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We Demand the Right to Speak

End Conscription Campaign

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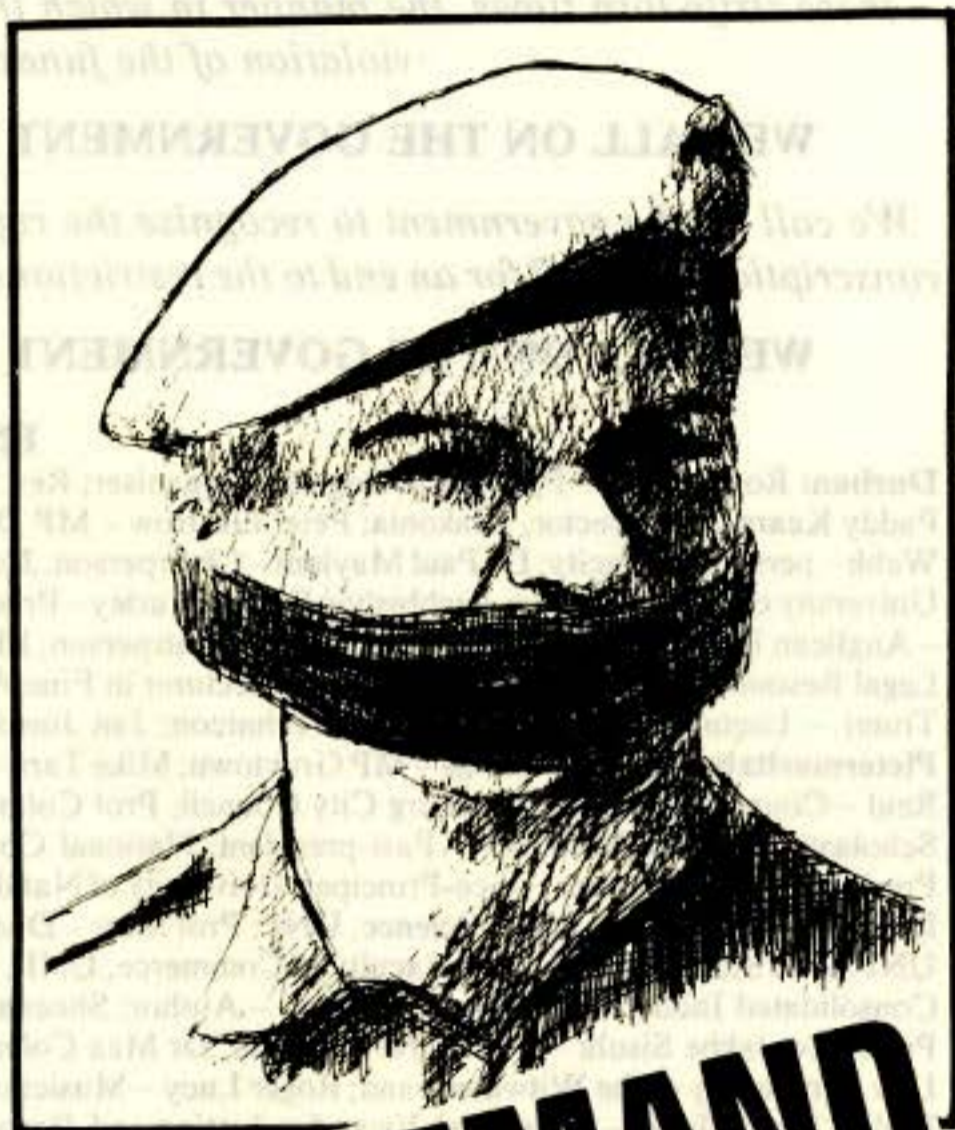
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End Conscription Campaign



**WE DEMAND
THE RIGHT
TO SPEAK!**



End Conscription Campaign

DECLARATION FOR THE RIGHT TO SPEAK

We note with grave concern that the emergency regulations prohibit the expression of opposition to conscription. This not only bars the End Conscription Campaign from voicing one of its central concerns, but also silences thousands of South Africans who are struggling daily with their consciences.

WE CALL ON THE GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNISE FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE

As this is a matter of crucial importance and drastic consequence to many citizens of this country, especially in these strife-torn times, the manner in which they are prevented from expressing their feelings is a serious violation of the fundamental right to freedom of speech.

WE CALL ON THE GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNISE FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE

We call on the government to recognise the right of all South Africans to express their opinion on military conscription. We call for an end to the restrictions placed on the End Conscription Campaign by the government.

WE CALL ON THE GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNISE FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE

ENDORSED BY:

Durban: Roy Ainslie – PFP Natal Regional Organiser; Rev Stanley Mogoba – Secretary of Conference Methodist Church of South Africa; Paddy Kearney – Director, Diakonia; Peter Gastrow – MP Durban Central; Crispin Hemson – Councillor, Durban City Council; Prof Colin Webb – personal capacity; Dr Paul Maylam – Chairperson, Joint Academic Staff Association; Prof Laurence Boule – Professor of Public Law, University of Natal, Durban; Archbishop Dennis Hurley – President of the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference; Bishop Michael Nuttall – Anglican Bishop of Durban; Anne Colvin – Chairperson, Black Sash, Durban; Chris Nicholson – Legal Resources Centre; Richard Lister – Legal Resources Centre; J Roome – Senior Lecturer in Fine Art, Natal Technicon; A Starkey – Lecturer in Fine Art, Natal Technicon; Barry Truter – Lecturer in Fine Art, Natal Technicon; Jan Jordaan – Lecturer, Natal Technicon; Clive Truter – Lecturer, Natal Technicon; **Pietermaritzburg:** Pierre Cronje – MP Greytown; Mike Tarr – MP Pietermaritzburg South; Clive Willows – Director of Child Welfare; Pamela Reid – Councillor, Pietermaritzburg City Council; Prof Colin Gardner – Vice President UDF, Midlands; Fr Coraine – Rector of St Joseph's Scholasticate; Else Schreiner – Past-president, National Council of Women; Kevin O'Brien – University of Natal Pietermaritzburg SRC President; Prof Schreiner – Vice-Principal, University of Natal; Prof Maughn-Brown – Dean of the Faculty of Arts, UNP; Prof Douglas Irvine – Dean of the Faculty of Social Science, UNP; Prof Muir – Dean of the Faculty of Education, UNP; Prof Milton – Dean of the Faculty of Law, UNP; Prof Stobie – Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, UNP; Peter Brown; **Johannesburg:** Gordon Waddell – Chief Executive, Johannesburg Consolidated Industries; Nadine Gordimer – Author; Sheena Duncan – Director of Black Sash Advice Office; Percy Qoboza – Editor, City Press; Zwelakhe Sisulu – Editor, New Nation; Dr Max Coleman – Detainees Parents' Support Committee; Prof John Dugard – Professor of Law, University of the Witwatersrand; Roger Lucy – Musician; Bishop Patrick Mvemve – Roman Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of Johannesburg; Father Emil Blaser – Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Reconciliation, Roman Catholic Diocese of Johannesburg; Joseph Wing – General Secretary, United Congregational Church of South Africa; Bishop Desmond Tutu – Archbishop-elect of Cape Town; Beyers Naude – General Secretary, South African Council of Churches; Tom Waspe – Chairperson, Johannesburg Democratic Action Committee; Bishop Duncan Buchanan – Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg; Rev Peter Storey – Past-president, Methodist Church of South Africa; Rev Alan Maker; Des and Dawn Lindberg – Theatrical Producers; Debbie Bloom – Jews for Social Justice; Bob de la Motte – Marathon Athlete; **Port Elizabeth:** Bishop Evans – Anglican Bishop of Port Elizabeth; Bishop Coleman – Roman Catholic Bishop of Port Elizabeth; Rev George Irvine – Head, Methodist Church in the Eastern Cape; Athol Fugard – Playwright; Judy Chalmers – Chairperson Black Sash, Port Elizabeth; Andrew Savage – MP Walmer; David Walker – Chairperson, Young Progressives, Port Elizabeth; **Grahamstown:** Bishop K.C. Oram – Anglican Bishop of Grahamstown; C.J.C. Hewitt – Warden, St Paul's Theological College; Prof J.N. Suggit – Dean of the Faculty of Divinity, Rhodes University; Rev R.T. Barker – Dean of the Anglican Cathedral of Grahamstown; Rev D.G.L. Cragg; R.A. Smith – Chairperson Black Sash, Grahamstown; Prof Andre Brink – Professor of Afrikaans – Nederlands, Rhodes University, and Author; Prof Guy Butler – Professor of English, Rhodes University and Author; Don McLennan – Department of English, Rhodes University and Poet; M van Wyk-Smith – Department of English, Rhodes University and Poet; Prof T.M. Letcher – Department of Chemistry, Rhodes University; Prof T.R.H. Davenport – Department of History, Rhodes University; Prof I.A. MacDonald – Department of Philosophy, Rhodes University; Prof T.A. Marsh – Faculty of Education, Rhodes University; Prof D.J.A. Edwards – Department of Psychology, Rhodes University; Prof G.M. Stewart – Department of Journalism, Rhodes University; Prof A.J. Penny; Prof L.W. Lanham; **Cape Town:** Sir Richard Luyt; Mary Burton – National President, Black Sash; Margaret Nash – National Vice president Black Sash; Jennifer de Tolly – Chairperson Black Sash Cape Town; Glen Goosen – President UCT SRC; Di Bishop – National Vice-President Black Sash; Prof Michael Savage – Department of Sociology, UCT; Prof Dennis Davis – Department of Commercial Law, UCT; Prof Colin Bundy – Department of History, UCT; Prof Francis Wilson – School of Economics, UCT; Dr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert.

THE RIGHT TO SPEAK

The issue of conscription is becoming more and more of a problem in South Africa. Thousands of white South African families face deep moral conflicts as a result of the call-up. Many have united in opposing compulsory military service. Since our launch 3 years ago, the End Conscription Campaign has been the voice of these people. ECC is founded on the belief that individuals should be free to choose whether or not to serve in the SADF. Through campaigning and other activities we have received much support and a broad following from all sectors of the community. We have nine active branches throughout the country.

With the current State of Emergency one of the government's aims has been to stop the increasing expression of opposition to conscription. They have also wanted to suppress the growing criticism of the SADF and its activities. Under the emergency regulations the government introduced a ban on anyone opposing compulsory military conscription. The penalty for contravening this regulation is a possible 10 years in prison or a fine of R20 000.

ECC is currently involved in campaigning for our right to speak again. This call has been heard by many South Africans and a declaration to this effect has been endorsed and signed by prominent members of the community.

If you also support this declaration, fill in the slip below and post it to:

**The End Conscription Campaign,
227 Khotso House, 42 De Villiers Street,
Johannesburg 2001.**

I support the declaration calling on the government to recognise freedom of conscience, and to allow ECC the right to speak!

Signature:

ECC & THE STATE OF EMERGENCY

Ever since the declaration of the State of Emergency on June 12 1986, South Africans have lost the right to speak about a number of issues. In particular it has become a severely punishable offence to discredit or undermine the system of compulsory military conscription. The principles which the End Conscription Campaign has been working for in the past 3 years are now considered subversive, and considerable efforts have been made to suppress and harass ECC members. Since the emergency at least 50 ECC members have been detained and a number are still being held. In addition to this, members' homes have been raided and media confiscated. The End Conscription Campaign stands for freedom of choice, but continual attempts are being made by the authorities to hinder the campaign.

The State of Emergency has introduced new burdens for conscripts. Last year over 35 000 SADF troops were deployed in 93 black townships, as well as being used to maintain South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia. This year the figures are likely to be far higher and the demands on the conscripts will increase accordingly. Since September 1984 well over 2 000 people have been killed in the "unrest", the majority by members of the "security forces".

More and more white South Africans are being forced to rely on the government's version of the truth about the activities of the SADF. It is clear that one of the reasons for curtailing our right to know is an attempt to ensure that concern about the role of the military is replaced by silent consent.

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- **ECC IS NOT A BANNED ORGANISATION! LET US SPEAK!**
 - **WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT THE SADF IS DOING IN THE TOWNSHIPS AND IN OTHER AREAS!**
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THE CHOICE OF ALTERNATIVES

Those who support the ECC are motivated by a commitment to working for a Just Peace in South Africa. We believe that the presence of the army in the townships and its raids into neighbouring states only serves to exacerbate conflict.

There are, however positive, non-military actions which we can and do engage in, which help to build a just and peaceful society. During ECC's Working for a Just Peace campaign in April, more than a thousand people were involved in useful community projects countrywide. These contrast sharply with the reported activities of the SADF at the same time. Many supporters of ECC painted hospital wards and organised first aid classes. ECC helped rural residents to plant trees and crops. ECC ran holiday programmes, laid bicycle tracks and planted parks for township children. ECC went into the townships in peace, and walked side by side with their residents, uplifting the community.

At present, the Defence Act only makes provision for universal religious pacifists to do community service instead of military duty. But even they are penalised for their convictions, having to do this service for 1½ times the length of normal military service.

ECC demands that:

- **People should be eligible for community service on moral, ethical, political as well as religious grounds.**
- **Non-military community service should not be a punitive length.**
- **People should be able to do this service in non-government institutions.**