



International Fellowship of Reconciliation
Internationaler Versöhnungsbund
Mouvement International de la Réconciliation
Movimiento Internacional de la Reconciliación

The International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) is an international, spiritually-based movement composed of people who commit themselves to active nonviolence as a way of life and as a means of transformation --- personal, social, economic and political. IFOR has special consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC) and representation at UNESCO.

Human Rights Council, 24th Session
20th September 2013

Agenda Item 6

Adoption of the UPR Report on **Azerbaijan**

Oral Intervention by the International Fellowship of Reconciliation

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In an advance question, referring back to the recommendation it had made during the first cycle of the UPR, Slovenia asked, “How and when will the Government of Azerbaijan give practical effect to the Constitutional provision allowing conscientious objection to military service.”

During the working group itself, Slovenia regretted the lack of information on this issue, but although it referred to the previous recommendation, this was not repeated.

As Slovenia had noted, Azerbaijan's constitution stipulates that “if serving in the armed forces runs counter to a person's convictions” an alternative service will be “prescribed by law”. On accession to the Council of Europe in 2001, Azerbaijan undertook to promulgate the necessary legislation within two years. Ten years later, despite repeated reminders from the Council of Europe and recommendations from the Human Rights Committee, there are still no alternative service arrangements and in their absence over the years a number of conscientious objectors have been imprisoned for up to twelve months (of a possible two years) for their refusal of military service. As we have already mentioned in this Session of the Council, the two objectors who were

The International Fellowship of Reconciliation calls on Azerbaijan to refrain from any further imprisonments of conscientious objectors, to give urgent attention to honouring the international commitments it has already undertaken in this area, and to give details of what it has done in this respect in its next UPR report.