



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

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Conscientious Objection to Military Service:

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Although the regular armed forces of the United Republic of Tanzania have always relied on voluntary recruitment, there are concerns about the national service scheme “*Jeshi na Kujenga Taifa*” or *JKT*, which in 1972 was put under the control of the Ministry of Defence and became compulsory for those completing secondary education. Those enrolled under this scheme initially served for three years, during which they were housed in military camps and received military training and civic education, but were mainly employed in agricultural activity to support the armed forces, and were subsequently allocated to a “citizens’ militia” reserve force. There were no reports of any provisions allowing for conscientious objection to participation in this scheme.¹ The scale of the scheme was subsequently much reduced, the length of service being shortened and the compulsory element being removed - except that completion of national service remained a precondition for admission to tertiary education or public employment. However the scheme was reportedly re-instituted in 1999, with more emphasis on vocational training.² It appears that the length of service is currently two years and that the mobilisation strength of the citizens’ militia reserve is some 80,000.³

CPTI would urge that any obligatory scheme which involves a military training element ought to incorporate provisions accommodating potential conscientious objectors, and that military training, whether or not itself compulsory, should not be a precondition of access to higher education or public employment.

Some of our information on the United Republic of Tanzania is dated, but we would suggest that the State Party might usefully be asked whether the *JKT* is still in force, whether it remains a precondition of admission to higher education or government employment, whether it incorporates a military training element leading to membership of the militia reserve, and if so whether there are any provisions to accommodate conscientious objectors.

30th December, 2008.

¹ Horeman, B. & Stolwijk, M., *Refusing to Bear Arms*, War Resisters International, London, 1998.

² Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, *Child Soldiers Global Report 2001*, p359

³ *The Military Balance 2007* (International Institute for Strategic Studies, London), p295.