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**ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES**

**@SELECTIVE OBJECTORS TO MILITARY SERVICE**

**NOAM COHEN, BARAK ADORIAN, AND ARON ZELIG**

Noam Cohen, Yaron Zellig and Barak Adorian are currently in prison for refusing to carry out their reserve duty in the Israel Defence Force (IDF), Israel's armed forces. All three have refused to serve in the West Bank, apparently because of their opposition to current IDF practices in the Occupied Territories. They are believed to be held in Atlit military prison (No. 6).

Staff Sergeant Noam Cohen is 31 years old and comes from Kibbutz Ma'agan Micha'el. He was sentenced to 28 days' imprisonment on 7 January 1992 for refusing to serve.

Staff Sergeant Barak Adorian is a 23-year-old student from Tel Aviv. He was also sentenced to 28 days' imprisonment on 7 January 1992 for refusing to serve.

Yaron Zellig is a 34-year-old journalist from the Haifa area. He was sentenced to 28 days' imprisonment on 8 January 1992 for refusing to serve.

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S CONCERN**

Amnesty International works for the release of prisoners of conscience, a category which includes persons held by reason of their political, religious or other conscientiously held beliefs, provided that they have not used or advocated violence.

Amnesty International notes that the United Nations Commission on Human Rights' Resolution 1989/59 Conscientious objection to military service recognizes conscientious objection to military service as a legitimate exercise of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion as laid down in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

A person who for reasons of conscience or profound conviction arising from religious, ethical, moral, humanitarian, philosophical, political or similar motives refuses to perform armed service or any other direct or indirect participation in wars or armed conflicts and is imprisoned as a direct result of their refusal to serve is considered by Amnesty International to be a prisoner of conscience unless such person has also refused to perform alternative civilian service which is no longer than the length of military service. There is no such alternative civilian service in Israel.

Amnesty International believes that one's reasons for objecting to military service can be other than total pacifism and that political reasons for refusal to serve are also acceptable. It therefore considers people who refuse to take part in a particular conflict or serve in a particular place (selective objectors) to be prisoners of conscience.

**Amnesty International is concerned that Noam Cohen, Barak Adorian and Yaron Zellig have been imprisoned for their conscientiously-held beliefs and as such are prisoners of conscience. The organization is calling for their immediate and unconditional release.**

**Amnesty International is also calling on the Israel authorities to review their legislation on military conscription, with a view to recognizing and protecting the right to conscientious objection and to providing an alternative, non-punitive, civilian service.**