



Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
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**Summary prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner
for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of the
annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1**

Singapore

Corrigendum

1. Paragraph 22

At the end of the paragraph, *insert*

Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI) noted that the obligatory military service could commence from the age of sixteen and a half, contrary to article 2 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on children in armed conflict, which Singapore had ratified.³⁴

³⁴ CPTI, para. 7.

2. Page 6

After paragraph 29, insert a new paragraph *reading*

29 bis. CPTI noted that all male citizens and permanent residents aged between 13 years and 40 years, or 50 years in certain cases, required an exit permit issued by the Armed Forces Council to leave or remain outside Singapore.⁵⁰

⁵⁰ CPTI, para. 20.

3. Page 8

After paragraph 44, insert a new paragraph *reading*

44 bis. CPTI noted that conscientious objection to military service is not recognised in law or practice. Conscientious objectors who refused to perform military service, although civilians, had been treated as though they had been enlisted in the armed forces and put on trial before military courts under military law. They were routinely sentenced to detention in military penal facilities and, on release from detention, remained subject to repeated call-up to perform military service. Continued refusal frequently resulted in repeated periods of

detention.⁷⁵ All recorded instances of declared conscientious objectors in Singapore had been Jehovah's Witnesses, and a number of individuals had been detained.⁷⁶ As a result of the unwillingness on the part of its members to perform military service, the Jehovah's Witness congregation in Singapore had been comprehensively denied its freedom of thought, conscience and religion. Since deregistration in 1972, it had been unable to perform public worship or missionary activities and its literature had also been banned.⁷⁷

⁷⁵ CPTI, paras. 3-5

⁷⁶ CPTI, para. 16.

⁷⁷ CPTI, para. 6.

4. Endnote 1

In the list in endnote 1, below the reference to ARDA, *insert*

CPTI Conscience and Peace Tax International*
