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UPR of Lithuania
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Mister President

This is a joint statement delivered by Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI) and the center for Global Nonkilling

Since the previous cycle of the UPR, Lithuania has reinstated obligatory military service. Yet, the issue of Conscientious Objection was not raised in the working group.

Lithuania claims to recognize the right to conscientious objection, but the Human Rights Committee had no doubt in its latest report that the available unarmed “Alternative Military Service” was not only under military control, but also distinctly military in nature.¹

Also, since the meeting of the Working Group, the European Court of Human Rights in the *Teliatnikov case*² confirmed this assessment. Nevertheless, it is clear from Lithuania’s input to the Conscientious Objection Report presented by the High Commissioner at this session of our Council³: the situation still has to change.

We state or recall that conscientious objection is not only a right of conscience, but that it is also a way to express and preserve the right to life and the nonkilling principle, in times of peace as in times of conflict.

We urge the government of Lithuania to swiftly instate a truly civilian alternative to military service, of a non-punitive and non-discriminatory nature, in accordance with its international law obligations.

We shall be looking forward for progresses and results.

Thank you, mister President

1 CCPR/C/LTU/CO/4, 29th August 2018, paras 25, 26.
2 Application No. 51984/19, Judgement of 7th June 2022
3 A/HRC/50/43, 11th May 2022.