

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2021

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION BULLETIN - VI

- Updates on conscientious
objection to military service

-Human right violations of
people subject to compulsory
military service



Vicdani Ret Derneđi

Conscientious Objection Association

WHAT'S IN THE NEWSLETTER THIS MONTH?

In the sixth issue of the Conscientious Objection Bulletin, you'll find information about requests made to the Association for Conscientious Objection (VR-DER) as well as the updated data on the rights violations of conscientious objectors on Turkey between October- December 2021.

You can contact us on our [website](#) or via our social media accounts if you are willing to receive information about our monitoring work.

APPLICATIONS TO VR-DER

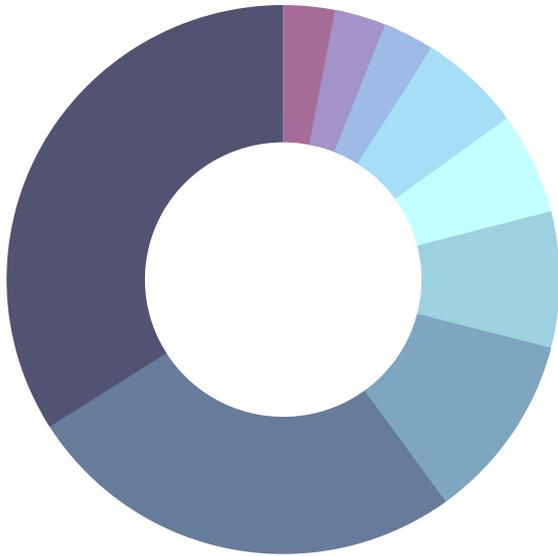
Between October-December 2021, we received a number of new applications for information. A total of 35 people have sent e-mails to the association and requested information on various subjects within these three months.

Among those contacted, the majority requested information about the right to conscientious objection. The others were those who were draft evaders* or evaders**; those who shared their intention to declare conscientious objection; and those who requested information about travelling abroad.

*The terms "draft evader" and "evader" are used due to the definitions in legal terminology in Turkish law.

*Draft evader (yoklama kaçağı): Those who have not enrolled even though they were called up.

**Evader (bakaya) : Those who are enrolled but haven't joined their military units.



3% About right to work

3% About right to education

3% Administrative fines

6% Those who request information about the right to asylum

6% Those who request information about "not suitable for military service report"

8% Those who request information about travel abroad

11% Conscientious objection statements

26% Questions from draft evaders and evaders

34% Those who request information about the right to conscientious objection

RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF PEOPLE SUBJECT TO COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE

Between October-December 2021, 15 people filled out our form aiming to collect information on the rights violations of persons obliged to perform military service. With the answers from conscientious objectors, draft evaders and evaders, various rights violations over the period of three months were reported.

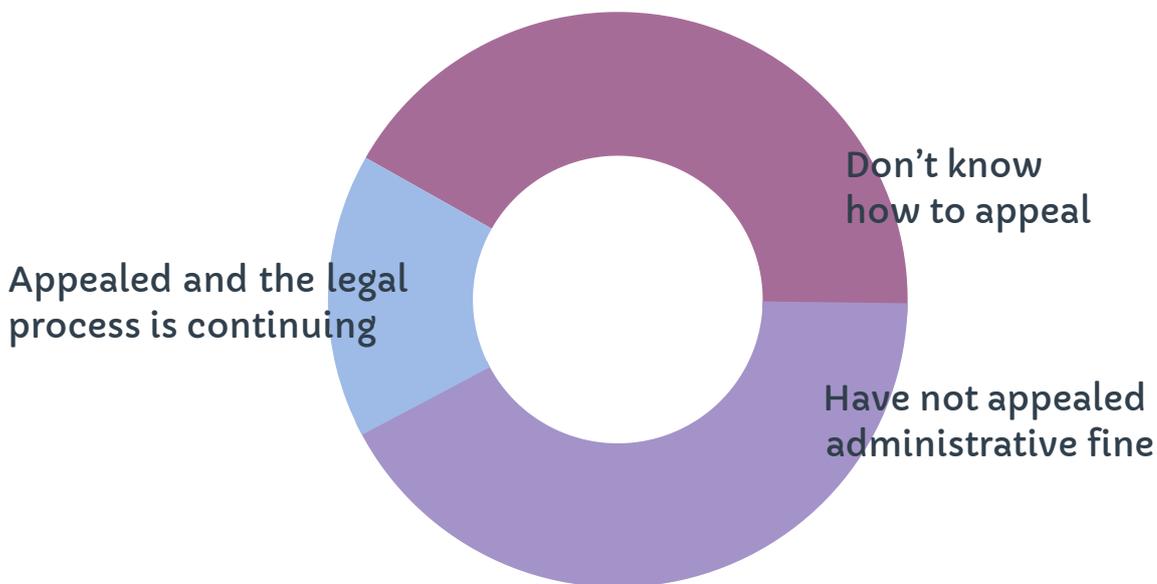
The majority of those who filled out the form stated that they cannot work with social security and cannot work in a state institution. In addition, some also reported how their right to travel is being restricted and their right to education is violated. Some also reported that they were dismissed from their jobs.

Among the applicants who filled out the form within the three-month period, the majority were those who had not yet declared their conscientious objection to military service. Only 1 of the 15 people who filled out the form was a declared conscientious objector.

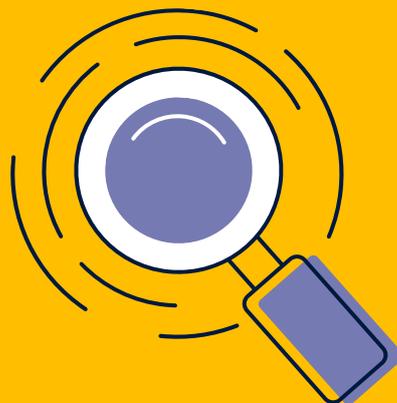
ADMINISTRATIVE FINES

7 out of the 15 respondents who filled out our form between October-November-December have responded to the question: "Have you objected to the administrative fines imposed on you?"

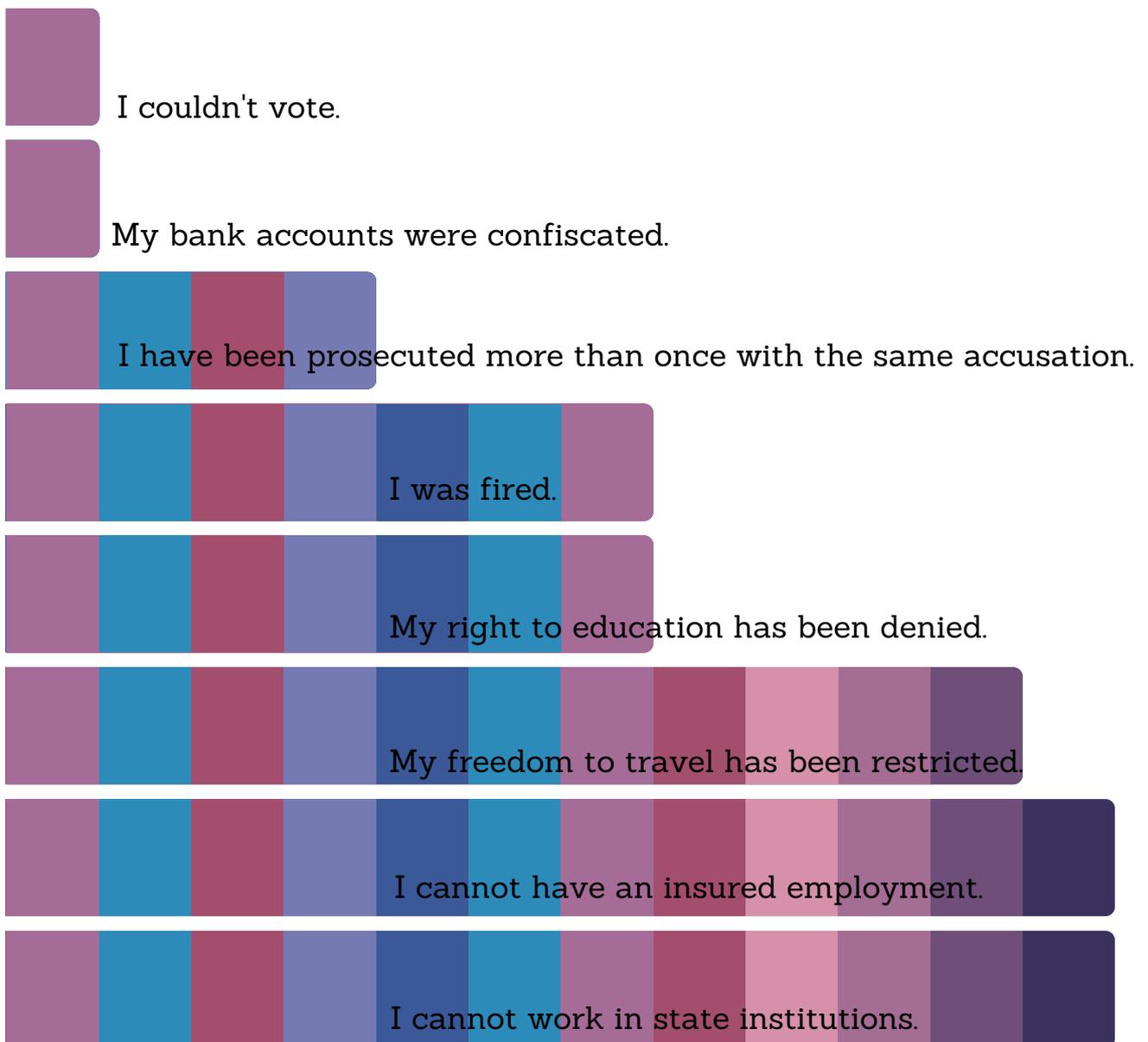
While 1 respondent stated that he objected to the administrative fines and that the legal process is continuing; 3 stated that they did not know how to object to the administrative fines. The remaining 3 respondents, who answered the same question, stated that they did not object to the administrative fines.



An approximate total of **41,000 Turkish Liras (approx. 2,700 Euros)** were imposed on **5 respondents** as a result of being a draft evader or evader.



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



* Rights violations cited by 13 applicants.

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

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION DECLARATIONS



November 24, 2021

Mert Doğan announced his conscientious objection with a declaration he sent to the VR-DER:

"... We are being murdered because of being gay in Mardin, being a transgender woman in Istanbul, and being a revolutionary Kurdish woman in Izmir. The state itself is responsible for the hatred that resulted in these deaths. We are being burned, we are being hurt, our dead bodies are thrown to the the road sides because we are not Turkish, Sunni and "male". I declare my conscientious objection in order not to be a part of this society of hatred; not to become alienated from my ideals of freedom, from being a friend to nature, animals, and life more generally, and having my free life with them; I reject the military system that the Republic of Turkey has made compulsory for me."



December 7, 2021

Mansur Şahinkuşu announced his conscientious objection with a declaration he sent to the VR-DER:

"... We are in such a system that those who do not want to perform military service cannot get married. They have no chance of getting an identity card for their children. They have no right to work legally; no chance of getting a passport; no right to vote. If they get sick, there is no chance for them to go to a hospital and be examined. I face restrictions on my freedom on a random identity check. If these exercises of the system don't constitute a crime, but instead, my refusal to kill people is considered to be a crime, then let me be guilty. I declare that I will never wear that military uniform, no matter what shape or color it would be, and I announce my conscientious objection."



December 20, 2021

Mehmet Munzur Yeşilmen announced his conscientious objection with a declaration he sent to the VR-DER:

"... In the military, we are being killed because of our identity, we are burned because we do not accept their system, we are being attacked, our dead bodies are thrown to the roadsides.

I declare my conscientious objection in order to not be a part of the hegemonic militarist system, but to be part of nature, animals and life more generally; not to fight against Kurdish people; not to shed the blood of children of poor people; not to alienate myself from my ideals of freedom and peace. I refuse the military system that the Republic of Turkey has made compulsory for me and I declare my conscientious objection."





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