



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### Turkey: Peace comes with human rights, not with military operations

Brussels, 11 October 2019

Responding to the launch of the Turkish military operation against Kurdish forces in northeast Syria, and the increasing suffering of the civilians in the region, EBCO's President Friedhelm Schneider stated today:

*"Instead of aggravating the situation in the Syrian conflict region by a military operation cynically named Peace Spring, the Turkish government should refrain from barbarous means of quarreling and finally legalize the right to conscientious objection to military service in conformity with international human rights standards."*

Furthermore, EBCO republishes the [declaration](#) of its Turkish member association VR-DER (Conscientious Objection Association), which was published yesterday:



#### **Against The Missive, Against The War!**

**10 October 2019**

The missive about North and East of Syria which the power calls "safe zone" was discussed and accepted in General Assembly of the Parliament. Since the missive came up, we see various political parties are in support of it, sometimes openly; and we hear other politicians and political circles "needs must, although regrettably" support it.

We are not surprised at all that's happening. We are not surprised that the politicians allegedly say "peace" on the one hand, and support warmongering on the other hand; that the first agenda of Parliament on the day it opens, October 1, is this missive; that war and violence are spoken and discussed as the only solutions. We are not surprised that the war plans of the power, which will directly affect the lives of millions of people in order to ensure the power's own security, is named peace.

We are not surprised and we are once again shout against the new decision: No to war! No to every war that will be waged, every occupation that will be made, each and every new missive decision that will be taken for the hegemonic policies of the power!

#### **Conscientious Objection Association**

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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.