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RHMCSII/ATTORNEY GENERAL D BRANCH
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RHMCSII/CDR USEUCOM INTEL VAIHINGEN GE
RUZFMXI/CDR USTRANSCOM INTEL CELL SCOTT AFB IL
RUEPNGA/CDRNGIC CHARLOTTESVILLE VA
RHMCSII/CDRUSASOIC WASHINGTON DC
RUEPWDC/DA AMHS WASHINGTON DC
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC//IN-1//
RUEPTRX/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RHMCSII/DIO CANBERRA

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RHMCSII/GISA FT BRAGG NC
RHMCSII/HQ USPACOM NICE
RUZEJAA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK
RUZDJWC/JWAC DAHLGREN VA
RUZDQAN/MARCORINTACT QUANTICO VA
RUZDNAI/NASIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH
ZEN/NGA WASHINGTON DC
RUETIAA/NSACSS FT GEORGE G MEADE MD
RHMCSII/ONA CANBERRA
RUCXONI/ONI WASHINGTON DC//2140//
RHHJJPI/PACOM IDHS HONOLULU HI
RHMCSII/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RHMCSII/USARPAC INTEL FT SHAFTER HI//APIN//
RHMCSII/USSOCOM INTEL MACDILL AFB FL
ZEN/CIA WASHINGTON DC
ZEN/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC//INR//
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 749325

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY
SERIAL:LIN2015012669062364

BODY

COUNTRY: GAZA STRIP, ISRAEL, WEST BANK

SUBJ: (U) ISRAELI ARMY DISMISSES UNIT 8200 RESERVISTS OVER REFUSAL
To Assist InteI-Gathering on Palestinians

REF: 1. Israel: Unit 8200 Reservists Refuse To Assist InteI-Gathering
on Palestinians; IDF Rejects Charges LIL2014091256055242 The Times of
Israel English 0749 GMT 12 Sep 14 (U)

SOURCE: Jerusalem The Jerusalem Post Online in
English 1416 GMT 26
Jan 15 (U)

TEXT:

[(U) Report by Ya'aqov Lappin: "IDF Dismisses Unit 8200 Reservists
Who Refused To Serve in Palestinian Territories"]

[INTERNET]

[OSC Transcribed Text]

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The IDF dismissed 43 reservists from Military Intelligence's Unit
8200 on Monday, after concluding that a letter they sent to the media
last year, expressing their refusal to go on serving, constituted a
grave breach of the military code of conduct.

In a statement explaining the decision, the IDF Spokesman said: "Unit
8200 has, since its founding, gathered intelligence that allows the
IDF and security bodies to carry out their missions. It assists them
on a daily basis in protecting the citizens of the state of Israel.
In any instance in which a soldier or commander raises moral or
ethical doubts in carrying his duties or missions, he is obligated to
turn to his commanders, and all requests will be examined and
answered."

"There is no room for refusing orders in the IDF. We take a severe

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view of the exploitation of military service (by the letter's signatories) to express a political opinion. In light of the conduct of the reserves, which is not in line with what is expected of them, we have decided to end their reserves service in the unit."

In September 2014, members of the unit, which collects signal intelligence, published a letter declaring their refusal to serve, due what they said were a series of breaches of proper conduct in the unit's activities in the West Bank and Gaza.

The letter, addressed to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen, Benny Gantz, and then head of the IDF's intelligence branch, Maj.-Gen. Aviv Kochavi, decried "the main function of 8200 in the territories, which is to control another nation."

"The intelligence that is gathered (in the West Bank) harms innocent people and is used for the purposes of political persecution and violating the privacy of Palestinians," the letter, which commented only on the unit's activities in the Palestinian territories, read.

"We are conscientiously incapable of continuing to serve this system."

The IDF rejected the claims outright at the time of the letter's publication. "The Unit operates through a range of means and in many arenas, while activating techniques and rules for intelligence purposes only. Those who serve in the unit are trained, after a lengthy and meticulous process, and undergo a program that has no equivalent in any other intelligence community in Israel or the world. During the training, a special emphasis is placed on the field of ethics, morality, and working rules. These are applied throughout the service of the soldiers and officers in the unit, who are continuously monitored by commanders of various ranks," the military said.

The fact that those who wrote the letter spoke to the media "before speaking to their commanders, or to the relevant officers in the IDF, is strange and raises doubts about the seriousness of the claims," the statement continued. "Regarding claims that innocents are harmed, the process of authorizing targets in the IDF is long and meticulous, and takes into account the issue of noncombatants." Last year, the Commander of Unit 8200, Brig.-Gen. A. (full name withheld), sent a letter to members of the unit, saying any problems should be brought up with superior officers, not in the media. He provided an example of an officer who had a moral dilemma and reported it to his

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commanders, who successfully helped him deal with the issue.

Responding to the letter, Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon said following its publication that the unit's officers and soldiers "do holy work, night and day, in an awe-inspiring manner, with extraordinary creativity and dedication. Unit 8200 perpetuates the existence of the state of Israel. The attempt to harm it and its activities, through calling for a refusal to serve, is based on claims that do not match the path of the unit and the path of its personnel. This is a foolish and offensive attempt which aids campaigns of fraudulent de-legitimization in the world against the state of Israel and IDF soldiers, who are innocent of wrongdoing." [Description of Source: Jerusalem The Jerusalem Post Online in English -- Website of right-of-center, independent daily; URL: <http://www.jpost.co.il/>]

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