

Mr. Shaul Mofaz  
Minister of Defence  
37 Kaplan Street  
Tel-Aviv 61909 / Israel

Dear Minister,

I am very concerned about the number of Israeli soldiers and reservists detained because of their refusal to perform their military service. In view of reports available to me, the number of imprisoned conscientious objectors is now approximately ten, although numbers fluctuate every day. The conscientious objectors Adam Maor, Haggai Matar, Matan Kaminer, Noam Bahat and Shimri Tzameret are imprisoned for a year. The total number of objectors imprisoned since the beginning of the intifada in September 2000 is now more than 180.

A person who for reasons of conscience or profound conviction arising from religious, ethical, moral, humanitarian, philosophical, political or similar motive refuses to perform armed service or any other direct or indirect participation in wars or armed conflicts and is imprisoned as a result of his/her refusal to serve is considered by Amnesty International to be a prisoner of conscience unless such a person has also refused to perform alternative civilian service of comparable length. There is no such alternative civilian service in Israel.

I am also concerned about the number of Israeli conscientious objectors who are forced to hearings at court martials. Yoni Ben-Artzi is brought to the army's conscience committee.

**I call on you**

- **to stop all processes against conscientious objectors at court martials,**
- **to release all imprisoned conscientious objectors immediately and unconditionally (e.g. the mentioned COs Adam Maor, Haggai Matar, Matan Kaminer, Noam Bahat and Shimri Tzameret),**
- **to stop arresting conscientious objectors and**
- **to accept all conscientious objectors officially.**

Yours sincerely