

Conscience and Peace Tax International

Bulletin Number 11

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This issue of the *CPTI Bulletin* provides links to events and documents that are related to the work of the organization. A number of months have passed since the last bulletin was distributed. Some recipients have requested that these updates be shorter in length and sent more often, so this issue provides two items on a single page, with links to more detailed information.

International Conference

The thirteenth international conference was held in Norway this past July. CPTI held a biennial General Assembly and Board meetings in conjunction with the conference. Here are links to information and documents generated by the conference participants:

The 13th International Conference Sends a Letter to Governments, Religions, and Human Rights Leaders of the World



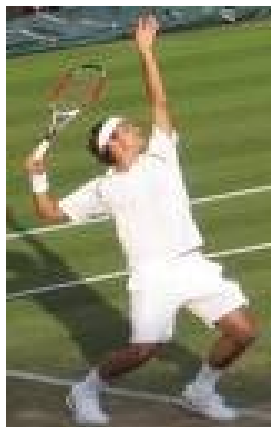
[The 13th International Conference on War Tax Resistance and Peace Tax Campaigns](#) held July 2–4, 2010 in Sandefjord Norway, has written an open letter addressed to governments, houses of worship, other religious organizations, and human rights leaders around the world.

[Read the open letter](#) (PDF file, 152 KB, new window).

[Download a copy of the letter for your own use](#) (word processed file, 72 KB, new window).

[Read a summary of the Conference proceedings](#) (photos included).

European Court of Human Rights Decisions



Roger Federer
wikimedia.commons.org

Decisions of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) in 2009 brought good and bad news for conscientious objectors.

In April, in the case of *Glor v Switzerland*, the Court was scathing about the Swiss practice of imposing a supplementary "military tax" on of all men who do not perform military or alternative civilian service in a particular year.

Roger Federer (photo) has been, for example, ruled unfit for military service; and three percent of his income goes to the Swiss military instead! See: <http://thefriend.org/article/a-very-human-right/>

A summary of the *Glor* decision is available through the Court website: <http://www.echr.coe.int/ECHR/EN/Header/Press/News/Press+releases/> (Find "Links"; click on "Search press releases"; search for "Glor"; then click on "Chamber judgment").

In October, however, a Chamber of the Court upheld the conviction of Vahan Bayatyan, a Jehovah's Witness from Armenia, for his refusal to perform military service, arguing that conscientious objection to military service was not protected by the article of the European Convention on Human Rights dealing with freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

CPTI joined with four other international NGOs in submitting an Amicus Brief for the appeal to the full court, "the Grand Chamber". The appeal was heard on the 24th of November, just a few days ago. We await with interest the verdict, which will probably be published some time in the Spring of 2011. More detailed reviews of these two ECtHR decisions may be posted on the CPTI website and announced in a future Bulletin. The full text of the Amicus Brief is available at: http://www.cpti.ws/court_docs/court_list.html (link to this document in the 'Armenia' section).

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