



Prisoners for Peace List 2018

A list of some of those currently in prison for their work for peace. We include those whose addresses we can obtain, and who are happy to have their names and stories made public. In some cases, nicknames are used and 'care of' (c/o) addresses given, where that person is happy to be contacted, but does not want their contact details spread publicly.

Eritrea

Eritrea continues to imprison conscientious objectors. There is no available recent information on the situation of the conscientious objectors listed below, who have not been charged. The below are all Jehovah's Witness, imprisoned for conscientious objection to military service.

Eritrea's military service is indefinite, for men and women, and starts in the final two years of high school, which is in a military camp.

[Paulos Eyassu](#) (24 Sep 1994—)
[Negede Teklemariam](#) (24 Sep 1994—)
[Isaac Mogos](#) (24 Sep 1994—)
[Aron Abraha](#) (9 May '01—)
[Mussie Fessehaye](#) (1 Jun '03—)
[Ambakom Tsegezab](#) (1 Feb '04

—)
[Bemnet Fessehaye](#) (1 Feb '05—)
[Henok Ghebru](#) (1 Feb '05—)
[Kibreab Fessejaye](#) (27 Dec '05—)
[Bereket Abraha Oqbagabir](#) (1 Jan '06—)
[Amanuel Abraham](#) (1 Jan '07—)
[Yosief Fessehaye](#) (1 Jan '07—)
[Yoel Tsegezab](#) (26 Aug '08 -)
[Samuel Ghirmay](#) (1 Mar '09—)
[Yosief Tesfamariam](#) (May '12—)
[Bereket Habteyesus](#) (26 May '14—)
[Samuol Dawit](#) (9 April '16—)

For all above, write to **Mai Serwa Prison, Asmara, Eritrea**

Action ideas

- Set aside time on 1st December to write to those imprisoned for their peace work, and get your friends, peace group, student, faith or community group to organise a card-writing session;
- Get postcards made up, leaving space for individual messages of support, and set up a street stall around Prisoners for Peace day.

For the most up to date Prisoners for Peace list go to: wri-irg.org/inprison

Support war resisters

WRI has publicised the names and stories of prisoners for peace for more than 50 years. Help us keep showing solidarity, and donating to help fund next year's research, wri-irg.org/en/donate

Receive regular news

Sign up for our CO-Alerts, to hear when COs are imprisoned and send protest emails at wri-irg.org/WRI-mailing-lists-and-publications

For updates on the status of COs, counter-recruitment work and conscription, subscribe to our CO Update – the bimonthly newsletter of the Right to Refuse to Kill programme, at wri-irg.org/WRI-mailing-lists-and-publications



'Refuse to occupy' – a day of action in support of imprisoned conscientious objectors in Israel, Prisoners for Peace Day, 2016.

Turkmenistan

In Turkmenistan, ten conscientious objectors -all Jehovah's Witness- are known to have been jailed in 2018. Two of them are awaiting their appeal hearings in a local detention centre. The others, listed below, are serving their sentences at Seydi Labour Camp.

In Turkmenistan, military service is compulsory for men between 18 and 27, and it is generally two years. Despite repeated calls by the United Nations, the Turkmenistan state doesn't offer any civilian alternative to military service.

Arslan Begenchov (17 Jan '18 – Jan '19)

Kerven Kakabayev (29 Jan '18 – Jan '19)

Mekan Annayev (26 June '18 – June '20)

Ikhlosbek Rozmetov (11 July '18 – July '19)

Veniamin Genjiyev (17 July '18 – July '19)

Maksat Jumadurdiyev (17 July '18 – July '19)

Isa Sayayev (9 Aug '18 – Aug '19)

Ruslan Artykmuradov (13 Aug '18 - Aug '19)

Sokhbet Agamyradov (27 Aug '18 – Aug '19)

Serdar Atayev (28 Aug '18 – Aug '19)

For all above, write to **Seydi Labour Camp, 746222 Lebap**

velayat, Seydi, uchr. LB-K/12, Turkmenistan

Israel

In November and December some draft refusers in Israel are likely to be going to prison. Their prison sentences will be short—10, 20 or 30 days long—so it is not worth us adding them to this list, since by the time you receive it they may be out of jail.

Please check and wri-irg.org/en/programmes/co_alerts and wri-irg.org/inprison for up-to-date info on how to write to COs in prison in Israel.

Korea, South

Despite the positive news we received from South Korea this year -Constitutional Court and Supreme Court decisions in June and October respectively- South Korea is still the country with the highest number of conscientious objectors in prison. The conscientious objectors who are already imprisoned and exhausted their appeal are not released despite the latest Supreme Court decision recognising conscientious objection as a valid reason to refuse military service. The current number of conscientious objectors serving behind bars are reported to be 97. Except one

of them, all of them are reported to be Jehovah's Witness.

WRI encourages everyone to write to South Korea embassies in your countries and demand the release of all conscientious objectors in prison.

Below you can find the information of one of the conscientious objectors who are now behind bars.

Jeon Ju-hyoung #913 (imprisoned on May '18) Write to 107, Yanghwa-ro, Ganam-eup, Yeosu-si, Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea

Singapore

Singapore does not recognise the right to conscientious objection. Conscientious objectors usually serve two terms in prison, the first up to 15 months and the second up to 24 months - which means that they can serve up to 39 months behind bars.

Yin Sheng Yeo, (Expected release date 10 Apr '19)

Jun Kai Hew, (Expected release date 25 Mar '19)

Hou En Wong, (Expected release date 25 March '19)

Yao Jian Ong, (Expected release date 30 Nov '18)

For all above, write to

Singapore Armed Forces Detention Barracks, 402 Lor Kebasi, 688791, Singapore

Sending cards and letters

- Send your card in an envelope;
- Include a return name and address on the envelope;
- Be chatty and creative: send photos from your life or drawings;
- Let the prisoners know what you are doing to stop war and war preparations;
- Don't write anything that might get the prisoner into trouble;
- Think about the sort of thing you'd like to receive if you were in prison;
- Try not to begin your correspondence with "You are so brave, I could never do what you have done";
- Remember that the prisoner may not be able to reply.