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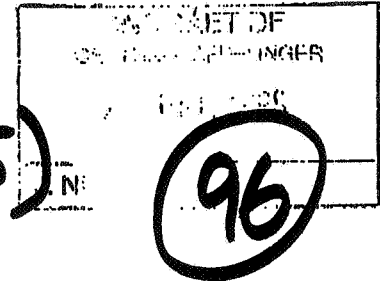


UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES

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ARMENIEN (85)

FACSIMILE MESSAGE



To: Danish Refugee Council Attn. Mette Honoré	Destination fax number:
From: The UNHCR Regional Office for the Baltic and Nordic Countries Carl Söderbergh, Refugee Law Training Officer	Return fax number: +46 8 457 48 97 Tel: +46 8 457 48 75
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Subject: Application of Cessation Clauses for Armenian Draft Evaders

Dear Ms. Honoré,

Further to your inquiry regarding the application of cessation clauses for Armenian Draft Evaders, we have received the following information from our headquarters in Geneva stating that:

Quote:

With regard to general information on the situation for deserters/draft-evaders in Armenia we refer to Chapter 3.5 of the *1997 Guidelines relating to the eligibility of Armenian asylum seekers*. The information therein is still generally applicable, with the exception of some changes in the Criminal Code (i.e. it no longer refers to death penalty for desertion).

There have been no fundamental changes in the situation in Armenia with regard to deserters/draft evaders since July 1996:

- Although there are reports of some improvements, the condition in the Armenian army remains very poor (see attached), with widespread harassment, lack of heating, bad nutrition and clothing. The situation with regard to the penal "disciplinary units" within the army is still unclear, it has proved difficult to obtain clear and reliable information on this issue.

- Reliable sources confirm continued deployment of recruits, without consent, to Azerbaijani territory in and around the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. The peace process is currently in a deadlock, and there is little direct contact between the conflicting sides. The cease-fire is generally respected, and although skirmishes occur, there seem to be no imminent danger of resumption of large scale hostilities.

- On 14 September 1998 a general amnesty was issued by the Armenian National Assembly. The amnesty now awaits the President's approval and signature before it will be published on the 14 December 1998. There are already indications that deserters/draft evaders may be included in the amnesty, but our office cannot confirm this.

Thus, in the view of our office the Cessation Clauses will not be applicable as, according to the information currently available to us, the situation remains fundamentally unchanged with regard to deserters and draft-evaders in Armenia.

Of course, if a clearly defined amnesty is granted and implemented the issue may require renewed consideration.

Unquote.

We hope that the above information can be of use to you. Best Regards.