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European Bureau for Conscientious Objection

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**EBCO wishes a peaceful new year 2016 with full respect of
the right of conscientious objection to military service!**



EBCO was founded in Brussels in 1979 as an umbrella structure for national associations of conscientious objectors in the European countries to promote the right to conscientious objection to preparations for, and participation in, war and any other type of military activity as a fundamental human right. It enjoys participatory status with the Council of Europe since 1998 and is a member of its Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations since 2005. It provides expertise and legal opinions on behalf of the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe. It is involved in drawing up the annual report of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament on the application by the Member States of its resolutions on conscientious objection and civilian service, as determined in the "Bandrés Molet & Bindi Resolution" of 1994. It is a full member of the European Youth Forum since 1995.

EBCO published its Report 2015 on Conscientious Objection to military service in Europe

on 10 December 2015, Human Rights Day

Researched by **Martina Lucia Lanza**

Edited by **Derek Brett**

"It remains a scandal that the violation of the human right of conscientious objection to military service continues to be a daily occurrence in several member states of the Council of Europe", Friedhelm Schneider, EBCO's President, said. "And it is a shame that members of European institutions seem to get accustomed to this unsupportable nuisance."

EBCO urges the member states of the Council of Europe which still do not respect the human right of conscientious objection to military service to bring their legislation and practice in line with European and international human right standards.

Press Release: <http://www.ebco-beoc.org/node/380>

Full Report: http://ebco-beoc.org/sites/ebco-beoc.org/files/attachments/2015_EBCO_REPORT.pdf



Meeting with the Commissioner for Human Rights



Friedhelm Schneider

Following the publication of EBCO Report 2015 on Conscientious Objection to military service in Europe, **Friedhelm Schneider**, EBCO's President, will meet **Nils Muižnieks**, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights on 26 January 2016 in the Council of Europe (Strasbourg) to discuss about the violations of the rights of conscientious objectors in Europe.



Nils Muižnieks

More info: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/the-commissioner>



Article on EBCO's Report 2015

Article by **Martina Lucia Lanza**, member of **Movimento Nonviolento** (EBCO's member organisation in Italy, <http://nonviolenti.org>), about EBCO Report 2015 on Conscientious Objection to military service in Europe on "Azione nonviolenta online": www.azionenonviolenta.it/la-coscienza-obbligatoria-non-e-solo-un-ricordo-del-passato.

This article is also the result of a workshop about the contribution of civil society to the work on peace that took place in Rome on 15 December 2015: <http://www.cnesc.it/news/119-il-15-dicembre-giornata-nazionale-dell-obiezione-di-coscienza-e-del-servizio-civile.html>.

Conference on Alternative Civilian Service in Moscow



On 8 December 2016, in Moscow, Human Rights Group "**Citizen. Army. Law**" (EBCO's member organisation in Russia, www.army-hr.ru) jointly with the Presidential Council for Civil Liberties Development and Human Rights and the Institute of Europe under the Russian Academy of Science, held a conference on the topic "*Russia and the*

Council of Europe: implementation of the law on alternative civilian service in the light of international standards". More info: www.army-hr.ru/article/13018.html

EBCO at the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva



On 19-20 October 2015 EBCO participated in the 115th session of the **United Nations Human Rights Committee** in the Palais Wilson, Geneva, Switzerland, kindly invited by the **International Fellowship of Reconciliation** (www.ifor.org). Interventions were made for the violations of the rights of conscientious objectors in Austria, Greece and Republic of Korea under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR). More info: http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=948&Lang=en



EBCO General Assembly 2015 in Geneva

On 17 October 2015 EBCO held its General Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, kindly hosted by the Quaker UN Office at the Quaker House Geneva, with the following participants:

- ✓ **Friedhelm Schneider**, EBCO President & EAK, Germany
- ✓ **Sam Biesemans** , EBCO and IFOR, Brussels
- ✓ **Derek Brett**, Representative, IFOR
- ✓ **Lucas Johnson**, International Coordinator, IFOR
- ✓ **Laurel Townhead**, Human Rights and Refugees Representative, Quaker UN Office
- ✓ **Maurice Monet**, Secretary - Union Pacifiste de France, Paris
- ✓ **Claude Verrel**, President - Comité de Coordination pour la Service Civil, France
- ✓ **Piet Doerflinger**, Civiva, Switzerland
- ✓ **Jussi Hermaja**, AKL - Union of Conscientious Objectors, Finland
- ✓ **Jordi Tolra**, Movimento por la Pau, Barcelona
- ✓ **Lazaros Petromilidis**, Association of Greek COs, Greece
- ✓ **Alexia Tsouni**, Association of Greek COs, Greece
- ✓ **Daniel Cullen**, Programme Assistant, Quaker UN Office (minutes)

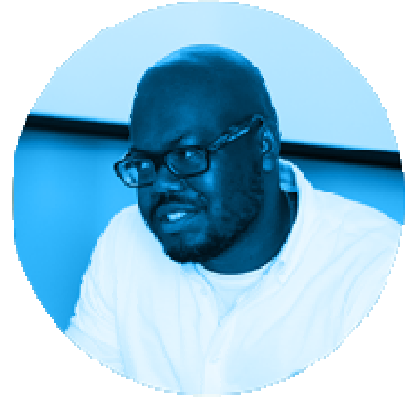


EBCO at meeting of Italian branch of IFOR



Sam Bieseemans

Sam Bieseemans, EBCO's Vice-President, represented EBCO at a meeting of MIR Italy in Torino on 19 December 2015, organized at the occasion of the first visit to the Italian IFOR branch of **Lucas Johnson**, international coordinator of IFOR (International Fellowship of Reconciliation, www.ifor.org).



Lucas Johnson

Motion in the German Parliament to facilitate the recognition of conscientious objectors

On 14 October 2015 the German leftist party **DIE LINKE** proposed a motion to facilitate the recognition of conscientious objectors by an amendment of the current CO law. Thus simply the declaration to be CO should be sufficient to be recognized, accordingly the obligation to explain one's motivation to object military service would no longer be applicable. Unfortunately it is highly improbable that the motion will be adopted - all other parties represented in the Bundestag already declared that they reject it (particularly as it concerns professional soldiers). More info: www.das-parlament.de/2015/47_48/innenpolitik/-/395686



Inauguration of the new Deserters' Memorial in Hamburg

On 24 November 2015 EBCO's President **Friedhelm Schneider** was present on behalf of EBCO at the inauguration of the new Deserters' Memorial in Hamburg, Germany. Besides the Mayor of Hamburg one of the main speakers was Ludwig Baumann, one of the last surviving deserters of the Wehrmacht.



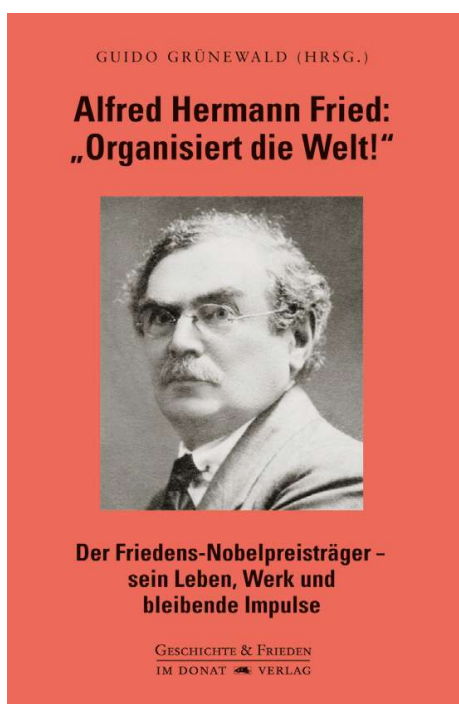
The memorial has been built to commemorate the deserters of WWII (227 of whom have been put to death only in Hamburg) - it is placed in striking distance to a militaristic monument of 1936.

Greek conscientious objector Yiannis Glarnetatzis wins his case before the Appeal Military Court of Thessaloniki

On 21 October 2015 the President of the Association of Greek Conscientious Objectors **Yiannis Glarnetatzis** was finally declared innocent by the Appeal Military Court of Thessaloniki. EBCO had been working on this case for many years, with lobbying, press releases and sending representatives to defend him before the military courts. In view of this last trial, EBCO had published a press release entitled "Greece: Repeal the conviction of the President of the Association of Greek Conscientious Objectors Yiannis Glarnetatzis", condemning once again the unacceptable practice of the Greek authorities to target and prosecute conscientious objectors. EBCO demanded the repeal of the conviction of Yiannis Glarnetatzis, and the dismissal of the charges against all conscientious objectors in Greece, a country where the institution of alternative service remains punitive and constitutes discrimination against conscientious objectors. More info: <http://ebco-beoc.org/node/376>



Book on Alfred Hermann Fried by Guido Gruenewald



Alfred Hermann Fried (11 November 1864 – 5 May 1921) was an Austrian Jewish pacifist, publicist, journalist, co-founder of the German peace movement, and winner (with Tobias Asser) of the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1911.

Dr Guido Gruenewald is a historian, and member of DFG-VK (member organisation of EBCO in Germany).

More info: <http://www.donat-verlag.de>



SUPPORT EBCO!

Join us now to work together for the full respect of the right of conscientious objection to military service!

Donate now to support our efforts!

EBCO Bank Account:

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