Prisoners for Peace List
2019

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.

Ambazonia

Here some of the prisoners for the expression of their conscientiously held belief that the fundamental human rights of the people of Ambazonia, formerly the United Nations Trust Territory of Southern Cameroons under United Kingdom administration, needs to be respected by all — including the French neo-colonial regime in Cameroon and its allies.

Mancho Bibixy (Sep ’16 —)
Tsi Conrad (Sep ’16 —)
Tha Emile Angwe (Sep ’16 —)
Aselech Martin (Sep ’16 —)
Tamngwa Martin (Sep ’16 —)
Guingah Valentine (Sep ’16 —)
Awah Thomas (Sep ’16 —)
Penn Terence (Jan ’17 —)

Sr. Wilfred Tassang (5 Jan ’19 —)
Profesor Augustine Awasum (5 Jan ’19 —)
Dr. Cornelius Njikimpi Kwanga (5 Jan ’19 —)
Dr. Henry Kimeng (5 Jan ’19 —)
Dr. Fidelis Ndeh-Che (5 Jan ’19 —)
Dr. Egbe Ogork (5 Jan ’19 —)
Barrister Shufai Berinyuy (5 Jan ’19 —)
Barrister Eyambe Elias (5 Jan ’19 —)
Dr. Nfor Ngalla Nfor (5 Jan ’19 —)

For all above, write to, Prison Principale Kondengu Yaoundé, B. P 100, YAOUNDÉ, Cameroon

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/en/subscribe

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

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

Sr. Julius AyukTabe (5 Jan ’19 —)
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 Jan '05—)
Henok Ghebru (1 Feb '05—)
Kibreab Fessehaye (27 Dec '05—)
Bereket Abraha Oqbagabir (1 Jan '06—)
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

Turkmenistan

In Turkmenistan, nine conscientious objectors are known to be in prison, six of them jailed in 2019. 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.

Mekan Annayev (26 June '18 – June '20)
Gurbanglych Muhammadgulyev (28 Nov '18 – Nov '19)
Eziz Atabayev (19 Dec '18 – Dec '20)
Azamatjan Narkulyev (7 Jan '19 – Jan '20)
Muhammetali Saparmyradov (19 March '19 – March '20)
Bahtiyar Atahanov (15 July '19 – July '23)
Azat Ashirov (31 July '19 – July '21)
David Petrosov (30 Sep '19 - Sep '20)
Selim Taganov (3 Oct '19 – Oct '20)

For all above, write to Seydi Labour Camp, 746222 Lebap velayat, Seydi, uchr. LB-E/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.

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

Korea, South

Despite the positive news we received from South Korea in 2018—Constitutional Court and Supreme Court decisions in June and October respectively, and release of tens of conscientious objectors—South Korea continued to imprison conscientious objectors in 2019. Below you can find the information of two of the conscientious objectors who are now behind bars.

Sang-yoon Song #1289 (imprisoned on 21 August '19); write to: 1111-76, Songsan-ro, Uijeongbu-si, Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea (zip code: 11797)
Jong-hoon Eun #893 (imprisoned on September 30); write to: 127, Halmi-ro, Okgu-eup, Gunsan-si, Jeollabuk-do, Republic of Korea (zip code: 54172)

United States of America

Seven peace activists face 25 years in prison for their protest actions on the Kings Bay nuclear submarine base in Georgia, on April 4, 2018. On October 24, 2019, they were found guilty and charged with a range of crimes, including trespassing, depredation of government property.

Stephen Kelly (April ’18 —)
Elizabeth McAlister (Pending sentencing)
Carmen Trotta (Pending sentencing)
Mark Colville (Pending sentencing)
Martha Hennessy (Pending sentencing)
Clare Grady (Pending sentencing)
Patrick O’Neill (Pending sentencing)

To sign the petition to dismiss charges or to send letters to the Judge go to: kingsbayplowshares7.org For Stephen Kelly, go to www.nukeresister.org/inside-out/ to check his address and mail restrictions.

Also, in the US, a prisoner for peace and human rights defender faces a 22-year sentence since 2003 for providing humanitarian and financial assistance to Iraqis in violation of US sanctions.
Rafil Dhafir (February 26, 2003 - April 26, 2022) write to: FMC Devens, Federal Medical Center, P.O. Box 879, Yesterday, MA 01432, USA

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.

Zhi Xun Chua, (Expected release date 02 March '20)
Yu Hua Oh, (Expected release date 02 March '20)
Sanjay Jothy, (Expected release date 01 Apr '20)
Fu Cai Xing, (Expected release date 06 Apr '20)
Zheng Ye Yeo, (Expected release date 06 Apr '20)

Jun Kai Hew, (Expected release date 21 Sep '20)
Hou En Wong, (Expected release date 21 Sep '20)
Kang Yu Ho, (Expected release date 03 Oct '20)
Joshua Soon, (Detained pending court martial)

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.