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From: Presscenter MoD <presscntr@mod.bg>

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Date: 31/01/2023 16:34 EET

Subject: Ministry of Defence Bulgaria Questionnaire

Dear Mrs. Tsouni,

In response to the questionnaire you have sent to the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria, we are sending you the following information:

On question 1: The issue of the so-called "conscription" has been resolved by the amendment to Article 59 Paragraph 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria, and in this sense the answer to the question does not differ from the information provided in the NGO's annual report for 2021.

On question 2: The Constitution of the country does not contain any regulation specific to the question that has been asked. Pursuant to Article 183 of the Republic of Bulgaria Defence and Armed Forces Act (RBDFAFA), servicemen shall not refuse to perform their duties for religious, atheist, political or ideological reasons or disseminate religious or atheist propaganda when performing their service duties. The establishment of religious, atheist, political and ideological communities shall not be permitted in military formations and sites. This means that servicemen do not have the right to refuse to perform military service under the condition stipulated in the question. The same reasoning is valid regarding the answer to the fourth question with respect to professional servicemen,

On question 3: Pursuant to Article 141 of the RBDFAFA, those subject to enlistment for military service shall be persons who have reached the age of majority, set at 18, and who are capable and in good physical and psychological condition. This is also the age of enrolment for / commencement of wartime military service in the event of declaration of state of war, martial law or a state of emergency pursuant to Article 116 of the RBDFAFA.

On question 4: Pursuant to RBDFAFA, enlistment for military service occurs on the basis of a military service contract entered into with the Minister of Defence or with an official duly authorized thereby. The procedure, terms and conditions regarding the conclusion and termination of such military service contract are laid down in the Rules on the Implementation of the RBDFAFA.

It does not contain provision for termination of the military service contract on account of "conscientious objection" but it provides for an option for early termination of the military service contract on mutual consent of the parties or through a written notification by the service member."

We hope it would be useful for your organization's reports.

Best regards,

Public Relations and Protocol Directorate

[Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria](#)

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