

December 2010

Dear Friends,

The following is a copy of our appeal letter for 2011. It includes news and updates about some of the recent activities at the Albert Einstein Institution. We hope to release a full newsletter, with many more details about these activities and others, in the spring of 2011. For now, we encourage you to take a couple of minutes to read this brief account of what we have been doing this year and what we have planned for next year.

We are posting this appeal for informational purposes. However, if you feel moved to make a contribution, we would gratefully accept any amount, small or large. The best way to send a contribution is to mail a personal check to PO Box 455 East Boston, MA 02128. If you are more comfortable donating online or using a credit card, you can find us on the Network For Good website. All donations are tax deductible and we will send you a receipt as promptly as possible.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of our work.

Sincerely,

The Staff at The Albert Einstein Institution

December 2010

Dear Friends,

Referring to *From Dictatorship to Democracy*, by Gene Sharp, an Iranian activist told us in 2002: “this book appears to be written for us.” We found the statement to be surprising because, of course, it was not actually written for an Iranian audience, or any group in particular.

In fact, this short booklet was originally prepared in 1993 at the request of an exiled Burmese democrat who asked Gene Sharp to write a piece specifically for the Burmese situation. Dr. Sharp responded that because he was not an expert on Burma, he could not write an essay focusing on that country. He could, however, prepare a generic analysis on the problem of dictatorships and how nonviolent action can be used to topple authoritarian and oppressive regimes.

As this important booklet spread in translated form from Burma to Indonesia, and on to Serbia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Georgia, the Palestinian territories, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Egypt, Iran, and elsewhere, the above statement was repeated numerous times by individuals from extremely diverse countries. What, then, do a Ukrainian student, an Afghan professor, a Cambodian political scientist, and an Egyptian opposition spokesperson have in common? It appears that these individuals, despite the diversity of their societies and struggles, all recognize the quality and importance of the analysis contained in *From Dictatorship to Democracy* and its potential relevance for their situations.

Now available in at least 32 languages, the booklet has spread almost completely on its own, with very little promotional efforts by the Albert Einstein Institution. We do however make great efforts to assist individuals with translations of this publication, as well as our other writings, in order to maintain accuracy and precision of the ideas contained in it. *From Dictatorship to Democracy* has been credited with having significant influence in Serbia, Ukraine, Georgia, and elsewhere, and denounced by governments in Burma, Venezuela, Russia, Vietnam, and Iran. Individuals in two countries have faced lengthy prison sentences for simply possessing a copy of the booklet.

In the midst of incidences of war and violence people of conscience wonder what can be done in face of both violence and injustice. For over twenty-seven years, the Albert Einstein Institution—through research, publications, and consultations—has been advancing the theory and practice of nonviolent action by groups in conflict. With your support, we are having an impact.

Your support has facilitated many of our key accomplishments and activities. Some of these advances and developments are outlined below.

- In recent years, the Albert Einstein Institution has received numerous requests for consultations on nonviolent struggle from individuals and groups in the midst of crises around the world. These requests motivated us to think about ways in which activists could gain in-depth understanding of nonviolent action.

Our new booklet, *Self-Liberation: A Guide to Strategic Planning to End a Dictatorship and Other Oppression*, is the result this two-year project.

The booklet, along with 900 pages of additional readings, is intended to enable individuals and groups to self-reliantly develop a grand strategy for their struggle. It is our view that detailed study is a prerequisite to planning a nonviolent struggle, and careful planning is a prerequisite to wise action, which can contribute to greater effectiveness. With careful preparations and wise planning the chances of a successful nonviolent struggle are greatly increased and casualties may be significantly reduced.

The booklet has been translated into Mandarin, and is currently available for download in both English and Mandarin. The group responsible for the preparation of the Mandarin edition of this booklet is in the process of completing translation of nearly 600 additional pages of text (some required readings are already available in Mandarin).

- Gene Sharp's *Dictionary of Civilian Struggle: Technical terminology of nonviolent action and the control of political power* (current title) has been accepted for publication by Oxford University Press, and is slated for release some time in 2011. The contract is expected to be finalized in February.
- New editions of *From Dictatorship to Democracy* have been issued for Pashto, Tibetan, and Arabic.
- New translations of several of our publications are currently in preparation in Mandarin, French, Afan Oromo (Ethiopia), Farsi, Finnish, Arabic, and Spanish.

- We have received numerous visitors in our office this year to discuss various aspects of our work, including from Iran, Taiwan, Canada, Venezuela, Gabon, Bangladesh, and the United States. Inquiries and requests for information have come to us from many countries on nearly every continent.
- Our list of 198 methods of nonviolent action has appeared in a number of places, including in recent protest posters and publications from Kittery, Maine to Thailand to Romania, to the Palestinian territories.
- The documentary by Rauridh Arrow, a U.K. based filmmaker, about Gene Sharp is currently in production and is expected to be released in Spring 2011. The film is intended to be a tool for activists and students, as well as policy makers and future researchers.
- Our work has been cited by numerous U.S. and international media sources including The Christian Science Monitor, Associated Press, Georgian Daily (Georgia), Slovo (Slovakia), ABC (Spain), The Jewish Herald Voice, National Public Radio, The Washington Times, The Frederick News Post, The Utne Reader, Reason Magazine, Fars News Agency (Iran), scientificamerican.com, The New Yorker, and Jane's Intelligence Review. Most recently, Gene Sharp was interviewed for a program on nonviolent action and its potential for Iran for BBC Persian television. The program has not yet aired. Please refer to our website ([www.aeinstein.org](http://www.aeinstein.org)) or contact us for more information about any of the above articles.

Your continued support is crucial as we look to the future. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of learning from past conflicts and of the power of sharing information on strategic nonviolent action—information that gives people in extremely difficult situations the tools to evaluate and choose effective alternatives to violence and passivity.

We would like to share an example of one area of planned expansion of our work that will allow us to reach a new audience. For some time, we have explored the possibility of sharing information and material on nonviolent action through radio broadcasts in order to expose a broader audience to some of the basic concepts of nonviolent action through a new medium. Radio is an important tool for many people in developing nations, and can be accessed by individuals who are illiterate, or who do not have access to printed or electronic material. We expect that by the end of the year we will be able to make available a number of important translations in oral form on our website, which can then be downloaded and reproduced on CD-ROMs or even cassettes, we well as broadcast on radio stations throughout the world.

As requests from people and groups around the world rise, we are asking you to consider a generous gift to the Albert Einstein Institution. As we operate at a

fraction of the costs of so many international organizations, you can be certain that we make every dollar of your contribution count.

Please give generously and join us in these efforts by sending your tax-deductible contribution today. A great deal of work lies before us. Together we can deepen our understanding of realistic nonviolent alternatives to war and violence, and offer crucial support to people striving for their democratic rights and freedoms. Today, with so much violence and war around the world, your continued support of our work is more important than ever.

We wish you a very happy holiday season and a successful year ahead.

Good wishes,

Gene Sharp  
Senior Scholar

Jamila Raqib  
Executive Director

P.S. The media references listed below, along with a number of others, are available on our website ([www.aeinstein.org](http://www.aeinstein.org)). Please let us know if you would like printed copies of these articles sent to you. We enclose the first two for your information and interest.

- . [ScientificAmerican.com](#) - "*How George W. Bush rejected my 'Sharp' idea for countering terrorism*" by John Horgan. July 19, 2010.
- . [Ki-Media Blogspot](#) - "People must know they have power" by A. Gaffar Peang-Meth, Pacific Daily News (Guam). October 6, 2010.
- . "[The Godfather of Nonviolent Resistance?](#)" A radio interview by Robin Young, WBUR. March 8, 2010. **Listen to the interview online, using the link from our website!**
- . [Utne Reader](#) - "*Lessons from the Godfather: Interview with Gene Sharp*" by Jeff Severns Guntzel. July 2010.
- . [Jewish Herald-Voice](#) - "*How to get rid of a dictatorship*" by Aaron Howard. Jan 14, 2010.
- . [The Christian Science Monitor](#) - "*Iran protesters: the Harvard professor behind their tactics*" by Scott Peterson. December 29, 2009.
- . [Jane's Intelligence Review](#) - "Generation of '88, Kyaw Kyaw, NCUB director" - an interview with a member of the pro-democracy group in Burma. Oct 8, 2010.
- . [CNS News](#) - "Egypt's youth build new opposition Movement" by Sarah El Deeb, September 16, 2010.
- . [The New Yorker](#) - "After the Crackdown, Talking to Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the opposition about Iran today" by Jon Lee Anderson. August 16, 2010.