



# **The Right to Refuse to Kill**

The European Bureau for Conscientious Objection Newsletter Summer 2006

EBCO, 81 A Avenue Jan Stobbaerts, B-1030 Brussels, Belgium / Tel.: +32 2 215 7908  
Fax.: +32 2 245 6297 / e-mail: [ebco@ebco-beoc.org](mailto:ebco@ebco-beoc.org) / [www.ebco-beoc.org](http://www.ebco-beoc.org)

**EBCO meets on 14 October in Brussels for its next consultation. On the agenda: Turkey, Cyprus, Serbia and Greece – please register at [ebco@ebco-beoc.org](mailto:ebco@ebco-beoc.org)**

## CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE :

UN survey

Turkey

Nagorny-Karabach

Britain

Cyprus

Greece

Council of Europe has a new Human Rights Commissioner

50 Years EAK in Germany

Jens †

## TRENDS ON MILITARY SERVICE AND CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION



(excerpts from a 2006 UN report )

States are more frequently recognizing conscientious objection both in law and in practice. In addition, the trend to move away from conscription towards volunteer, professional armed forces in recent years is noteworthy. For example, Bosnia and Herzegovina abolished conscription on 1 January 2006, Romania will end conscription on 1 January 2007 (\*) *Bulgaria and Macedonia also announced meanwhile to end conscription until January 2008.*

In EU member states only 12 out of 25 are continuing compulsory military service: Austria, Baltic States, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece Poland, Portugal, Sweden.

The following States (in Europe) have ended or suspended compulsory military service as well in the recent past: .Belgium (1995), the Czech Republic (2004), France (2001), Hungary (2004), Italy (2004), the Netherlands (1996), Portugal (2004), Slovakia (2004), Spain (2001) and Slovenia (2003).

...

In cases where conscription has not ended, the trend is towards a progressive reduction in the number of conscripts being recruited (Kazakhstan, 2000), as well as reductions in the length of alternative service (Greece, 2004). It has also been reported that some States have recently adopted (Armenia, 2003; Russian Federation, 2002) or proposed bills regulating the procedures for alternative service (Belarus, 2005).

Information concerning individual cases in some States, however, indicates that serious problems remain. Some States either do not implement the right to conscientious objection in a manner consistent with human rights standards, or continue not to recognize the right of conscientious objection and deal with objectors of conscience through punishment and/or by attempting to change the beliefs of these individuals. Significant numbers of individuals claiming the right of conscientious objection continue to be imprisoned in a number of countries. The Human Rights Commission resolution 1998/77 emphasizes that States should “refrain from subjecting conscientious objectors to imprisonment and to repeated punishment for failure to perform military service, and recalls that no one shall be liable or punished again for an offence for which he has already been finally convicted or acquitted in accordance with the law and penal procedure of each country”.

*(\*\*)"Conscription in the UK ended officially in 1960. but the armed forces are not good at letting their serving people know that they have the right to declare themselves conscientious objectors while they are in the forces. A new law allows to sentence deserters to life-imprisonment. It all turns on the exact definition of "deserter" - and some of us are not satisfied that the definition will always be fair. This is all the more sad when the government has just agreed to pardon those who were shot for desertion in the First World War". Tim Brown, EBCO UK*

## **CONCLUSIONS (of the UN report)**

An increasing number of States are continuing to develop or improve provisions for the implementation of the right to conscientious objection, to comply with human rights standards. It also demonstrates the wide variety of approaches for dealing with the right to conscientious objection, and alternative service when States require this. Problems, however, remain in a number of States, which either do not recognize the right to conscientious objection or whose practices do not fully conform to international standards. States that have not yet done so should be encouraged to recognize the right of conscientious objection, and to give full effect to this right. In States where the right is recognized, but implementation is not fully consistent with international norms, States should be encouraged to end time limits for individuals to apply for conscientious objector status, to make information more easily available and understandable, to ensure that conscientious objection is not limited to specific religious denominations, but that it can be grounded in other religious beliefs as well as for non-religious secular convictions. States that require substitute service for conscientious objectors should be encouraged to provide, in addition to non-combatant service, civilian service, and States should endeavour to ensure that no form of alternative service is punitive in character. States that have not yet done so should be encouraged to consider recognizing conscientious objection for professional soldiers. States, subject to the circumstances of the individual case meeting the other requirements of the definition of a refugee as set out in the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, should be encouraged to consider granting asylum to conscientious objectors compelled to leave their country of origin because they fear persecution owing to their refusal to perform military service when there is no provision, or no adequate provision, for conscientious objection to military service.

*From an analytical report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on best practices in relation to conscientious objection to military service\* published by the UNITED NATIONS, COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, Geneva 27 February 2006* For the full UN report see EBCO's website [www.ebco-beoc.org](http://www.ebco-beoc.org)

## **TURKEY**

### **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VOTED IN FAVOUR OF A CO LEGISLATION IN TURKEY:**

The European Parliament,

(..) recalls that the European Court of Human Rights advised Turkey to prepare a new legal framework for conscientious objectors and reminds Turkey that the right to conscientious objection is recognized in the European Charter of Fundamental Rights; therefore welcomes the initiative by the Ministry of Justice to legalise the right to conscientious objection and to propose the

introduction of an alternative service in Turkey; is concerned that in a recent judgement of the Turkish military court a conscientious objector to military service was sentenced to imprisonment and that the military court openly declined to follow a relevant ruling of the European Court of Human Rights; condemns the on-going persecutions of journalists and writers who have expressed their support for the of conscientious objection to military service;

*European Parliament report, adopted by the European Parliament on 28 September 2006*

### **CEMIL GOREN: NEW CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR**

**(Istanbul)** - Cemil Goren, a Turkish youth of Kurdish origin has issued a statement through the Istanbul branch of the Human Rights Association (IHD) declaring himself as a conscientious objector and bringing up the number of Turkey's anti-war activists rejecting compulsory military service to 60. Goren, like the small number of other conscientious objectors in the country, is likely to be prosecuted for his decision and possibly jailed. He said in his statement on Monday that he was using his right for conscientious objection as a symbol of brotherhood between the Kurdish and Turkish people. His statement, that will possibly draw legal repercussion, is as follows: "As a citizen of Turkey I wish to use my right of conscientious objection. I am against war, I do not want to kill humans. I do not want to receive or give orders. I do not want to be part to clashes that take place in our country. "As a symbol of the brotherhood between the Kurdish and Turkish people, I wish to use my right to conscientious objection. Today I am in awareness that not every person is born as a soldier. As a Kurd of Turkey I am against the military system and wish for peace and freedom to come to this land. I am aware that this peace will be achieved with the alliance of the Kurdish and Turkish people. "Due to these reasons, I do not want to serve the military and I state that I am a conscientious objector".

*BIA News Center 04/07/2006 (EZO/AD/III/YE)*

### **"DISCOURAGING MILITARY SERVICE" A SPREADING THREAT IN TURKEY**

**"Ulkede Ozgur Gundem" newspaper reporter Birgul Ozbaris** has been charged seven times in trials related to her news coverage and interviews on conscientious objection and she faces 21 years imprisonment if found guilty. **"Birgun" newspaper Sunday Supplementary editor Gokhan Gencay** interviewed conscientious objector Erkan Bolot, **"Yeni Aktuel" magazine writer Perihan Magden** wrote an article titled "Conscientious Objection is a Human Right". Both journalists face three years imprisonment each. With amendments made in the Military justice and trial procedures, the trial of individuals such as Abdurrahman Dilipak at military courts will not be possible but civilian courts will be allowed to attribute to the Military Criminal Code where such trials are heard.

*From: BIAI 2nd Quarterly Turkish Media Monitoring Report / 11 July 2006*

### **EBCO Supports a CO legislation in Turkey:**

- Introducing an amendment to the Turkey report in the European Parliament on conscientious objection (voted 28 September)
- Lecturing on the Charter for fundamental rights and Council of Europe standards on conscientious objection in a weekend seminar in Diyarbakir (16/17 September)
- The Council of Europe brochure will be translated into Turkish language and widely distributed
- EBCO helps fundraising for the international CO conference in Istanbul on 27/28 January 2006 (see program below)
- EBCO meets the Council of Europe office in Ankara in February 2006 to discuss the chances for an introduction of conscientious objection legislation in Turkey

## International Conference for Conscientious Objection in Turkey, Istanbul 27-28 January 2007

**Program:** three sections on both days with an open forum at the end of conference.

### **I. Day:**

Opening Session with representatives of the European Bureau for Conscientious Objection (EBCO), Human Rights Watch (HRW), Amnesty International (AI TURKEY), War Resisters International (WRI), ISTANBUL Branch of Human Rights Association (IHD) and conference committee.

A) Conscientious objection in Turkey and the world: experiences and problems; *Moderator: Ville Forsman (AI Turkey), Andreas Speak (War Resisters' International), Osman Murat Ülke (Turkish Conscientious Objector), Tali Lerner (New Profile), Enrique Gauto Bozzano (Paraguay Conscientious Objection Movement)*

B) History of conscription and conscientious objection - *Moderator: Mete Tuncay (Istanbul Bilgi University); Matt Gutmann (Brown University), Erik Jan Zürcher (Leiden University), Ulrich Brockling (Konstanz University), Suavi Aydin (Hacettepe University)*

C) Conscientious objection as a critique of patriarchy, gender-based roles and sexual discrimination; *Moderator: Nebahat Akkoç (KAMER, Cynthia Enloe (International Development (IDCE) and Women's Studies), Serpil Sancar (Ankara University), Mehmet Tarhan (Turkish Conscientious Objector)*

### **II. Day:**

A) Conscientious objection and the philosophical principles of anti-militarism  
*Moderator: Tanil Bora (Birikim Review)*  
Taha Parla (Bogazici University)  
Nilgun Toker (Ege University)  
Yildirim Turker (Radikal Newspaper)

B) 1- Conscientious objection as a human right  
*Moderator: Mithat Sancar (Ankara University)*  
Ayhan Bilgen (Mazlumder), Levent Korkut (Hacettepe University and AI Turkey), Rachel Brett (Quaker United Nations Office), Friedhelm Schneider (EBCO)

B) 2- Legal dimension of conscientious objection  
*Moderator: Sezgin Tanrikulu (Diyarbakir Bar)*  
Kevin Boyle (University of Essex)  
Hülya Uçpınar (Izmir Lawyers Association)  
Osman Can (Turkish Constitution Court)

C) Forum  
*Moderators: Melek Goregenli (Ege University), Coşkun Üsterci (TIHV) Joost Lagendijk (EU MP), Robert Husbands ( UN ), Leyla Kayacik (Council of Europe), Ahmet Faruk Unsal (Turkish MP)*

Conference coordinator: Ozgur H. Cinar [ozgurhevalcinar@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ozgurhevalcinar@yahoo.co.uk) (00 44 79 56 66 96 20)

Local preparatory team: Coskun Usterci [coskunusterci@hotmail.com](mailto:coskunusterci@hotmail.com) (00 90 533 387 38 26) and

Osman Cihan Huroglu [cihanh@hotmail.com](mailto:cihanh@hotmail.com) (00 90 532 200 51 76)

Contact at EBCO: Gerd Greune [ebco@ebco-beoc.org](mailto:ebco@ebco-beoc.org) (00 32 (2) 215 79 08)

### **POLICE SEARCHING FOR TURKISH/KURDISH CO HALIL SAVDA**

War Resisters' International fears for the safety of Turkish/Kurdish conscientious objector Halil Savda ([TK14682](#)). Following the recent eruption of violence in the Kurdish provinces of Turkey, which left several people dead (see for example BBC, [3 April 2006](#), Indymedia UK, [4 April 2006](#)), Halil Savda issued a press release on [8 April 2006](#). On April 10 he gave an interview on Roj TV. As a conscientious objector, he called for conscientious objection in light of the recent violence. Today, on 11 April 2006 at noon local time, the gendarmerie entered his town looking for him. All houses in the village were searched, including his own, but Halil Savda was not found. Since then, Turkish activists have not been able to establish contact. Halil Savda was born in Sirnak/Cizre in 1974, and graduated from primary school. In 1993, he was arrested and held for 1 month in Sirnak/Cizre, during which time he was tortured repeatedly. The State Security Court then charged him with "supporting an illegal organisation (the PKK - Kurdish Workers Party)". He was then sent to prison, and released in 1996. Upon release from prison, he was called up for military service. He first went to his military unit for basic training, but he did not report to "his" unit after his transfer at the end of basic training. In 1997, he was again arrested, and the State Security Court charged him with "membership in an illegal organisation (PKK)".

The Adana State Security Court sentenced him to 15 years in prison. Following a change in the Turkish Penal Code, he was released from prison on 18 November 2004, and was sent handcuffed from prison to Antep Gendarmerie Station because of his desertion from military service. There he was held for six days in a cell without a bed, only with a few blankets. The Army Officers did not allow him to see his family, and he was held in isolation for the six days. On 25 November, he was transferred to "his" military unit in Corlu-Tekirdag. There he declared that because of the torture he had to endure in 1993, he cannot serve as a soldier. In a letter to the Commander he declared himself a conscientious objector, and demands that Turkey finally recognises the right to conscientious objection. On 16 December, he was questioned at the Corlu Military Court. He was then formally arrested for "insisting on disobedience" and transferred from the military unit to Corlu Military Prison. He was released on 28 December 2004, without the case being closed.

*War Resisters' International, London, 11 April 2006*

## **PERIHAN MAGDEN , TURKISH AUTHOR AND JOURNALIST IS ON TRIAL CHARGED WITH TURNING PEOPLE AGAINST COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE**

Perihan Magden defended a conscientious objector in her weekly magazine column. In her article, published in Yeni Aktuel magazine in December, Magden defended Mehmet Tarhan, who had been sentenced to four years in a military prison for disobedience after refusing to wear his uniform. Magden suggested that Turkey needed to set up a civilian service as an alternative to military conscription. In court, Magden denied that she was trying to turn people against military service. "I only argued that conscientious objection is a human right. It is my right and duty to defend conscientious objection," she said. Magden could be jailed for three years if convicted of "alienating the people against military service". The trial was adjourned until July 27 but postponed again.

Perihan Magden, the author of *TWO GIRLS*, and *THE MESSENGER BOY MURDERS*, was jeered by onlookers as she entered the courthouse.

Turkish men over the age of 20 must serve in the military, and the country does not recognise the right to conscientious objection. The military is popular in Turkey, and conscription has widespread support.

Hansjörg Kretschmer, the EU ambassador to Turkey, said Magden's trial was "unacceptable," in a newspaper interview. "If you think there should be a right to conscientious objection in Turkey, why can't you say it? And why is this becoming a ground for prosecution?" he said.

### **'Unacceptable'**

The EU has warned Ankara that prosecuting intellectuals for exercising their right to freedom of thought could damage the country's chances of membership. "There are many issues [in Turkey] like this which are unacceptable from a European point of view," Kretschmer said.

You find this article at: <http://english.aljazeera.net>



**The full report** in Turkish can be obtained from Bianet. Please contact Erol Onderoglu  
Tel: 0212 251 1503 / Fax: 251 1609 e-mail: [hukuk@bianet.org](mailto:hukuk@bianet.org) for more information.

## NAGORNO-KARABAKH

Uncertainty faces Baptist conscientious objector

By Felix Corley, Forum 18 News Service <http://www.forum18.org>

*It is unclear whether the authorities will take further action against a young Baptist conscript who refuses to swear the military oath and bear arms on grounds of conscience, Forum 18 News Service has found. Gagik Mirzoyan was freed from prison at the end of a jail sentence, held by the Military Police and, after eight days, transferred to a military unit. "They are still pressuring him to swear the military oath and take up weapons," Baptist pastor Garnik Abreyan told Forum 18. "He still has three months to serve of his military service and we just don't know what they will do with him." Albert Voskanyan, of the Centre for Civilian Initiatives – who has regularly visited both Gagik Mirzoyan and jailed Jehovah's Witness conscientious objector Areg Hovhanesyan - told Forum 18 that "the danger is real that Mirzoyan could be imprisoned again." Deputy Foreign Minister Masis Mailyan told Forum 18 that he does not know what the military will now do.*

Baptists in the unrecognised republic of Nagorno-Karabakh in the South Caucasus are still unsure whether the authorities will take further action against a young Baptist conscript who refuses to swear the military oath and bear arms. Freed from prison in Shusha on 5 September, at the end of his sentence for refusing to perform military duties, 20-year-old Gagik Mirzoyan was held by the Military Police and, after eight days, transferred to a military unit. "No-one is doing anything bad to him in the unit, but they are still pressuring him to swear the military oath and take up weapons," Baptist pastor Garnik Abreyan told Forum 18 News Service on 17 September from Stepanakert, the disputed enclave's capital. "He still has three months to serve of his military service and we just don't know what they will do with him." Mirzoyan, who is from Karabakh's Mardakert district, is a member of a local congregation of the Council of Churches Baptists, who refuse on principle to register congregations with the state authorities in post-Soviet countries. He was called up in December 2004 and immediately refused to swear the military oath and carry weapons. After initially allowing him to serve without weapons and without swearing the military oath, the military authorities then changed their minds.

At the district court of Hadrut in south-eastern Karabakh in July 2005, Mirzoyan was found guilty under Article 364 part 1 of the Criminal Code, which punishes "refusal to perform one's military duties" with detention of up to 3 months, service in a punishment battalion of up to 2 years or imprisonment of up to 2 years. Mirzoyan was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, but this was suspended and he was then sent back to his military unit. However, in September 2005 Hadrut district court converted this into a one-year term of imprisonment at the urging of military leaders.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC marcopolo  
**XPEDITIONS**  
www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions

He was beaten several times while in the hands of the army and while in prison. Nagorno-Karabakh has adopted Armenia's Criminal Code, which also punishes conscientious objection. Despite having served his full jail sentence for refusing to perform military duties, Gagik Mirzoyan's two-year term of compulsory military service is not due to be completed until December of this year. An official at the Defence Ministry, who declined to give his name, told Forum 18 from Stepanakert on 18 September that he was not familiar with Mirzoyan's case and was not prepared to discuss it. He referred all enquiries to the Foreign Ministry, although it has no jurisdiction over what happens in the Karabakh armed forces.

Deputy Foreign Minister Masis Mailyan told Forum 18 on 18 September that he has been following Mirzoyan's case and described his release from prison as "good news" - even though the release was at the end of the young Baptist's full jail sentence. Mailyan said that after having spoken to the Defence Ministry about Mirzoyan's case he thought there was "no urge to punish him again". But he does not know what the military will now do, as Mirzoyan still refuses to swear the military oath. Mailyan insisted that Karabakh needs to be able to defend itself because of the unresolved conflict with Azerbaijan, but said he believes young men who cannot serve in the armed forces on grounds of conscience should be offered alternative, non-military service. "We strive to meet European standards, and I'm personally in favour of introducing an alternative service," he told Forum. However, he noted that no concrete draft law on alternative service has yet reached the local parliament.

Pastor Abreyan told Forum 18 that he and fellow Baptists had been able to meet Mirzoyan on 16 September, at his unit in Nagorno-Karabakh's south-eastern Martuni district. "Gagik is being well treated at the moment, can move freely around the base and has not been made to wear a uniform," Abreyan reported.

Also imprisoned in Shusha Prison, just south of Stepanakert, for refusing military service on grounds of religious conscience is a Jehovah's Witness from Stepanakert, Areg Hovhanesyan. He was sentenced in February 2005 to four years' imprisonment for refusing military service on grounds of religious conscience.

Concerned over both Mirzoyan and Hovhanesyan is Albert Voskanyan, head of the Centre for Civilian Initiatives, a local human rights group, who has regularly visited both in Shusha Prison. "The danger is real that Mirzoyan could be imprisoned again," Voskanyan told Forum 18 on 15 September. Voskanyan had written on 21 August to the president of the unrecognised republic, Arkady Gukasyan, explaining that Mirzoyan had rejected the military oath because of his belief as a Baptist that the Bible forbids the swearing of oaths and had expressed his willingness to serve in the armed forces without swearing the oath. "The following, complex situation has emerged, almost an impasse," Voskanyan told Gukasyan.

*"The sentenced man, having served the punishment given to him, will again be called up to military service, will again refuse to swear the oath although he is ready to serve the remainder of the term he is due to serve, and will again be sentenced, this time as a recidivist."* Voskanyan called on Gukasyan to have Mirzoyan treated "leniently". Pastor Abreyan told Forum 18 that Mirzoyan is the only Baptist in Nagorno-Karabakh facing such problems. He also reported that Baptist congregations are not obstructed in meeting for worship. "No-one is restricting us - we can hold meetings, pray and worship."

You may reproduce or quote this article provided that credit is given to F18News <http://www.forum18.org/>  
Address: Forum 18, Postboks 6603, Rodelokka, N-0502 Oslo, NORWAY

## BRITAIN

### UK to pardon WWI soldiers executed for desertion



[JURIST] The British government will likely pardon 306 British soldiers - a number that includes 25 Canadians, 22 Irishmen, and 5 New Zealanders - who were [executed for cowardice and desertion during World War I](#) [backgrounder], ending a 16-year campaign mounted by families to have the deceased posthumously pardoned, UK Defense Secretary Des Browne announced Wednesday. Supported by the [Royal British Legion](#) and [Shot At Dawn](#) [advocacy websites], several families had mounted court challenges to the World War I convictions, arguing that the soldiers had suffered from [shell-shock](#) [BBC backgrounder], a diagnosis not recognized at the time, and should not have been sent back into the trenches. Former Defense Secretary and current Home Secretary [John Reid](#) [official profile] initially decided against pardoning the soldiers in 1998, saying there was not enough evidence in their favor. Reid, however, began to [reconsider pardoning one of the soldiers](#) [BBC report] at the center of the legal challenge last March, right before he [became the Home Secretary](#) [JURIST report] in May. Critics of the move say the pardons will effectively [rewrite history](#) [BBC backgrounder].

The pardons will likely come as part of an amendment to the [Armed Forces Bill](#) [text] currently before parliament, and will apply only to the soldiers shot in World War I under the Army Act of 1881 and the Indian Army Act of 1911. AFP has [more](#). BBC News has [local coverage](#).



August 16, 2006

### CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR SENTENCED TO EIGHT MONTHS IN PRISON

War Resisters' International is very concerned about the sentencing of British conscientious objector Flight Lieutenant Malcolm Kendall-Smith (UK14787). The RAF doctor refused to serve in Iraq because he believed the war to be illegal. He was jailed for eight months on 13 April 2006. According to a report in [The Independent](#) of 14 April 2006, *bitter accusations and recriminations dominated the trial, which took place at Aldershot barracks. At an earlier hearing, Assistant Judge Advocate Jack Bayliss had ruled the doctor could not use the defence that in refusing military orders he had acted according to his conscience. The judge maintained that the US and British forces were now in Iraq at the invitation of the Iraqi government.*

*Judge Advocate Bayliss also refused to allow the defence to call as witnesses, among others, Ben Griffin, a member of the SAS who resigned from the Army because he believed the Iraq war was illegal and who refused to serve alongside US forces because of the excesses they committed. Also barred was an Iraqi doctor who had flown to Britain to describe his experience of what has happened to the country following the invasion. During the hearing Kendall-Smith repeatedly expressed his view that an order for him to deploy to Basra was illegal. He also described the actions of the Americans in Iraq as being akin to the Nazis. It took the military jury of five RAF officers just one hour and 28 minutes to find Kendall-Smith guilty on all five charges of disobeying orders. Judge Advocate Bayliss accused Kendall-Smith, a former university tutor of moral*

*philosophy, of "amazing arrogance" and seeking to be a "martyr". The sentence was intended to make an example of him and serve as a warning to others in the forces.*

*"Obedience of orders is at the heart of any disciplined force. Refusal to obey orders means the force is not a disciplined force but a rabble. Those who wear the Queen's uniform cannot pick and choose which orders they will obey. Those who seek to do so must face the serious consequences," he said.*

*"We have considered carefully whether it would be sufficient to dismiss you from the Royal Air Force and fine you as well. We do not think that we could possibly be justified in taking such a lenient course. It would send a message to all those who wear the Queen's uniform that it does not matter if they refuse to carry out the policy of Her Majesty's government." ([The Independent, 14 April 2006](#))*

Malcom Kendall-Smith stated shortly after the court-martial:

*"I have been convicted and sentenced, a very distressing experience. But I still believe I was right to make the stand that I did and refuse to follow orders to deploy to Iraq - orders I believe were illegal. I am resigned to what may happen to me in the next few months. I shall remain resilient and true to my beliefs which, I believe, are shared by so many others. Iraq was the only reason I could not follow the order to deploy. As a commissioned officer, I am required to consider every order given to me. Further, I am required to consider the legality of such an order not only as to its effect on domestic but also international law. I was subjected, as was the entire population, to propaganda depicting force against Iraq to be lawful. I have studied in very great depth the various commentaries and briefing notes, including one prepared by the Attorney General, and in particular the main note to the PM dated 7 March 2003. I have satisfied myself that the actions of the armed forces with the deployment of troops were an illegal act - as indeed was the conflict. To comply with an order that I believe unlawful places me in breach of domestic and international law, something I am not prepared to do. The invasion and occupation of Iraq is a campaign of imperial military conquest and falls into the category of criminal acts. I would have had criminal responsibility vicariously if I had gone to Iraq. I still have two great loves in life - medicine and the RAF. To take the decision that I did caused great sadness, but I had no other choice."*

*War Resisters' International, London, 17 April 2006*

## **STRASBOURG HEARING**

**On 14 March 2006 a hearing on the right of soldiers to refuse to take part in military action of questionable legality took place in the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Invited by the co-chairs of the Peace Initiatives intergroup MEP Caroline Lukas and MEP Tobias Pflüger** George Solomou of the UK's Royal Army Medical Corps, Major Florian Pfaff of the German Army, US serviceman Hart Vigas, and German peace activist Rudi Friedrich of Connection (Offenbach) spoke on this occasion. A draft European Parliament resolution has been prepared. **More information at Tobias PFLÜGER** (MEP), Linksfraktion GUE/NGL, Europäisches Parlament, Rue Wiertz, ASP 6F266, B-1047 Brüssel, Fon: 0032-(0)2-284-5555, Fax: 0032-(0)2-284-9555, E-Mail: [mail@tobias-pflueger.de](mailto:mail@tobias-pflueger.de)



**Tobias Pflüger**  
Mitglied des EU-Parlaments   
**GUE/NGL**

## CYPRUS (I)

Military service' in the northern part of Cyprus is compulsory and anyone campaigning against military service is subject to be tried in military courts. The laws regarding the 'military' in the northern part of Cyprus prevent youth from campaigning for conscientious objection. There are two armies in the northern part of Cyprus, one of them composed of soldiers from Turkey called 'Cyprus Peace Forces' and the other called 'Security Forces' (GKK). The 'Cyprus Peace Forces' consists of 40 thousand soldiers and the Turkish Cypriot 'Security Forces', made up of Turkish Cypriots and settlers doing their 'compulsory military service'. Both are under the direct command of the General Staff of the Republic of Turkey. Turkish Cypriots cannot be the commander of the 'Turkish Cypriot Security Forces' since the law, governing the 'Security Forces' states clearly that anyone who would be commander of the force, should come of 'pure Turkish origin' and Turkish Cypriots are not considered to be as such. There have been various complaints by Turkish Cypriot officers working in the 'Security Forces' about this issue. Any male living in the northern part of Cyprus has to do compulsory 'military service' which is 15 month or 12 month in the army. This service can be done after university studies but those who do not have a chance for university education (12 month), have go to the army, after they finish high school (15 month). Conscientious objection is not recognized in the laws of northern Cyprus and the only internationally reported case of a CO, who refused to serve, was the case of Salih Askeroglu who was imprisoned and had to serve his 'term'. There is an unreported but significantly large group of young men, who cannot return to their country either because of their choice as CO or because they could not meet the absurd and inflexible requirements for showing up for military service on a particular date. Because CO is not recognized in the laws and due to other political/socio-economic reasons on the ground, they do not publicize their choices. Government shows no interest in recording these numbers, instead, periodically, generally due to some corruption in the system, they announce amnesty and re-adjust the laws. It should be noted that the Turkish Cypriot 'Security Forces' is under the command of the Turkish occupation forces and it exist merely for propaganda purposes. It does not serve any homeland security or defense purpose.

Finally, it is a highly guarded secret that the 1960 founding constitution of the Republic of Cyprus calls for laws to be passed for recognition of CO status and 'TRNC' (which is sub ordinate local administration of Turkey on bases of European Court of Human Right decision) laws do not invalidate this particular clause as it stands. The constitution of the republic of Cyprus respects the right of CO thence orders the government to make a law describing under what condition one could be exempted from military service. Article 10 of the constitution says so:

### **Article 10**

1. *No person shall be held in slavery or servitude.*
2. *No person shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour.*
3. *For the purpose of this Article the term "forced or compulsory labour" shall not include –*
  - a. *any work required to be done in the ordinary course of detention imposed according to the provisions of Article 11 or during conditional release from such detention;*
  - b. *any service of a military character if imposed or, in case of CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS subject to their recognition by law, service exacted instead of compulsory military service;*
  - c. *any service exacted in case of an emergency or calamity threatening the life or well-being of the inhabitants.*

This Article is not included in the TRNC constitution but it is not a rejection because at the Subsection 1 of the Transitional Article 4 of the constitution of the TRNC and pervious constitution of the Turkish Cypriot Community i.e. the constitution of the TFSC (Turkish Federated Republic of Cyprus) at the Transitional Article 1 accepted the validity of legislative provisions.

### **TRNC Constitution, Transitional Article 4**

The legislation in force on the date of the coming into operation of this Constitution shall continue to be in force, in so far as such legislation is not contrary to or inconsistent with the provision of this Constitution and  
TFSC Constitution,

Transitional Article 1, (1) The provisions - (a) of the Constitution of 16th August 1960 and laws thereafter until the 21st December 1963; clearly protected the right of CO. But still legislature did not touch the matter and did not make a law for the people to enjoy the right to refuse the military service. But here we should bare in mind that it should be a declared conscientious objection before hand not just objection of the military service at last moment. It is to be a visible objection with activities and membership of a group of detectable nature for being included in the law.

From: Murat Kanatli (email: [murat.kanatli@ykp.org.cy](mailto:murat.kanatli@ykp.org.cy))

see also: [www.ykp.org.cy](http://www.ykp.org.cy) and [www.yenikibris.org](http://www.yenikibris.org) and [www.ykpgenclik.org](http://www.ykpgenclik.org) and [www.bilban.org](http://www.bilban.org)

Askersiz Lefkosa Kampanyasini destekleyin - Support the campaign for demilitarization of Nicosia  
[www.ykp.org.cy/demnicosia](http://www.ykp.org.cy/demnicosia)

## CYPRUS (II)

### Letter from Turgut Durduran

#### Saying "NO To War" Is Not Enough, Anti-militarism Always and Everywhere!

Many of us talk about being anti-militarists. We denounce war. We attend rallies against war, or atleast some selected wars. We say that we want the military out of our schools. We do not like to do military service ourselves but hardly ever do anything about it. We complain about the military zones, military vehicles but never really do anything about that either. This is not enough, we need to be anti-militarists always and everywhere, i.e. under all conditions, we should refuse militarism. <sup>1</sup> One anti-militarist stance that has gained legal recognition is conscientious objection (CO) to compulsory military service. It is considered to be a human right in the European conventions. European Court of Human Rights has passed numerous judgments to that end. More about this later on. Conscientious objection is a very important issue for us, the Cypriots, from both sides of the barbed wire.

**Republic of Cyprus (RoC) was forced to pass legislation on CO only because of the European Union entry process [1]. Instead of passing an independent legislation, they have adapted the "National Guard" <sup>2</sup> [1] providing a substitute service as *Section 5 of the National Guard Law provides for a 36 months' unarmed military service within the armed forces, and a 42 months' unarmed military service outside the armed forces*'.**

This is a shame since Republic of Cyprus constitution adopted circa 1960 was calling for such legislation [1]; *Article 10: "No person shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour" but this shall not include any service of a military character if imposed or, in case of conscientious objectors, subject to their recognition by a law, service exacted instead of compulsory military service*". According to the same source, the provisions for a substitute service are still insufficient; *It is not clear how far this 'unarmed military service outside the armed forces' can be considered to be a genuinely civilian substitute service. Although it is a non-uniformed service, the wording 'unarmed military service outside the armed forces' leaves some ambiguity concerning its non-military nature. A report issued by the Council of Europe in 2001 in fact concludes that Cyprus has no laws setting up a genuine alternative service. Furthermore, after completing 'unarmed military service outside the armed forces', COs are still obliged to participate in reservist training within the armed forces.*[1]

It should be noted here that even though I am a citizen of Republic of Cyprus and Republic of Cyprus constitution calls for an army consisting of both Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities, I am exempt from the so-called "National Guard" (see footnote <sup>2</sup>), I suppose, since I fall into the category of the "enemy" rather than a citizen with equal rights. As an objector, I would not want to have anything to do with any military, however, this discriminatory, unfair practice (it is unfair and discriminatory towards my fellow Cypriots who are obliged to perform some form of military service) can not be accepted because of this small gain it brings to the Turkish Cypriot community. This being said, further comments on the "National Guard" and its practices should be left for those who are falling within its scope <sup>3</sup>.

Now the puppet show in north Cyprus, "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" (KKTC/TRNC) <sup>4</sup>. As a Turkish Cypriot (T/C), I am one of those lucky (!) people whose life is in the hands of a multitude of legal and pseudo-legal states. As I mentioned above, Republic of Cyprus decided that I am "exempt". However, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus did **not**. They are very eager to get me to

perform my "national duty" <sup>5</sup>. I do not know why like me so much. I mean, I am living/working thousands of miles away. I write all these nasty articles. I am not in good physical shape. I would not show any interest, any effort to do well in my military service. But, they still want me and my money. Oh well.

Before I get too side-tracked on this. Let me point out that for all practical purposes the Turkish occupation army is the institution in charge and not a legitimate Turkish Cypriot military <sup>6</sup>.

Whatever happens in north Cyprus is ultimately tied to the events in Turkey. So let's take a look at the situation in Republic of Turkey. Recently, conscientious objectors and the concept itself has been making headlines there. As far as I can tell, this is the first time the issue can be uttered in the mainstream media without massive threats and court-cases flying in the air. It is a sign of changing times in Turkey. Yet, there is still no recognized conscientious objector status. Objectors are still prosecuted for disobeying military orders and find themselves in an endless cycle of court cases and jail-time [3]. This week, European Court of Human Rights has passed a judgment on "Ülke v. Turkey" which has been evaluated as being an precedent setting decision [4]. The main point is that the court ruled *[t]hat [since] legal framework was evidently not sufficient to provide an appropriate means of dealing with situations arising from the refusal to perform military service on account of one's beliefs [and] because of the unsuitable nature of the general legislation applied to his situation the applicant had run, and still ran, the risk of an interminable series of prosecutions and criminal convictions.* Therefore, it considered this to be a human rights violation since *taken as a whole and regard being had to its gravity and repetitive nature, the treatment inflicted on the applicant had caused him severe pain and suffering which went beyond the normal element of humiliation inherent in any criminal sentence or detention. In the aggregate, the acts concerned constituted degrading treatment within the meaning of Article 3.* This is a landmark decision but not a comprehensive one since the court did not necessarily ask Turkey to allow for substitute service or other alternatives. However, the pressure is now expected to increase on the government to figure out a way to deal with the situation of Mehmet Tarhan [5] who is now in jail and is reportedly receiving inhumane treatment. In summary, the situation in the "mother-land" is still behind the current European norms. Militarization is visible in all aspects of life. The "baby-land" is not expected to be very different. Let's switch gears once more.

It is sad that despite the common knowledge that there are many young men who can not return to north Cyprus and that quite a few of them deliberately choose to avoid the service, only **one** case of CO is recorded in the international media [1]. This means that we do not have an organized anti-militarist movement in north Cyprus that is willing to support and defend the rights of COs. Many of us are forced to give up and do the compulsory service rather than to face an exile. It is not an easy thing to accept for an individual who has anti-militarist, anti-establishment convictions. Furthermore, it could be physically harmful and dangerous. We are able to move to the southern part of the island, administered by Republic of Cyprus but unfortunately, that is not a very desirable option and is taken up by a very few of us. It is undesirable because our social, political and economic rights in Republic of Cyprus are not guaranteed. We are effectively treated as second class citizens. For example, I have a Ph.D. in physics and I work in the academia. My plan in life is to work in an academic research institution. The only viable option in south is to work at the University of Cyprus which **on paper** claims to have adapted Turkish as an official language as well as Greek. However, on practice, good knowledge of Greek and ability to teach in Greek is required from all faculty (for example, according to job postings such as in Ref [6]). I can not vote in any local elections (as of January 2006). I can not run for any office. I can not enjoy properties of my family (as of January 2006). At the end of the day, we are stuck (mainly) outside of our country. I read about COs in Turkey and elsewhere with envy. They are brave people who have endangered themselves. They could have chosen to live an underground life <sup>7</sup> or escaped to exile. Instead, they have chosen to stay, organize and increase the awareness of this crucial issue.

I remember Salih Askeroglu [10,1,11] who is the latest (only?) noted case from north Cyprus and suffered in both sides of the island and was finally silenced. He did not receive any substantial support (there were exceptions, for example Ref [12]), there was no organized movement. This does not encourage us. I can not say that I am willing to do the same in north Cyprus, neither do I know of anyone else. It is a shame. But the story does not end here. Military service is only part of picture. Our inaction demonstrated in the case of Cypriot COs is partly due to our acceptance of a

militarist lifestyle, atmosphere. We need to **object** when a government declares a "war on something", when it jails a CO, when it insists on compulsory military service, when it carries out military exercises, when it forces students to take "National security" classes (where in case of north Cyprus, it means that a military officer comes and teaches about military ranks, formations, flags and other propaganda materials), when it forces school-children to attend military parades/exercises, when it threatens others with its military might. We should **object** when an organization picks up militarist rhetoric, carries out para-military training or threatens others. We should **object** to the militarist culture in the media, on our daily lives. And yet, **objection** is not enough, we should **resist**.

## References

- [1] Refusing to Bear Arms: A worldwide survey of conscription and conscientious objection to military service: Cyprus, Report 2005 revision, Last accessed January 27, 2006, <http://www.wri-irg.org/co/rtba/cyprus.htm>
- [2] Military Zones in Northern Cyprus, October 5th, 1976, Official Gazette, Appendix III, "Article on Military Zones based on Military and Forbidden Zones Law", Maps from Sub-Appendices I and II. Last Accessed January 27, 2006, <http://www.stwing.upenn.edu/~durduran/papers/askeriharita.pdf>
- [3] Refusing to Bear Arms: A worldwide survey of conscription and conscientious objection to military service: Turkey, Report 2005 revision, Last accessed January 27, 2006, <http://www.wri-irg.org/co/rtba/turkey.htm>
- [4] European Court of Human Rights, Chamber Judgement, Ülke v. Turkey (application no. 39437/98), Last Accessed January 27, 2006, <http://www.echr.coe.int/Eng/Press/2006/Jan/Chamberjudgment%DCIkevTurkey240106.htm>
- [5] Multi-lingual web-site dedicated to the struggle of conscientious objector, Mehmet Tarhan, Last Accessed January 27, 2006, <http://www.mehmettarhan.com/>
- [6] "Applicants must hold a Ph.D. in a relevant subject and be FLUENT IN GREEK (both requirements are mandatory by the University).", Visiting Faculty Positions, Last Accessed on January 27, 2006, <http://www.eng.ucy.ac.cy/ECE/EN/Announcements/ApplicationForVisitingFaculty042005.htm>
- [7] Osman Murat Ülke'nin AİHM kararına ilişkin basın açıklaması, Last Accessed January 27, 2006, <http://www.savaskarsitlari.org/arsiv.asp?ArsivTipID=8&ArsivAnalID=30865>
- [8] Vedat Zencir'den Mehmet'e mektup var, Last Accessed January 27, 2006, <http://www.savaskarsitlari.org/arsiv.asp?ArsivTipID=8&ArsivAnalID=30900>
- [9] Interview with Mehmet Tarhan for the Spanish newspaper Diagonal, January 2005, Last Accessed January 27, 2006, <http://www.wri-irg.org/news/2006/tarhaninterview-en.htm>
- [10] Greeks of North & Turks of South ,by Ulus İrkad, Crossings, May 1996, Last Accessed January 27, 2006, <http://www.stwing.upenn.edu/~durduran/dergi/irkad1.htm>
- [11] Refusing to Bear Arms: A worldwide survey of conscription and conscientious objection to military service: Cyprus, Northern or Turkish Cyprus Report 1998, Last accessed January 27, 2006, <http://www.wri-irg.org/co/rtba/archive/cyprusnorth.htm>
- [12] In the 'Chambers of Memory': Neşe Yaşın, Hamamböcülerİ, January 30 2005, Last Accessed January 27 2006, [http://www.hamamboculeri.org/authors/svg/svg0\\_30\\_2005.html](http://www.hamamboculeri.org/authors/svg/svg0_30_2005.html)

## GREECE

### Alexia Tsounis

#### Hundreds of appeals from all over the world to the Prime Minister

On the occasion of **Lazaros Petromelidis'** trial on 4 of May at the Appeal Military Court of Athens, Amnesty International delivers to the Greek Prime Minister more than 600 appeals from all over the world of the campaign '*Greece: "Cease fire" on conscientious objectors*' ([www.amnesty.org.gr/actnow/gre20050331.htm](http://www.amnesty.org.gr/actnow/gre20050331.htm))

More than 600 persons from more than 30 countries from all over the world are writing to Mr. Kostas Karamanlis to express their deepest concern about the continuing prosecutions of conscientious objectors to military service in Greece, and especially about the multiple prosecutions of conscientious objectors **Lazaros Petromelidis and Giorgos Monastiriotis**, who have been repeatedly sentenced by Military Courts to heavy prison sentences for their conscientious objection. All these people urge Mr. Kostas Karamanlis to respect their fundamental human right to conscientious objection and put an immediate end to their prosecutions. They ask the Greek Prime Minister to bring the provisions of the alternative civilian service in line with European and internationally recognized standards and recommendations (of the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations) as well as in line with the recommendations of the Greek Ombudsman and the Greek National Commission for Human Rights.

After a 3-hour trial on 4 May 2006 **Lazaros Petromelidis** was declared guilty and convicted to 5 months suspended imprisonment (which he can buy off for 4,4 euros per day). He submitted application to cancel the decision to the Supreme Court of Greece and left the military court in Athens without being arrested pending the decision of the Supreme Court. If the Supreme Court of

Greece is not accepting Lazaros' arguments then the previous suspended 20-month imprisonment sentence is also activated so he will have a total 25-month imprisonment sentence. In this case he will go for the European Court. Besides, Lazaros will be 45 years old next year so this will stop the army calling him to military service again at last.

A team of European Left MEPs came to the trial together with Greek Left **MEPs Dimitris Papadimoulis: Vittorio Agnoletto (Italy) and Helmuth Markov (Germany)**. Also **Nasos Aleuras, Greek MP** and member of the HR Committee of the CoE testified at the trial and also representatives of the National Committee for HR (Lilian Argyropoulou), Amnesty International (Spyros Apergis), Lawyers' Association of Athens (Dimitris Sarafianos), Greek League for HR (Dimitris Christopoulos), EBCO (Yiannis Glarnetatzis), Green Ecologists (Yiannis Paraskeuopoulos), City Council of Drapetsona - Lazaros' municipality (Ksenia Fotiou) while **Spanish MEP Raul Romeva I Rueda (Green group) and MEP Jo Leinen (SPE)** send letter of support.



### **Thomas Hammarberg**

#### Meeting with the Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe

Thomas Hammerberg, former Secretary General of the Olof Palme International Centre in Sweden and a former Secretary General of Amnesty International, is new Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights an independent, non-judicial institution within the Council of Europe whose task is to promote human rights awareness, support national human rights structures, identify shortcomings in human rights law and practice and promote the full enjoyment of human rights in all 46 of the Council of Europe's member states. The Commissioner undertakes regular visits to member states for dialogue with governments and civil society and prepares reports on subjects falling within his mandate.

On 11 April Liz Scurfield (QCEA) and Friedhelm Schneider (EBCO) spoke with the Commissioner who had taken up his post on 1 April. We discussed with the Commissioner specific examples of countries such as Azerbaijan, Armenia, Greece and Turkey which are failing to live up to their Council of Europe commitments either by not providing a genuine alternative service or where the right to conscientious objection is still not legally recognised.

At the end of the meeting, we gave the Commissioner a copy of QCEA's 2005 report : The Right to Conscientious Objection in Europe: A Review of the Current Situation as well as other EBCO literature. Both of us felt this was at least a start in trying to persuade the Commissioner that the implementation of already existing principles on CO set by the Council of Europe should have a high priority on his agenda, particularly on his country visits. We did not feel at the time that CO was going to be one of the Commissioner's top priorities, but since our meeting his office has contacted us with a view to our providing the Commissioner with more information which is positive.

*Liz Scurfield, QCEA Brussels*

## 50 YEARS EAK IN GERMANY

“Yet to shame the wise, God has chosen what the world counts folly, and to shame what is strong, God has chosen what the world counts weakness”.

With these words from the Bible the “Evangelische Arbeitsgemeinschaft zur Betreuung der Kriegsdienstverweigerer” opened the celebration of its 50 Years existence in a conference center in Münster(Westfalen) on 21 September. The jubilee was organised in the form of a one-day study-meeting, attended by some 200 participants from all over the country. EAK means: Evangelical Work Community for the Care of Warfare Resisters, at least that is what my dictionary tells me.

From one of the articles accompanying the seminar, written by the Rev. Ulrich Finckh, I translate the following about the start of the EAK:

*“In the first World War Warfare Objectors were considered as mentally ill. Support from the church was unthinkable. In the treaty of Versailles Germany was forced to limit its army to 100.000 man. So the army had only volunteers, too small for military adventures. Hitler despised these limits, and the “Wehrmacht” (army) was, with the help of a re-introduced conscription, massively armed. Objection to military service became a heavy crime. Together with the retirement from the League of Nations, the military Rheinland occupation and stimulation of the economy by increasing armament-expenditures – financed by debts - , was conscription a preparation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. (...)*

*It was no problem in the churches to become a soldier, and many church-pastors became even officers. (a rank only open for active Hitler-supporters).*

Taking part in war was, notwithstanding its atrocities, together with the army-chaplains, no problem for them.

*That there was a possibility for theologians, like the Mennonites, to do a medical service, was almost unknown, and was hardly considered.(...)*

*It is now the time to say also: the compulsory military service was and is heritage of the Nazi's and its reintroduction served, willing or unwilling, as Nazi-apologation (Verharmlosung).*

*When the Bundeswehr (the German army after the war) was build (...) only the re-armament was a problem, not conscription.(...)*

*While former army-chaplains and officers constructed the Military Spiritual Care (Militärseelsorge), individual reverends and workers started within the Evangelical youth work the help of objectors to military service within their organisations. The work community of the Evangelical Youth(AGEJD) in Germany took care of the conscripts in 1955 in a working group for conscription problems. It made 2 sub-commissions , one as Evangelical Community for the care of soldiers(EAS), and the same for the care of objectors to military service, the EAK.*

*Looking back it is amazing and certainly a failure of the church and the pacifist movement that conscription as such was not seen as problematic. (...) Conscription was in the Prussian-German tradition so normal, that even so shortly after the lost war and its gruesome effects only militarisation, and not conscription was seen as a problem.*

*Anyhow, the EAK became an important work of the church, that many individuals helped, in spite of state-restrictions, and smears and nagging in the tests that objectors faced when they asked for recognition as conscientious objector. The EAK (...) enforced improvements in the treatment of conscientious objectors.(...)*

*He who refuses military service more because of weapons of mass-destruction or war-politics, follows also his conscience, and has the right of support and assistance as much as those who radically refuses all kinds of war and violence.”*

In his opening speech Dr Heino Falcke – known in the peace-movement in the former German Democratic Republic – emphasised that refusing military service is a no that can only be fruitful when it is accompanied by an active yes to peace. Only then we can appeal to others. About conscience: it is always related to a certain situation, and a choice in that situation. He situated peace-movements not as being in the sideline of society, but ahead of it. We have to consider that the enemy of today can be the partner of tomorrow. So called “terrorism” can never be vanquished by violence, but only by non-violent means. Exclusive thinking has to be replaced by an inclusive approach wherein the interest of the other side is take into consideration.

There was a discussion with a deputy from the government about the treatment of Conscientious Objectors in Germany. Friedhelm Schneider spoke about the situation of Conscientious Objectors in Europe, Günter Knebel informed the audience about the case of Lazaros Petromelidis.

At the end of the day Friedhelm and others gave a very interesting overview of deserters and desertion in literature. As literature deals with humans and human experience it is so much more positive about desertion compared with the way it is dealt with in the media. All together the day was tiring through the overflow of information and at the same time inspiring and encouraging.

*Hans Dijkman, EBCO Secretary General*

## ***Imprint***

### ***Published by:***

***EBCO International Secretariat  
Responsible: Gerd Greune, Brussels***

### ***Contributions from:***

***Tim Brown, EBCO UK  
Felix Corley, Forum 18 News Service (Oslo)  
Hans Dijkman, EBCO Secretary General  
Turgut Durduran, Cyprus  
Murat Kanatli, Cyprus  
Tobias Pflüger MEP  
Andreas Speck, WRI  
Alexia Tsouni, AI Greece***

***United Nations  
European Parliament  
Turkish media***

### **Donations can be sent to:**

**EBCO 001-1076165-26 / FORTIS BANQUE BRUXELLES / IBAN : BE59 0011 0761 6526 - BIC : GEBA**

## **In memoriam Jens Greune**



Jens Greune was a pacifist and non-violent activist all his life through.

He worked as a conscientious objector for refugees in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, organised peace rallies against the 1<sup>st</sup> Gulf war and supported war resisters in Europe.

He participated in anti-nuclear conferences in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and managed throughout the 90s the IFIAS office in Bonn also looking after the production and distribution of 10 years issues of "The right to refuse to kill".

Jens died 32 years old on 19 June 2006 after a medicament accident.