

**INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION (IFOR)
and
CONSCIENCE AND PEACE TAX INTERNATIONAL (CPTI)**

Submission to the 105th Session of the Human Rights Committee

MALDIVES

(Military service, conscientious objection and related issues)

Updated December 2011.

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The Maldives maintains a “Maldivian National Defence Force”(MNDF), which in 2006 replaced the “National Security Service”, and was redefined in order to differentiate its military duties from domestic law enforcement, which passed to a separate police force.¹

Recruitment to the MNDF is voluntary. It would appear from its Initial Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict that the Maldives has been scrupulous in adhering to the commitments it undertook. Fourteen members of the armed forces, recruited when the qualifying age was 16, were given notice that they were removed from their job from the date that the amendments came into existence; they were given the chance to join the service again when they reach the age of 18. ²

The Maldives might nevertheless be asked how it would react were a member of the MNDF to develop conscientious objections to military service, and seek to be released.

¹ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, Child Soldiers Global Report 2008 (London, 2008), p226.

² CRC/C/OPAC/MDV/Q/1/Add.1, para 2.