

MARCH - APRIL 2021

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION BULLETIN-III

- Updates on conscientious
objection to military service

-Human right violations of
people subject to compulsory
military service



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WHAT'S IN THE BULLETIN THIS MONTH

In the third issue of the Bulletin of Conscientious Objection, you may find informations about the applications that we've received in March and April of 2021, the two-month up-to-date information on the violations of rights experienced by conscientious objectors, up-to-date information on the legal cases followed by VR-DER (Conscientious Objection Association), and the conscientious objection declarations made in March and in April.

You may contact us via our [website](#) and our [social media](#) accounts to get more information about the monitoring work carried out by VR-DER.

VR-DER'S MARCH-APRIL AGENDA

March 23, 2021

War Resisters International is 100 Years: "War is a crime against humanity!"

March 23-25 was the 100th anniversary of War Resisters International, of which VR-DER is also a component. Founded in 1921 at a meeting of pacifists gathered in the Dutch town of Bilthoven, WRI enters its 100th year in the fight for the creation of a war-free world.

VR-DER published a statement to celebrate the 100th anniversary of WRI, which increased solidarity with conscientious objectors from different regions and countries and made possible the dream of a world without war and violence.



APPLICATIONS TO VR-DER

VR-DER received new applications in March and April with a request for information. In a two months period, we have received 27 requests for information on various topics by e-mail.

Among these applications, there were people who wanted to get information about the right to conscientious objection, who consulted us about the administrative fines imposed on them due to being a draft evader or an evader, and who requested information about the asylum process because they did not want to do compulsory military service.

** The words draft evader and evader are employed here because the persons in question are legally defined this way.*

%4 Association membership

%4 Right to education

%4 Evaders

%4 Those who request information about paid military service

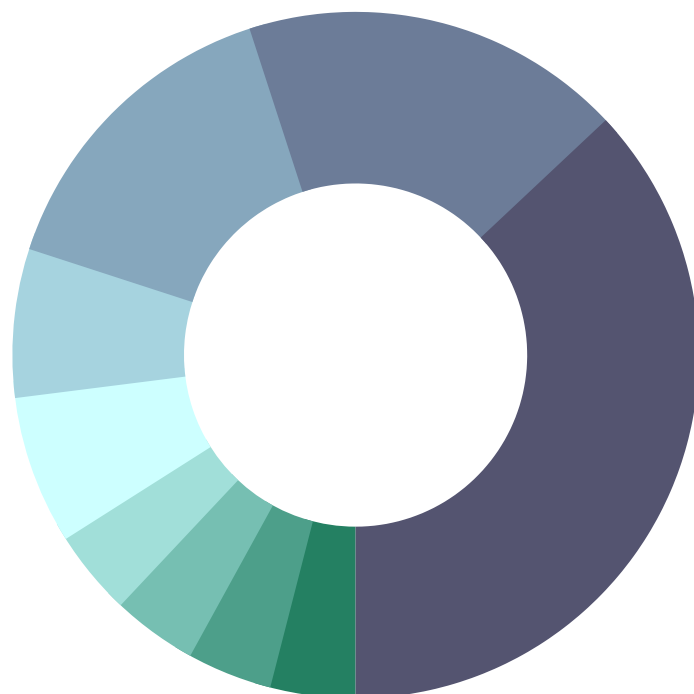
%7 New conscientious objection declarations

%7 Administrative fines

%15 Those who request information about the right to asylum

%18 Draft evaders

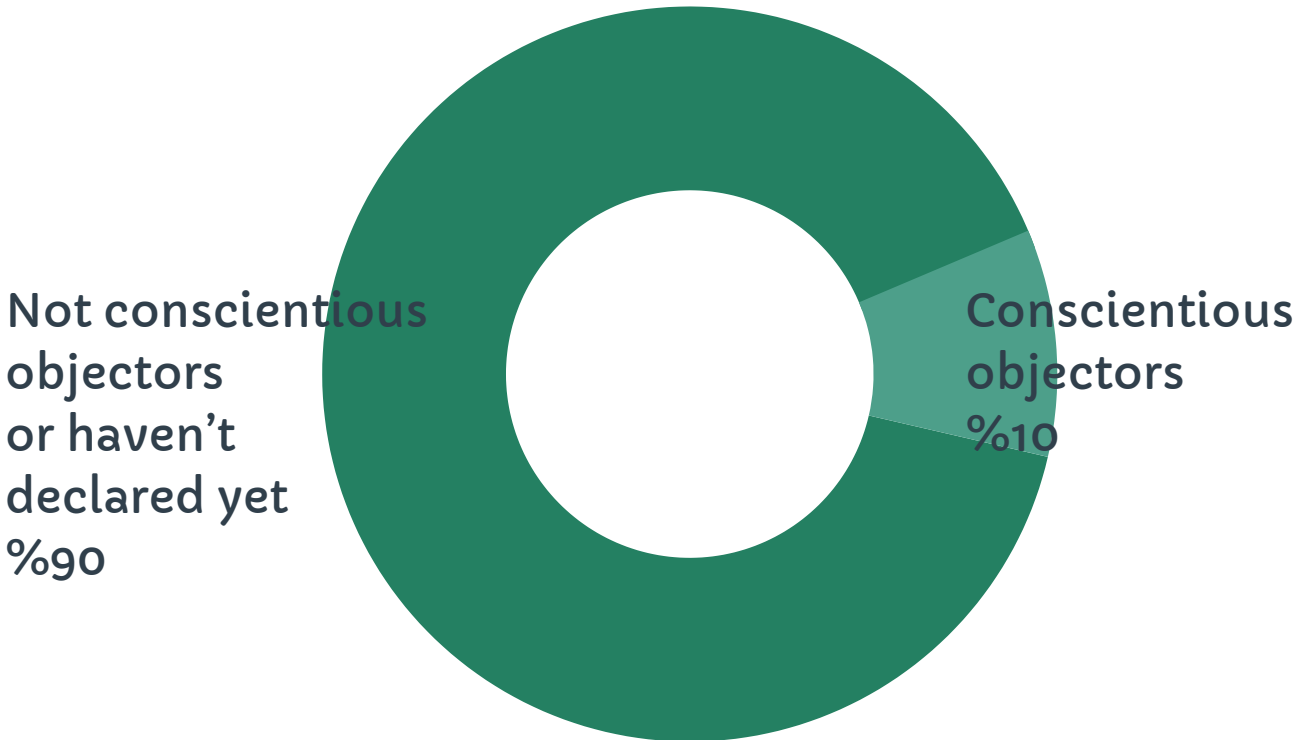
%37 Those who ask information about the right to conscientious objection



HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF PEOPLE SUBJECT TO COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE

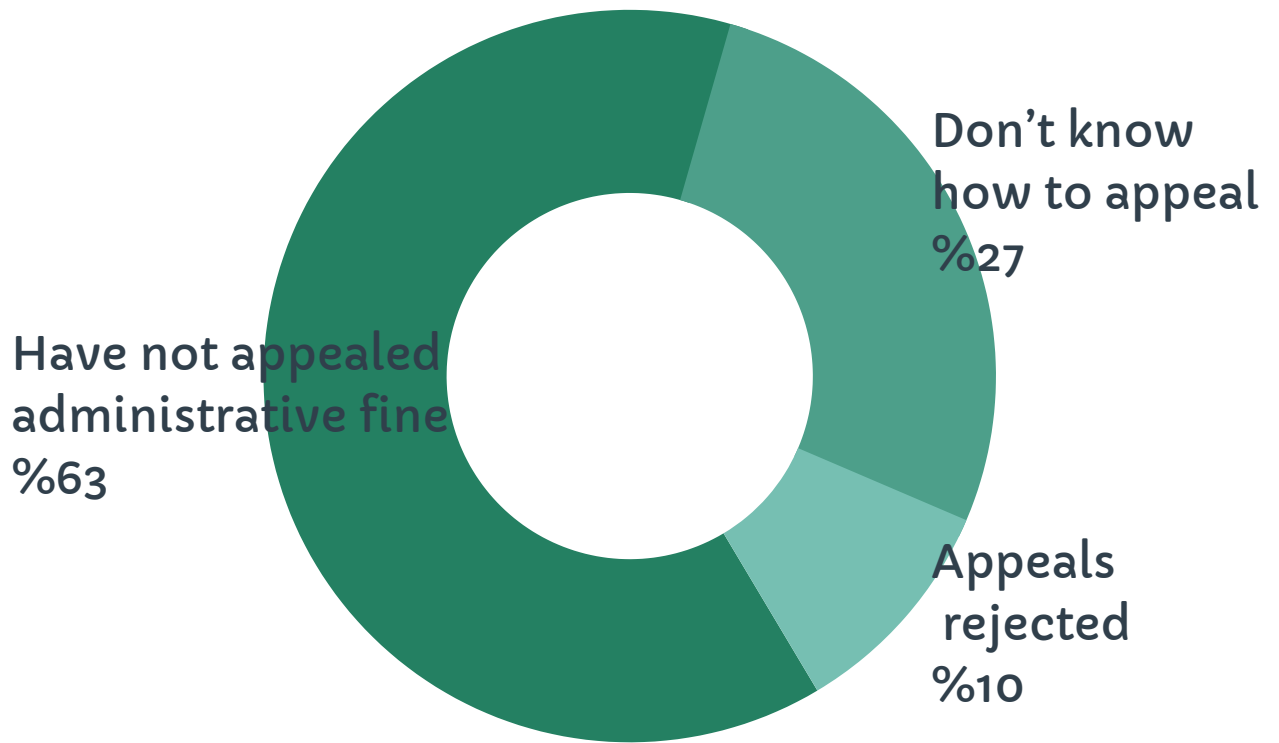
The application form, which we published upon the situation of persons subject to compulsory military service who suffered from violation of rights, was filled in by 16 people during March and April 2021. We reported, in a two months period, different types of violation of rights by analyzing the answers given by conscientious objectors, draft evaders and evaders.

Among those who filled out the form, there were many people who could not have an insured employment, who were fired, who were prosecuted more than once with the same accusation, and who were subjected to other violations of rights. Among the applicants who filled out the form within the two-month period, who had not yet declared their conscientious objection were in majority.



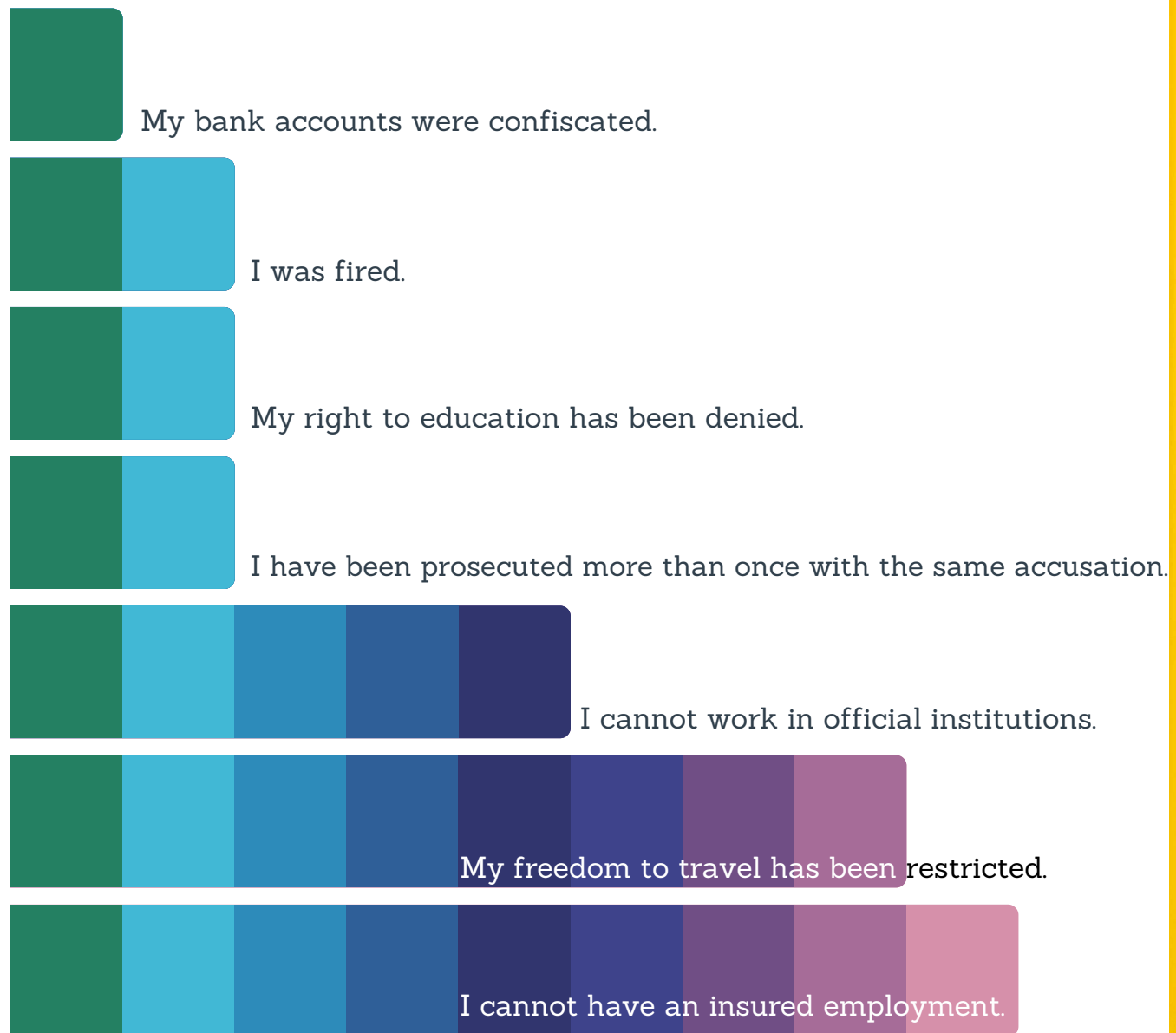
ADMINISTRATIVE FINES

63% of the applicants who filled the form stated that they did not object to the administrative fines imposed on the grounds that it was draft evading or evading, 27% did not know how to appeal the administrative fines, 10% appealed but their appeals were rejected and the fine became final.



Four people who filled out the form in the March-April period stated that administrative fines were imposed on charges of draft evasion or evasion and they were fined approximately 28.000 TL in total.

WHICH VIOLATIONS OF RIGHTS ARE PERSONS SUBJECT TO COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE EXPOSED TO?



* Violations of rights cited by 12 applicants.

**The applicants stated that they were subjected to more than one violation.

The answers given to the question "Which violations of rights have you been exposed to due to compulsory military service?" clearly show the diversity of the violations of rights experienced by the applicants. The majority of the 12 people who answered that question stated that they were subjected to more than one human right violation.

The most common violation of rights faced for not doing compulsory military service was stated as "not being able to have an insured employment", 9 people stated that they could not have an insured employment. 8 people emphasized that their freedom of travel was restricted and 5 people mentioned that they were unable to work in official institutions.

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During the March-April period, VR-DER continued to provide legal counseling to conscientious objectors, and started providing support for a new case. In addition, two applications to the Constitutional Court within the scope of the right to conscientious objection for two different conscientious objectors were made.

With these applications, the number of individual applications to the Constitutional Court followed by the association reached to 26

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CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION DECLARATIONS



March 30, 2021

Hakan Yel announced his conscientious objection with a declaration he sent to the VR-DER:

"... I know and feel that war is people's worst nightmare. Do not order me for this commander, I do not obey your order.

I do not recognize the military service, a debt which is imposed to me before I was born, under the name of "Fatherland Debt", which is put up for sale without hesitation every few years for certain conditions and fees by a state that exists with the blood it spills, the assimilation it implements, and the ignorance nurtured by the belief it imposes."





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