

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION
SUBMISSION FOR THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF ERITREA
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Executive Summary

1. This submission focusses on a number of human rights issues linked to the military service regime in Eritrea: the abusive nature of the military service itself, forced and juvenile recruitment, conditions of service, treatment of conscientious objectors, and more broadly, slave labour, persecution of those who seek to leave the country, and harassment of Eritreans in the diaspora.
2. The submission was drafted in July 2018 on the basis of the latest information available to IFOR.

Relevant recommendations from the review of Eritrea in the second cycle of the UPR

3. “Implement Proclamation No. 82/1995, limiting national service obligations” (UK)¹
4. “End conscription of persons for indefinite periods into national service” (USA², also Norway,³ Australia⁴, Italy, Germany⁵, Croatia⁶, Austria⁷, Canada⁸, France⁹). Canada further alleged that the system amounted to forced labour: Germany went farther, labelling it “a severe form of forced labour”.
5. “Abolish (...) compulsory military training, particularly for children.” (Australia)⁹
6. “Prohibit the participation of minors in military service” (Spain,¹⁰ also Germany¹¹, Switzerland¹²).

1 A/HRC/26/13, para 122.63.

2 Ibid, para 122.57

3 Ibid, para 122.55

4 Ibid, para 122.59

5 Ibid, para 122.60

6 Ibid, para 122.61

7 Ibid, para 122.65

8 Ibid, para 122.66

9 Ibid, para 122.143

10 Ibid, para 122.58

7. “Cease forced participation of persons in the citizen militia and othenational projects.”(USA¹³, also UK¹⁴)
8. “Begin a phased demobilisation for those serving for more than the statutory 18 months” (Norway,¹⁵ also Austria¹⁶).
9. “Recognise the right to conscientious objection to military service in law and practice” (Croatia,¹⁷ also Norway, Spain, Germany,
10. “Allow substitute service fot conscientious objectors” (Norway,¹⁸ also Croatia¹⁹).
11. “Take appropriate steps with a view to releasing all imprisoned conscientious objectors without delay^ (Croatia⁰.
- 12, “Take measures, in consultation with its partners, to put an end to migration and human trafficking affecting thousands of Eritreans, including children (France)²⁰

Subsequent developments

13. Three recent sources document comprehensively that not only has no action been taken by the Stste Party to implement these recommendations, frequently against all the evidence seeking to deny the facts on which they are base, but that in mank respects the situation is continuing to deteriorate. The sources are:
14. Kibreab, G. The Eritrean National Service: Servitude for the Common Good and the Youth Exodus, Boydell&Brewer, Rochester NY, USA, 2017.
15. Van Reisen, M and Mawere, M (Eds) Human Trafficking and Trauma in the Digital Era: the Ongoing Tragedy of the Trade in Refugees from Eritrea, Langon Research and Publishing, Bamenda, Cameroun 2017.

11 Ibid, para 122.60
 12 Ibid, para 122.123
 13 Ibid, para 122.57
 14 Ibid, para 122.63
 15 Ibid, para 122.55
 16 Ibid, para 122.65
 17 Ibid, para 122.62
 18 Ibid, para 122.55
 19 Ibid, para 122.61
 20 Ibid, para 122.143

16. Eritrea Focus (www.eritrea-focus.org), Mining and Repression in Eritrea: Corporate Complicity In Human Rights Abuses, Report to the All-Party (UK) Parliamentary Group On Eritrea, London Uk, June 2018.