

MACEDONIA

Conscription

According to the Macedonian Ministry of Defence, the country ended conscription in 2006 following NATO's requirements for harmonisation and integration.

Background

Before 2001, the right to conscientious objection was very restrictively recognized. Under the previous 1992 Defence Law only religious grounds for conscientious objection were recognized and it only provided for an unarmed military service within the armed forces. There were several known cases of COs who refused to perform unarmed service and were consequently sentenced to imprisonment. If they continued to refuse to serve on release, they could be prosecuted and imprisoned again.¹

¹ Amnesty International and Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of Macedonia: Joint appeal to the Macedonian government for amendments to the defence law which will guarantee the rights of conscientious objectors in the spirit of international standards (EUR 65/011/00).