Denial of human right to conscientious objection, repressions and discrimination of pacifists in Ukraine

Yurii Sheliazhenko, PhD
Ukrainian Pacifist Movement
Militarist fiction “everyone will fight”
Hundreds of thousands resist coercion to fight: life ≠ war, people ≠ army, civilians ≠ draft evaders
Ukrainian army insists on total mobilization, strongly opposes conscientious objection and nonviolent resistance to Russian aggression
Civilian men (18-60) are prohibited from travel, work and education, punished for “draft evasion”
Deaths in custody of military recruiters
New fines for failure to register for conscription: from 17 000 (430 Euro) to 22500 UAH (530 Euro)
Denial in consular services to force to return
Tisza: the river of death

At least 28 people died in the river, tens more frozen in mountains, trying to escape from Ukraine to EU.
Treatment of conscientious objectors

Human rights commissioner Dmytro Lubinets criticized absence of alternative service

At least 24 conscientious objectors have faced criminal cases, more declared wanted, stopped by police, forcibly transported to recruitment centers, pressured, etc.

Christian pacifists sentenced for real prison terms, the prisoners of conscience like Dmytro Zelinsky await appeal hearings

Vitaliy Alexeienko and Mykhailo Yavorsky – 3 years of prison, suspended sentences; Supreme Court refused to acquit Yavorsky

Andrii Vyshnevetsky denied in discharge from military service on the grounds of conscience
Repressions for “crime” of pacifism

Under pretext of “justification of Russian aggression” in antiwar statement condemning it, Ukrainian Pacifist Movement could be prohibited and dissolved, Yurii Sheliazhenko could be imprisoned up to 5 years. Real goal is to stop legal aid to conscientious objectors.
Thank you

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