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

Submission to the 110th Session of the Human Rights Committee for the 
attention of the Country Report Task Force on ARGENTINA 

(Military service, conscientious objection and related issues)

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Basic Information

Population (November 2012, estimated1) 42,192,000

Conscription was suspended by the Law on Voluntary Military Service, No. 24,429 of 5th 
January 1995. However Law 17,351 on Obligatory Military Service was not 
repealed and in the event that insufficient volunteers should come forward, and subject 
to the approval of the National Assembly, article 19 of the Law on Voluntary Military 
Service authorises the call-up of 18-year-old men under the provisions of the earlier 
Law. In such an event, article 20 stipulates that individuals who “for profound 
religious, philosophical or moral reasons” are unable to perform military service will 
be assigned to a substitute social service. Thus the first provisions for conscientious 
objectors co-incided with the suspension of conscription.
In practice it has never proved necessary to invoke article 19. 
It is not known what would happen in the event that a serving member of the armed 
forces should develop conscientious objections.

Minimum recruitment age2: 18

Manpower reaching “militarily significant age” in 20103: 339,593
Armed forces active strength, November 2012:4 73,100
as a percentage of the number of men reaching “military age” 21.5%

Military expenditure US $ equivalent, 20125 $4,340m

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1 Source: The Military Balance 2013 (International Institute of Strategic Studies, London), which bases its estimate 
on “demographic statistics taken from the US Census Bureau”.
2 Source: Child Soldiers International (formerly Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers), Louder than words: an 
defines “militarily significant age” as 16. However its estimates have not been updated since 2010 and therefore 
relate to the cohort of the male population reaching 19 (a more common recruitment age in most countries) in 2013. 
This figure is more meaningful than total population in assessing the comparative impact of military recruitment in 
different countries.
5 Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), April 2013
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Per capita</td>
<td>$103</td>
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<tr>
<td>As % of GDP</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
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