# JANUARY-MARCH CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION WATCH BULLETIN

Conscientious objection is a human right!

20 23



Conscientious Objection Watch



# January-March 2023 Conscientious Objection Watch Bulletin



Conscientious Objection Watch Bulletins are prepared with the support of Network For Social Change.





Conscientious Objection Watch is a member of the <u>European Bureau for</u> <u>Conscientious Objection</u> (EBCO) and affiliated with <u>War Resisters International</u> (WRI). January-March 2023 Conscientious Objection Watch Bulletin 3-MONTH BULLETIN

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In this issue of The Conscientious Objection Watch Bulletin, you'll find information about the inquiries made to the Conscientious Objection Watch regarding conscientious objection and conscription between January-March 2023; updated data on the rights violations experienced by conscientious objectors; and the declarations of conscientious objection in the 3-month period covering January-March.

You can contact us via our <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Instagram</u> accounts or via our email **vicdaniretizleme@gmail.com** to get more up-to-date information about the work of Conscientious Objection Watch.

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# APPLICATIONS TO CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION WATCH

Between January-March 2023, we received a number of new inquiries requesting information about the right to conscientious objection. In this 3-month period, a total of 57 people contacted Conscientious Objection Watch via e-mail. The majority of the applicants were those who wanted to declare their conscientious objection. Those who wanted to declare their conscientious objection were followed by those who wanted to receive information on the right to conscientious objection, draft evaders/ absconders and those who requested information on desertion from military units.

\*The terms "draft evader" and "evader" are used due to the different definitions of the terms in Turkish law.

Those requesting information on administrative fines

Those who request information about travelling abroad

Those requesting information on desertion from the military units

Draft evaders or evaders

Those who requested information on the right to conscientious objection

Shared their declarations of conscientious objection

# **RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF** PEOPLE SUBJECT TO COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE

The online questionnaire form, which we have been publishing since March to report the rights violations of those who are obliged to perform compulsory military service, was filled out by 29 people during the period of January-March 2023. Conscientious objectors, draft evaders and evaders who filled out the form within this period reported various rights violations. The majority of the respondents who filled out the form reported the restrictions in their freedom of travel or their inability to work in the state institutions. In addition, some reported their inability to work with social security, whereas others reported that they were dismissed from their work because they were draft evaders/evaders. Some others also reported they were prosecuted more than once with 'l'm a conscientious objector." the same accusation.

Among the respondents of the form within this 3-month period, the majority were those who did not declare their conscientious objection. Among the 29 people who answered the question "Have you declared your conscientious objection?", 19 of them said they were declared conscientious objectors, whereas 10 of them said they did not declare conscientious objection.

ny conscientious 'I did not declare objection.

10 people

19 people

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# ADMINISTRATIVE FINES

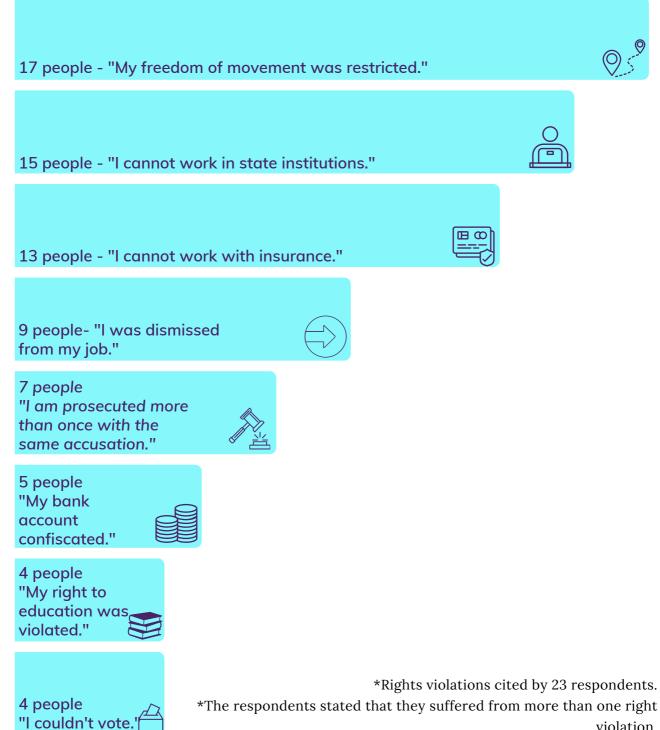
16 of the 29 respondents responded to the question of "Have you objected to the administrative monetary fines imposed on you?".

1 applicant stated that he objected to the administrative fine and the legal process was ongoing, 2 applicants stated that their objection was rejected and the fine was finalised, 3 applicants stated that they did not know how to object to administrative fines. 10 applicants stated that they did not object to the administrative fines imposed on them on the grounds that they were draft evaders or evaders.

# WHICH RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ARE PEOPLE SUBJECT TO COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE SUFFERING FROM?

23 of the 29 respondents responded to the question "Which rights violations/restrictions have you been exposed to due to your military obligation?". The most common rights violations were the restrictions in their freedom of movement, inability to work in the state institutions, inability to work with social security. 17 respondents stated that their freedom of movement was restricted, 15 respondents said they could not work in the state institutions, 13 respondents stated that they could not work with social security. January-March 2023 Conscientious Objection Watch Bulletin 3-MONTH BULLETIN

# THE MOST FREQUENT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN JANUARY-MARCH 2023:



violation.

# DECLARATIONS OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION

### 🔃 January 9, 2023 - Mehmet Şahin Taş

"... I refuse to use violence, to kill people, to learn how to kill people, to give and receive orders, to obey, together with my belief and my struggle for peace to prevail all over the world, where people do not die / are not killed, where children are not shot from their smiles, where honour and human rights are not violated, where there are no wars, classes and exploitation..."

### ए <u>January 11, 2023 - Ercan Bilici</u>

"I have been a draft evader since 2020, I don't want to serve in the military. I am a peaceful and free person, I am against weapons and war. My conscience does not accept that there is no free thought, that there is discrimination based on religion, language and race, that there is cultural genocide, that one's mother tongue is restricted, that social and political will is disregarded, that people are forced to point guns at their own people, that people die..."

## 🔃 January 25, 2023 - Sezer Polat

"... In order to prevent future generations from experiencing the atrocities of past generations and to live in peace, I say no to war. Ideas cannot be destroyed by force of arms. I conscientiously reject killing and dying, all political concepts and views, and armament."

#### 👯 <u>January 26, 2023 - Ercan Karabulut</u>

"... No problem can be solved by war. I believe that the whole world can stop arming itself and solve its problems through peaceful methods. For this reason, I refuse to be forcibly recruited and to be a part of this order."

### 🔃 <u>January 26, 2023 - Ercan Erhan</u>

"...I know very well that a fraternal and peaceful life is essential in this world we live in, and that a life under the shadow of weapons cannot be sustained. For these reasons, as a conscientious objector, I do not want to be an armed force of a militarist army..."

### 🔃 <u>7 Şubat 2023 - Diyar Doğan</u>

"... I reject training to kill and be killed. I don't want to be a partner in this war that has been going on for years, I don't want to be under orders and commands. I want the guns to be silenced and peace and brotherhood to speak..."

# 限 <u>February 17, 2023 - Jiyan Doğaner</u>

"I don't want to be a part in this war that has been going on for years, I don't want to be under orders and commands, I want the guns to fall silent and let peace and brotherhood speak."

### ए <u>February 27, 2023 - Selahattin Dicle</u>

"I don't want to be forced to take up arms in the land where I was born and grew up, I don't want to fight. I thought of paying the price instead, but since the price I paid for the payment military service would be fired at other people as bullets, I rejected that too. I am not an individual in favour of war, I am in favour of peace..."

### 🕂 <u>February 27, 2023 - Candar Kiseli</u>

"... I am against war. I will not kill anyone for any institution that is set up to enslave society and make them conform to the order. As a person who has never fought in his life, I reject violence, weapons and armies..."

### 限 <u>March 9, 2023 - Ramazan Arslan</u>

"... I reject the inhuman brutality imposed on me by the country, such as forced killing and taking orders. In today's world, where we watch the destruction caused by militarist thought every second or are directly in the middle of these destructions, I basically reject militarist thought..."

# 🥂 March 9, 2023 - Yunus Yıldız

"... I refuse to take up arms against the Kurdish people, one of the oldest peoples of the Middle East, to whom I belong and who are making legitimate and humanitarian demands by joining the army of the Republic of Turkey..."

#### 👎 <u>March 10, 2023 - Yunus Emre Şahinduran</u>

"...I will not kill anyone in or out of uniform. I cry out that I will not be a part of any war or armed action. With the free voice of my conscience and with all my heart, I refuse to be a soldier and to be a part of the militarist order."

### ए <u>March 18, 2023 - Takin Doğaner</u>

"I don't want to be a part in this war that has been going on for years, I don't want to be under orders and commands, I want the guns to fall silent and let peace and brotherhood speak."

ए <u>March 23, 2023 - Velat Aydemir</u>

"... I do not want to serve the armies that wage wars. I refuse because I do not want to be a partner in the killing of even a single person by the weapons of war you produce..."

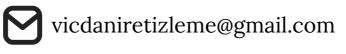
👎 <u>March 23, 2023 - Şiyar Furat</u>

"... I am an antimilitarist anarchist. This behaviour, which is incompatible with my nature, is a situation that does not fit me, what I have learned and my most important philosophy of life. I will refuse to contribute to any form of death and to be educated in this orientation for the rest of my life..."

## 🔃 <u>March 26, 2023 - Barış Kayadayı</u>

"...I do not want to be under orders and command, nor do I want to kill anyone, nor do I want to be a partner in such an organisation..."







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