

Conscience and Peace Tax International

Internacional de Conciencia e Impuestos para la Paz

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

International non-profit organization (Belgium 15.075/96)

Bruineveld 11 · B-3010 Leuven · Belgium · Ph.: +32.16.254011 · e-*: cpti@cpti.ws

Belgian account: 000-1709814-92 · IBAN: BE12 0001 7098 1492 · BIC: BPOTBEB1

www.cpti.ws

Contact:

Derek Brett

Geneva Representative

Avenue Adrien-Jeandin 18

1226 Thônex.

Tel./fax: 022 860 24 63

Email: dubrett@talk21.com

**Submission to the 99th Session of the Human Rights Committee: July 2010
for the attention of the Country Report Task Force on
TOGO
Conscientious objection to military service and related issues**

prepared April 2010

The Constitution of Togo, last amended in 2002, contains a reference to the duty of every citizen of Togo to perform national service “under the conditions provided for in law”¹. However, there is some doubt as to whether there has ever been implementing legislation. A number of sources, notably the Military Balance published annually by the International Institute for Security Studies², persist in referring to “selective conscription” into two years of military service, but no original source has been traced, which might give such corroborative detail as what exactly is meant by “selective conscription”, or the annual number of conscripts.. Meanwhile, Togo itself, on ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on children in armed conflict, lodged a declaration to the effect that all military recruitment was voluntary.³ Like many other States in Africa, Togo does not maintain large formal armed forces; the entire personnel, including the paramilitary gendarmerie in mid-2009 was less than 10,000,⁴ as compared with some 70,000 young men reaching recruitment age annually.⁵ It is to be assumed that no difficulty would be encountered in filling the manpower requirements by voluntary recruitment, and although the theoretical possibility that a volunteer might subsequently, as a result for instance of a religious conversion, develop conscientious objections to military service, the likelihood of Togo being confronted in practice by any actual instances in the foreseeable future is extremely slight, and CPTI does not therefore suggest that this question be raised in the list of issues.

1 Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, Child Soldiers Global Report 2008 (London, 2008), p.338.

2 Most recently, The Military Balance 2010 (International Institute for Security Studies, London), p.330

3 Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, op cit

4 The Military Balance 2010, op cit

5 CIA World Factbook (www.cia.gov), accessed 18th April, 2009.