

# Human Rights in Switzerland



## Conscience and Peace Tax International

*For the right to pay taxes for peace, not for war*

NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN

International non-profit organization

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*UPR Info Pre-sessions*

# The right to Life



We encourage Switzerland to keep enhancing its suicide prevention mechanism, and to efficiently address the gender issue therein



# Adequate Standard of Living



**6.6 %** Below the poverty line  
**13.5 %** At risk of poverty

**We encourage Switzerland to present  
in the Universal Periodic Review  
its program to fulfill SDG 1  
and to eradicate poverty**

# Arms exports

## Financing of the weapons industry

We encourage Switzerland to be an example in arms reduction, by ceasing or drastically reducing arms exports, and limiting financing of arms production

2 SIPRI FACT SHEET

**Table 1.** The 25 largest exporters of major weapons and their main clients, 2012–16  
*Note:* Percentage of total is rounded to 1 decimal (except for percentages over 10 which are rounded to whole numbers).

Exporter	Share of arms exports (%)		Per cent change from 2007–11 to 2012–16 <sup>a</sup>	Main clients (share of exporter's total exports, %, 2012–16)		
	2012–16	2007–11		1st	2nd	3rd
1 United States	33	30	21	Saudi Arabia (13)	UAE (8.7)	Turkey (6.3)
2 Russia	23	24	4.7	India (38)	Viet Nam (11)	China (11)
3 China	6.2	3.8	74	Pakistan (35)	Bangladesh (18)	Myanmar (10)
4 France	6.0	6.9	-5.0	Egypt (19)	China (11)	UAE (9.1)
5 Germany	5.6	9.4	-36	South Korea (13)	Greece (12)	USA (9.7)
6 United Kingdom	4.6	3.9	27	Saudi Arabia (48)	India (11)	Indonesia (9.0)
7 Spain	2.8	2.9	2.9	Australia (27)	Saudi Arabia (12)	Turkey (11)
8 Italy	2.7	2.4	22	Turkey (14)	UAE (11)	Algeria (8.0)
9 Ukraine	2.6	1.9	49	China (28)	Russia (17)	Thailand (8.5)
10 Israel	2.3	2.2	13	India (41)	Azerbaijan (13)	USA (5.9)
11 Netherlands	1.9	2.4	-11	Jordan (14)	Morocco (11)	USA (11)
12 Sweden	1.2	2.0	-35	Thailand (14)	UAE (13)	Saudi Arabia (10)
13 South Korea	1.0	0.9	25	Iraq (30)	Turkey (27)	Indonesia (23)
14 Switzerland	1.0	1.2	-10	Saudi Arabia (20)	China (19)	USA (16)

# Conscientious objection

## Length of service

Age	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	
Soldiers	Initial period 124 or 145 days				Recall		Recall		Recall		Recall		Recall		260 days, legal total	Remitted ?
Civil service	Initial period 180 days					Recall	Recall	Recall	Recall	Recall	Recall	Recall	Recall	Recall	390 days, legal total (N x 1.5)	Effective total ?

**We encourage the Government of Switzerland to disclose the number of days done by soldiers and to reduce accordingly the number of days imposed on persons doing the alternative service**

# **Access to civil service**

**We encourage the Swiss Government  
to include civilians at the recruitment  
and to adopt lighter admission criteria for those  
demanding the civil service**

**Call for military duty;  
Access to a proper remedy**

**We ask for a judicial or  
independent control over the  
calls for these periods of service**



# Other recommendations

- **To establish independent mechanisms for the prevention and control of use of force**
- **To adopt exemplary measures to regulate business and human rights**
- **To present its plan to reach 0.7% of GDP for development**
- **To explore new ways to enhance the participation of youth in the decision-making process**
- **To open up a peace fund where tax payers can pay their taxes, instead of paying them for the military budget**
- **And as a champion of “direct democracy”, to forward the concept and its advantages, worldwide, whenever possible**