



Conscience and Peace Tax International

Internacional de Conciencia e Impuestos para la Paz

NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN

International non-profit organization (Belgium 15.075/96)

www.cpti.ws

Bruineveld 11 · B-3010 Leuven · Belgium · Ph.: +32.16.254011 ·

e-*: cpti@cpti.ws

Belgian account: 000-1709814-92 · IBAN: BE12 0001 7098 1492 · BIC: BPOTBEB1

Representative to the UN in Geneva:

Derek Brett

Avenue Adrien-Jeandin 18

1226 Thônex.

Tel./fax: 022 860 24 63

Email: dubrett@talk21.com

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Conscientious Objection to Military Service:

CHAD

CPTI suggests that in the list of issues Chad be asked whether the provisions concerning the recognition of conscientious objectors to military service reported to the Commission on Human Rights in 1991 are still in force, to give details of the procedures concerned, and an indication of the number of applications for conscientious objector status submitted and approved.

Background

Although a legal ordinance dating from the time of independence places a formal military obligation upon Chadian citizens, in practice the only form of conscription appears to have been applied to graduates from the *Ecole National d'Administration*, and possibly the National College of Physical Education and Sports, who have been required upon graduation to undergo a 45 day period of military training.

According to information submitted by Chad to the OHCHR for the Report on conscientious objection to military service prepared for the 1991 session of the Commission on Human Rights, “Young people who, prior to conscription, declare themselves totally opposed, on account of their religious or philosophical conviction, to the personal use of weapons” might, on application to the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by any supporting information they consider necessary, “be authorised to fulfil their military obligations either in a non-combatant military unit or in a civilian organisation performing work in the general interest.”¹ In the latter case there was some ambiguity as to whether the period of service would be equal to or double the length of military service.

¹ Report of the Secretary General prepared pursuant to Commission Resolution 1989/59, quoted by Horemans, B. & Stolwijk, M., Refusing to Bear Arms, War Resisters International, London, 1998. (<http://wri-irg.org/co/rtba/chad.htm>).

The following year Chad again confirmed to the Commission on Human Rights that there was “no question of the Government opposing the possible existence of any movement of conscientious objection to military service on pacifist grounds,”² but gave no further details of legislation or procedures.

It has not been possible to trace any more recent reference to these provisions or any reports of conscientious objectors having come forth in practice.

² Report of the Secretary General prepared pursuant to Commission Resolution 1991/65, *ibid.*