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War Is Not Compulsory: Let's Choose Peace

End Conscription Campaign

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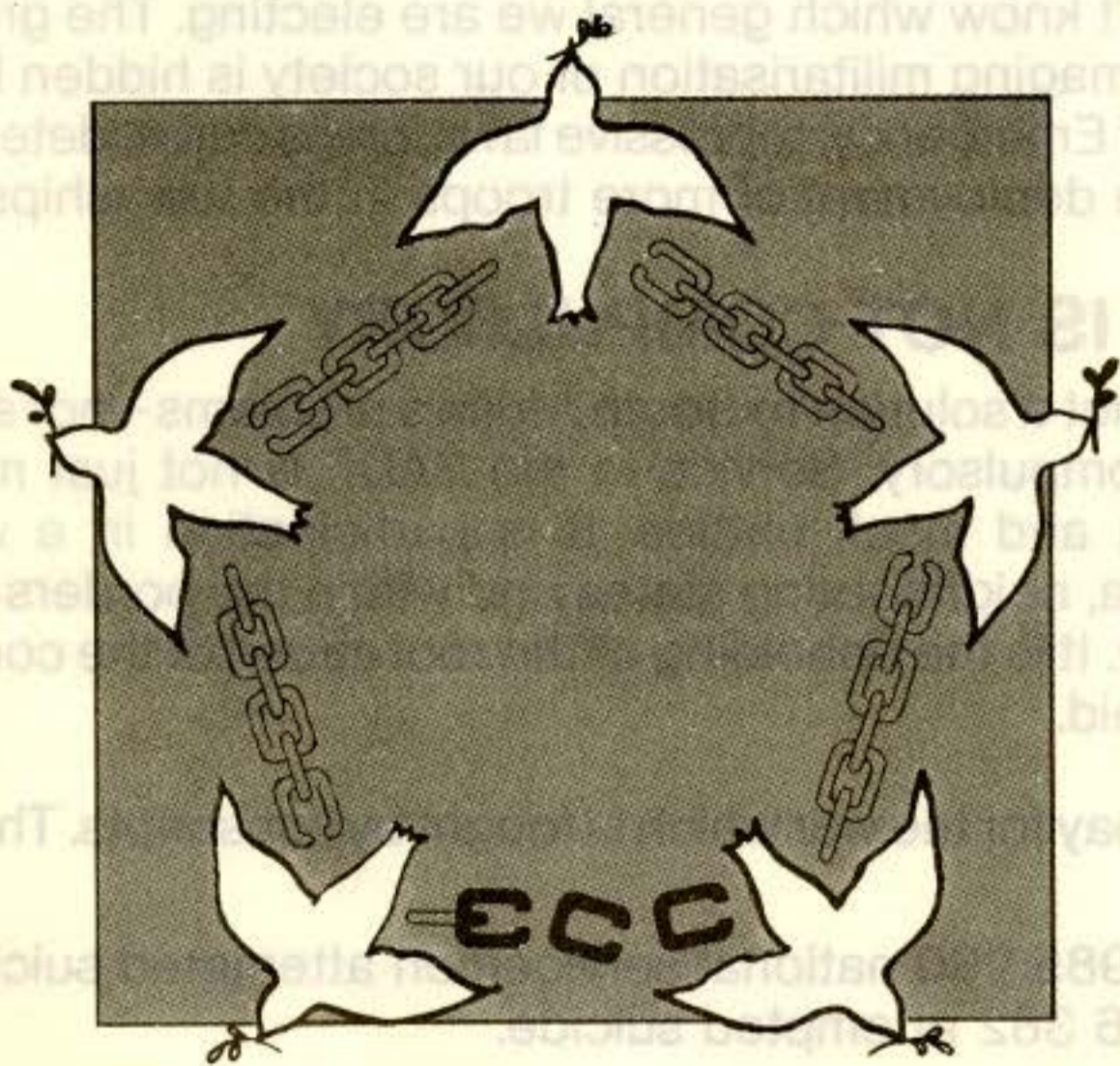
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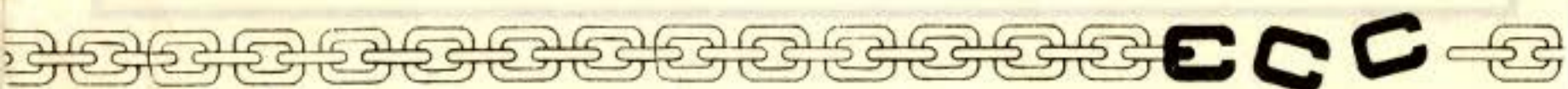
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WAR IS NOT COMPULSORY



LET'S CHOOSE PEACE



End Conscription Campaign

INTRODUCTION

In the heat of an election campaign compulsory military service should be a central issue deserving of serious debate. Yet the government is attempting to quell all discussion on conscription – and constructive alternatives to it.

ECC believes the problem with the general election is that we don't know which general we are electing. The growing and damaging militarisation of our society is hidden by the State of Emergency, repressive laws, press curbs, detentions and the deployment of more troops in the townships.

WAR IS NOT COMPULSORY

War is not a solution to South Africa's problems – nor should it be compulsory. Service in the SADF is not just military training and mock battles. It is participation in a war in Namibia, neighbouring states and within the borders of our country. It is the upholding of the root cause of the conflict – apartheid.

We all pay for the war which is fought by conscripts. The cost is high:

- In 1985 260 national servicemen attempted suicide. In 1986 362 attempted suicide.
- 115 soldiers were killed in military operations and training accidents in 1986.
- For the 85/86 tax year, losses, deficiencies and fruitless expenditures by the SADF cost taxpayers R58 million.
- The cost of the war in Namibia is estimated to be over R600 million annually.

LET'S CHOOSE PEACE

ECC believes the real solution to South Africa's problems lies in the declaration of a just peace. Our aim is not to discredit or undermine conscription. It is simply to call for the government to change the law regarding military service. Our central concern is to campaign for freedom of choice as an alternative to conscription.

ECC NEEDS YOU

Peace cannot happen by itself. ECC calls on you to join us in the different events and projects of our campaign. Even if ECC did not exist, the crisis of conscience facing the conscript and his family and friends, the worry and the desire for the end of conscription would remain. Support us in our interim demands for conscripts to have:

- the right to choose not to serve in the townships
- the right to choose not to serve in Namibia
- the right to choose alternative non-military national service.

For more information watch the press for details and write to ECC, 2nd Floor, Khotso House, 42 de Villiers Street, Johannesburg 2001.



**IS
WAR
THE
COST
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LIVING?**

