present troubled times in South Africa with 36 magisterial districts under a state of emergency I find it difficult to understand how the ECC can be accused of generating a "myth of conflict created to serve political ends". If there was no conflict then one wonders why the government declared a state of emergency. Speaking to blacks in Crossroads there is no doubt in their minds of the conflict - from little children who call all police and SADF alike solidiers or "amajohni", right to the leaders of that oppressed community.

The ECC is very aware of the dilemma facing white conscripts called up to do "National service". Young men who today might be at a combined church service in Langa or at a rasta party in Guguletu and next year will be in a SADF patrol of those same townships armed to kill. Young men were already questioning why they should fight in Namibia, when all church delegations to that land have reported that the SADF is seen as an army of occupation and not wanted by the majority of Namibians. Now the conflict is not 2,000 kms away but 15 kms down the road in the black townships. As a well known bank advert goes: Makes you think!

When 18 year old men who are not religious pacifists have to try and obey their conscience, facing a penalty of 6 years in prison, is it small wonder that the 1983 Cape Town Diocesan Synod (before the troops were used in the black townships) stated its mind as : "It is immoral to conscript people under the present system".

So rather than trying to create conflict, the ECC is actually trying to help reduce the conflict of conscience conscripts face by calling for an end to compulsory conscription and a just peace in our land. We are not opposed to conscripts, only to conscription!

The End Conscription Campaign is a legal organisation consisting of a number of church, student, women's and political organisations. Its call is shared by many other organisations and political parties in South Africa. It is a principled organisation that calls for peace and not war. It has no contact with the African National Congress (ANC) as suggested by the state and is totally committed to a legal campaign ^{which is} of non violence. As proof of this commitment the core of our present campaign will be people fasting for a just peace in centres around the country. How much more passive can one be than to stop eating for a period as a sign of personal commitment, solidarity with those who are suffering and to spend time praying for our country and talking to those conscripts who wish to talk about their personal dilemma.

As a principled organisation we are not calling for peace at any price. We believe that a pre-requisite for peace is the withdrawal of troops from the townships. Using soldiers in black townships is to effectively turn the state against some of the people - which I believe justifies the use of the words "civil war".

It is very disturbing that Mr Owen, who is a committed opponent of apartheid, should try and create bitter division amongst opponents of apartheid. If he is genuinely concerned about the conflict in our country, then would it not be better to attack the root cause, apartheid, rather than the End Conscription Campaign and its call for a just peace?

I personally believe that Mr Owen was sharing his sincere concerns but does he realise that within a week the government has responded to the groundwork of unsubstantiated uncertainty he created amongst his readership by detaining 4 prominent ECC members - 2 of whom are complete pacifists - under the draconian Section 29.

3.

The End Conscription Campaign and I personally, ^{is} am committed to ^{the} our campaign for a just peace and the withdrawal of the SADF troops from the townships. It is the same call that the majority of South Africans ^{are} is making at this time and we as individuals and as an organisation share a vision of a South Africa where men and women shall be able to live together in peace and unity.

Yours sincerely,

DR IVAN TOMS

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

PO Box 208
Woodstock
7915

16/9/85

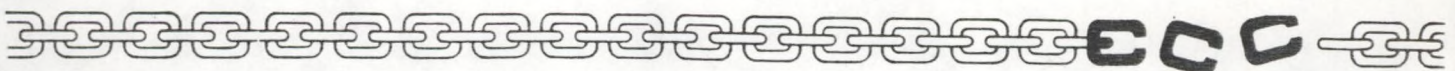
Dear Sir

I must take very strong exception to the comments made by Mr Ken Owen in his column of 5/9/85. His arguments have presented a highly distorted image of the work that the End Conscription Campaign is doing.

He would have the public believe that the ECC is mythologizing the conflict that besets our land. We are accused of creating divisions between people; of intending to "draw battle lines". He makes the gross assertion that our work serves "the same political purpose as the public incineration of "collaborators" - to polarize the population."

A number of comments need to be made in response to Mr Owen's remarks. In the first instance, whatever lines of polarization have been drawn in this country, are not the doing of those working towards an end to apartheid and a society built on justice and peace. Rather the divisions in our society are the making largely of the system of apartheid. It is apartheid that has put this country on the road to the polarization and the very real, not mythical, conflict around us. There are millions of South Africans working to rectify this. Mr Owen's comments would seek to create divisions amongst those who are working to this end. Rather than the ECC creating the divisions it is Mr Owen who is further polarising our already highly divided society.

The ECC exists on the basis that it is open to all who oppose apartheid and conscription into the SADF, and who desire a just peace in our land. We do not



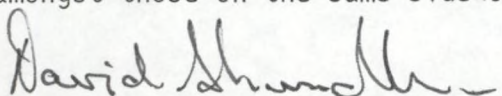
exclude anyone who agrees on these basic principles.

We do not need to be mudslinging if we are agreed that we need to get rid of apartheid. We need the maximum of unity and democracy in our opposition. There is a need for trust amongst those working towards the common end of justice and peace. It is sad to see that this is not the case with Mr Owen. He would seek to make our work illegitimate.. Does this help bring an end to apartheid? Clearly not. Rather he is providing the room for the state to act against us as it has done over the past week.

In the present climate it is highly irresponsible to equate our work with the public burning of collaborators. There is no way in which this assertion can be justified. What has occurred in our townships is indeed awful. It is the system of apartheid that has created this terrible violence; and it is democrats who are trying to stop it. The incineration of collaborators is a symptom, not a cause, of the polarisation. The burnings only confirm the divisions.

The campaign to end conscription is similarly a symptom of what apartheid has created. It is compulsory conscription into the SADF which has caused further polarisation. There are thousands of young men who are abhorred by the thought that they are serving, or are expected to serve, in the army that is defending apartheid. This, Mr Owen, is the root of the division around the conscription issue. It is the moral obligation of democrats living in South Africa to address this problem. We cannot turn our backs on these young men and say "No, we will not tackle the issue of conscription because it causes divisions". The divisions are already there. The task is to build unity.

And unity can only be achieved if we rid our country of apartheid. This requires a committed and concerted attack on all aspects of apartheid. We do not need divisions amongst those on the same side of the fence.



David Shandler - ECC Press Officer

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

PO Box 208
Woodstock
7915

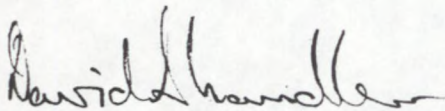
16/9/85

Mr A Heard
The Cape Times
77 Burg Street
Cape Town

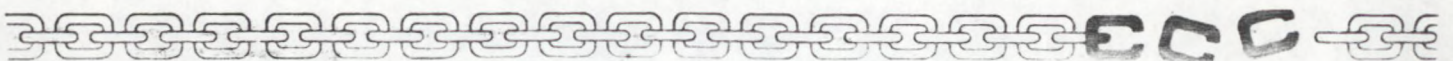
Dear Mr Heard

I must thank you for your positive response regarding our requests. I have enclosed an article written by our National Co-ordinator, Mr Laurie Nathan, as well as a letter in response to Ken Owen's column. I would greatly appreciate your publishing these. These are a little belated, but in terms of the state's repression of our work over the past week, I am sure you will understand.

Many thanks,



David Shandler



11/10/85

The Editor
Cape Times
77 Burg Str
Cape Town

Dear Sir

Mr Willem Steenkamp (On Parade, 9/10/85) poses a number of questions to the End Conscription Committee, following my address to the peace rally held in Cape Town last week.

Mr Steenkamp was clearly not amongst the 4000 people who attended the rally. If he had been there, he would not have misquoted and misrepresented my comments regarding the role of the S.A.D.F. Nowhere did I suggest that "it is no longer a question of simply reforming the S.A.D.F. but of totally abolishing it in a just society."

The ECC has never denied the right of a state to defend itself against external aggression. A future, democratic South Africa will no doubt require a defence force to defend its borders.

My point was that "if we examine the role that the defence force plays at present, then we can only conclude that it has no role to play in the peace process."

What is this role? ECC believes that in Southern Africa the S.A.D.F. is playing an aggressive and destabilizing role. It is in Namibia as an occupying army against the wishes of the international community, major local church groups and the people of Namibia itself. And within South Africa, the S.A.D.F. is directly propping up the system of apartheid.

Mr Steenkamp repeats the well-worn myth that the S.A.D.F. is merely an "obedient, statutory body. "In 1979 General Magnus Malan asserted that "the defence force supports government policy..."(C.T.28/10/1979) And "support" has involved far more than carrying out the wishes of the government in power.

These roles are the reason why ECC has asserted that the defence force has defined the enemy as the people of South Africa, an assertion which Mr Steenkamp strongly disputes. South Africa faces no military threat. The frontline states put together could not hope to match the power of the S.A.D.F. even if they had aggressive intentions. Rather, the only "threat" South Africa faces is from those who are opposing apartheid.

In the townships, as both Molly Blackburn and Ivan Toms commented, the residents do not distinguish between the army and the police. Both are regarded as the enemy. It is this situation which led Molly Blackburn to say: "If you are black and living in the Eastern Cape you can honestly say you are living in a civil war."

ECC is in no way sanctioning the brutalities committed by the police, as Mr Steenkamp infers. ECC is opposed to brutality in whatever way it manifests itself.

But ECC, as a body primarily concerned with the issue of military conscription, is particularly perturbed at the involvement of conscripts in alleged atrocities. We have received numerous reports from conscripts who have been involved in, or witnessed, events which at best can be described as blatant misconduct. S.A.D.F. complaints offices are hardly the best barometres to test the extent of troop atrocities.

Finally, it is worth repeating ECC's essential demand: that conscripts be given the right to choose - the right to choose whether they go into the townships, and, more importantly, the right to choose whether they participate in what many of them regard as apartheid's army. Mr Steenkamp would be wise not to dismiss this basic demand of a rapidly growing movement.

Yours Sincerely
Michael Evans
Chairperson, End Conscription Committee

PO Box 208
Woodstock

11 October 1985

The Editor
Cape Times

Dear Sir

Mr Willem Steenkamp (On Parade 9.10.1985) poses a number of questions to the End Conscription Committee, following my address to the Peace Rally held in Cape Town last week

1. Mr Steenkamp was clearly not amongst the 4000 people who attended the rally. If he had been there, he would not have misquoted and misinterpreted my comments regarding the role of the SADF. Nowhere did I suggest that "it is no longer a question of simply reforming the SADF but of totally abolishing it in a just society."

ECC has never denied the right of a state to defend itself against external aggression. A future, democratic South Africa will no doubt require a defence force to protect its borders.

My point was, that "if we examine the role that the defence force plays at present, then we can only ^{peace} conclude that it has no role to play in the ₁ process."

What is this role? ECC believes that in Southern Africa the SADF is playing an aggressive and

destabilizing role ~~to~~ that In Namibia it is playing an occupying role against the wishes of the international community, major local church groups and the people of Namibia itself. And within South Africa, the SADF is directly propping up the system of apartheid.

Mr Steenkamp repeats the well-worn myth that the defence ^{SADF} force is merely an "obedient, statutory body." In 1979 General Magnus Malan asserted that "the defence force supports government policy..." (C.T. 28.10.1979). And ~~more~~ "support" has involved far more than carrying out the wishes of the government in power.

The SADF has over the years assisted in formulating apartheid policies through its participation on the Shadowy State Security Council; it has helped implement policies by assisting in the forced resettlement of at least 7 rural communities and by regularly helping the ~~force~~ ^{police} in pass law operations; and it has directly defended apartheid policies through its operations in the townships

~~It is~~ These roles are the reason why ECC has asserted that the defence force ~~is~~ has defamed the enemy as the people of South Africa, an assertion which Mr Steenkamp strongly disputes. ~~South Africa~~ ~~has~~ South Africa faces no military threat. The frontline states put together could not hope to match the power of the SADF, even if they had aggressive intentions. Rather, the only "threat" South Africa faces is from those who are opposing apartheid

In the townships, as both Molly Blackburn and Ivan Toms, commented, the residents do not distinguish between the army and the police. Both are regarded as the enemy. ~~That is the reason why~~ ^{It is this situation which led} Molly Blackburn to a remark: "If you are black and living in the Eastern Cape you can honestly say you are living in a civil war."

~~Finally~~, ECC is in no way sanctioning the brutalities committed by the police, as Mr Steenkamp infers. ECC is opposed to brutality, from ~~whenever~~ ^{whenever} ~~land~~ in whatever way it manifests itself.

But ECC, as a body primarily concerned with the issue of military conscription, is particularly perturbed at the ~~case~~ ^{involvement} of conscripts in alleged atrocities. We have received & numerous reports from conscripts who have been involved in, or witnessed, events which at best can be described as blatant misconduct. SADF complaints offices are hardly the best barometres to test ~~to~~ the extent of troop atrocities.

Finally, it is worth repeating ECC's essential demand: ~~that~~ that conscripts be given the right to choose — the right to choose whether they go into the townships, and, more importantly, the right to choose whether they participate in what many of them regard as apartheid's army. Mr Steenkamp ~~will be~~ ^{would be} ~~giddy~~ ^{wise not to} dismiss this basic demand of a rapidly growing movement.

Yours sincerely
 Michael Evans
 Chairman, End Conscription Committee

10:35 / 14/10/85

Response to soldier's death in Kwayekhole on
13/10/85

It might very well have been a ~~NTL~~ ^{NTL} serviceman ~~that~~ ^{who} died in Kwayekhole. The ECC has long wavered of the presence of troops in SA's townships, both because ~~it is~~ they are playing a directly repressive role, and because it ^{forcibly} draws young white conscripts into the conflict. For the sake of millions of township residents, ~~and~~ the thousands of conscripts who we speak for, and for all South Africans who want a just peace we have to say: withdraw the troops from the townships. Don't ^{through the system of conscription} force young men into these situations. Give them the choice as to whether they want to fight + die for apartheid.

* Once again ~~blame~~ fingers will be pointed in blame. It is tragic that situations like this have arisen. The system of apartheid is ultimately to be held responsible. Apartheid has led to the conflict + spiral of violence we see around us.

② * Despite their usual denials by the SA's authorities about their role in Angola, + if the reports of the nature of the SA's invasion of Angola prove to be correct the ECC w'd like to strongly oppose the record its ~~absolute~~ ~~strong~~ opposition to this most ~~development~~ ^{Next initiative}. The role of the SADF in South + Southern Africa has clearly become that of an aggressor, with daily intrusions into the lives of ordinary people. Just as we have called for a troop withdrawal from SA's townships we call for the SADF to pull out of Angola. ~~The continuation of the SADF forces there can only lead to further conflict + a slow narrowing of whatever prospects remain for peaceful change + development in our sub-continent~~

SAPA + C.T. 22/9/85

+ their past record of misinformation which weighs heavily vs them. We ~~wonder if~~ if we can ~~at~~ ^{accept} at face value their account.

① We reiterate our stance that the SADF's presence in Namibia which ~~acts~~ ^{serves} as a ~~launch~~ ^{launch} to justify raids into Angola is + remains illegal.

Argus 28/10/85
+ SADA.

The banning of meetings ~~are~~ is a reminder to us of the daily violence imposed on most South Africans by the system of apartheid. It is totalitarian actions like these, which are reinforced by the might of the SAP + SADF, which have led to so much agony + bloodshed on the part of ~~a~~ ^a the people who are determined to win their democratic freedoms. The ECC ~~views~~ views the ban with the utmost contempt. The state by withdrawing the right of people to meet and air their views will ~~not~~ ^{never} stop people from holding those views and acting on them.

SAAN 29/12/85

The End Conscription Campaign mourns the ^{tragic} loss of Molly Blackburn and Brian Bishop.

We will always remember them for their unfaltering commitment to the struggle for peace and justice in South Africa.

They were outstanding examples ~~to all white South Africans~~ ^{of the role} ~~of the role~~ that whites can play as committed democrats in ~~South Africa~~ our country. The respect ~~with~~ which they commanded with all sections of South Africa's people is evidence of this.

The ECC will particularly

and active
miss their ongoing support
for our campaign. They
played a valuable role
in ~~the~~ ^{its} growth ~~of the~~ ^{standing by}
~~at the campaign that good times had~~
~~movement to end conscription~~

Their death passing is
a tragic loss. We express
our condolences to their
families and ~~commit ourselves~~
~~to continue the work of~~ ^{to} ~~for~~
~~justice to which they held so~~
~~dear.~~ We know that their
memory will inspire democrats
to continue to work for
justice + democracy.

19/2/86

Government spokesmen have refused on 3 occasions during the current sitting of parliament to divulge figures on ^{the} SADF. They have in all cases claimed that to the release of these figures would lead to misuse by "a certain organisation campaigning for the discontinuation of national service". This is a thinly veiled reference to the End Conscription Campaign.

The ECC views with contempt these crude attacks on our campaign. We see it as our responsibility to inform the public of the role that the SADF is playing. What better way of doing this is ^{there} to set the facts speaking for themselves, especially where they have been released in parliament. We question the government's refusal to release facts now. Could it be that the facts would do too much damage to the SADF and the government's credibility. We believe that this might well be the case, especially after a year of extensive troop deployment in the townships. It is not unlikely that figures, such as those for conscripts not reporting for duty, ~~or~~ might well have shot up. Clearly ^{it} ~~this~~ would embarrass the government. They should rather be addressing ^{to release such figures} the issue of the role

The ECC is shocked + horrified by this morning's raids. ~~Enough, we say enough!~~

It is bad enough for the SADF to invade a neighbouring country, but to attack their own citizens, South Africans, is nothing but creating ~~war~~ a civil war. For everyone's sake we must stop this ~~war~~. As citizens we have the responsibility to put pressure on this government to stop their madness. The SADF ^{clearly} can't be trusted with our security + the security of the region. They are encouraging destabilization + insecurity + serving only to uphold the apartheid whims of our government.

The SADF is not going to solve our problems. Will the government ever come to its senses + realise this? ~~It has to address the root causes of the problems.~~ It is madness to try + shoot our way out of the crisis our country is in.

Comment on

Raids

19/5/86

SAPSA
C.T. 3 1/2 min
Reuter

W.M. - tell re SAPSA
CAPITOL
702

12/6/86

12.13

2.15-P.W.

The ECC condemns in the strongest ~~way~~ ^{terms}
the current wave of detentions. We are
particularly concerned that two ECC
leaders, Michael Evans in C.T., and
Jac Baelle ~~in~~, the chair of the PMS
ECC have been detained. We call for
their immediate release as we do
for all the other detainees. The ~~a's~~
~~of the~~ We are convinced that these
a's of the authorities are senseless
& will plunge our country into
further conflict & turmoil. The government
is quite clearly going onto a war
footing in ~~directing~~ its aggression
~~against other~~ ^{of fellow} South Africans. This is
sheer madness. It will not solve our

problems. //

From ECC's perspective we are particularly concerned that there is an increased troop deployment ^{within our country} at present. We call for a halt to this development. Rather than use conscripts against their fellow SA's, we call on the govt to come together with all ^{SA's} ~~in our~~ country to discuss negotiate a peaceful future.

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END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

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