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Dear friend,

The past year has been one of remarkable achievements for the work of the Albert Einstein Institution. We thank you for your continued support, which has, to a large degree, made this work possible.

International interest in our work on nonviolent alternatives in conflicts has spread widely and rapidly—and is growing. This is evidenced by the rise in inquiries from individuals and groups in other countries, the increase in the number of translations of our material and in the number of groups working to promote and circulate our material, and in the growing interest from the U.S. and international media. (We receive 200-300 hits on our website daily with visitors from 120 countries—of these 35% stay and browse the content that we have available.)

Individuals who access our work are diverse in terms of their geographic regions and the problems they face. This year, we have received communications or visits concerning Nigeria, Egypt, Latvia, Equatorial Guinea, the United States, Togo, Iran, Afghanistan, Kurdistan, Tibet, the Palestinian territories, China, Iraq, Syria, Japan, and India.

Translations

One of the most important ways in which we are having a greater impact in the world is through the expansion of the number of publications we have available in other languages, ranging from Amharic to Vietnamese. For example, one of our publications, *From Dictatorship to Democracy*, is now available in print or on websites in thirty languages.

The following section gives a sampling of the new translations that are now available, or that are currently being prepared:

- New Azeri translations of two of our publications *There Are Realistic Alternatives*, by our Senior Scholar, Gene Sharp and *On Strategic Nonviolent Conflict*, by our former president, Robert Helvey. The translations were prepared by Razi Nurullayev, coordinator of the YOX! pro-democracy youth movement in Azerbaijan. Earlier, in April 2005, Mr. Nurullayev also prepared the Azeri translation of *From Dictatorship to Democracy*, and oversaw the printing and dissemination of 1,000 copies of that booklet to activists and opposition organizations in Azerbaijan.
- Kurdish language translations of *From Dictatorship to Democracy* and *Role of Power in Nonviolent Struggle*. The translations have been completed in recent weeks and plans for their printing and dissemination in Iraqi Kurdistan will be made available shortly.
- A Pashto language translation of *From Dictatorship to Democracy* is being prepared by Mohammad Raqib, who is also author of a chapter on the Pashtun Struggle in the North-west Frontier of British India in Dr. Sharp's recent book *Waging Nonviolent Struggle*. The translation will be completed within two months, and disseminated among Pashto speakers in Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- The Tibetan edition of *From Dictatorship to Democracy* was completed in April 2006. With the generosity of the Gendler Family Foundation, we have been able to print 1,000 copies of the booklet and begin distributing it to a Tibetan-speaking audience both in exile in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere, as well as inside Tibet.
- We have been notified that *From Dictatorship to Democracy*, *There Are Realistic Alternatives*, and *On Strategic Nonviolent Conflict* have been translated into Uzbek, and are featured on the website for a pro-democracy NGO, the Uzbekistan Democratic Movement. We have also discovered a new Burmese translation of *On Strategic Nonviolent Conflict*. However, the accuracy and precision of these newly prepared translations must be assessed by us before we can approve their further distribution, and this requires funding.
- In addition to the new Uzbek translations, there are now translations in 11 languages of the former Soviet Union, as well as in languages of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Many of these can be found on our website, at www.aeinstein.org

New Writings

Work on *Power, Conflict, and Alternatives: A Technical Dictionary* (provisional title) is proceeding extremely well. The dictionary aims to resolve terminological problems of nonviolent struggle and tangential phenomena. The defined terms

also include ones from violent conflict, oppression, dictatorship, principled nonviolence, political violence, repression, strategy, and relevant concepts in political theory and sociological analysis. The current draft contains over 700 defined terms and is based on several decades of studies. The text is now in the stage of final revision and editing. We are grateful to the Arca Foundation in Washington, DC for providing a grant to assist in the preparation of this dictionary.

Late last year, we had a visit to our office by Talavs Jundzis, former Minister of Defense of Latvia, and current President of the Latvian Academy of Sciences to present an honorary degree from the Academy to Gene Sharp. Our material was used in 1991 and 1992 by the new independence-minded governments of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in planning their defense against Soviet efforts to regain control.

In January 2007, Gene Sharp and Executive Director Jamila Raqib traveled to New Delhi, India (expenses paid) to attend a conference titled “Peace, Non-violence and Empowerment—Gandhian Philosophy in the 21st Century”, which was sponsored by the Indian National Congress. The occasion marked the observance of the hundredth anniversary of the Empire Theatre meeting in Johannesburg on September 11, 1906, at which the Indian minority in South Africa pledged nonviolent defiance of a pending discriminatory bill.

In March, Gene Sharp presented a paper titled “The Politics of Nonviolent Action and the Spread of Ideas about Civil Resistance”, for the Conference on ‘Civil Resistance and Power Politics’ held at St. Antony’s College, Oxford University.

In April, Dr. Sharp offered remarks at a conference titled “Human Rights and Media” at Harvard University. The conference was devoted to the topic of “Youth Activism” and looked specifically at the issue of the capacities and histories of young people in participating in strategic nonviolent action movements.

This past June, Gene Sharp spoke at the Fletcher Summer Institute for the Advanced Study of Nonviolent Conflict at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. The Institute hosted representatives of the media, civil society, international organizations and the policy world.

Gene Sharp gave a presentation at a Round Table Meeting at the United Nations on October 2, 2007, the anniversary of Mohandas Gandhi’s birthday. This was the first observance of the annual International Day of Non-violence, established by a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on June 15, 2007.

Also this year, there has been a marked increase in the number of references to the work of the Albert Einstein Institution in the international and domestic media.

These references have included The South China Morning Post, The Boston Globe, The Progressive, The Asia Times, The Associated Press, Radio Australia, The International Herald Tribune, The Ohio State University Alumni Magazine, The New York Times, The Hindu, as well as well as numerous websites and blogs.

Gene Sharp has also been requested to prepare entries for two important encyclopedias. The Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace & Conflict by Elsevier Ltd. and the International Encyclopedia of Peace to be issued by Oxford University Press have asked for entries on “strategic nonviolent action”.

Response to Critiques

Nonviolent struggle is being increasingly recognized as holding enormous potential to address several of the world’s serious problems. In the past year our work on nonviolent means to deal with dictatorships has understandably aroused accusations from friends of dictatorships and others who view our work on nonviolent alternatives as dangerous and threatening to their own objectives and viewpoints. Some of these statements have included outright falsehoods. If you would like to view our responses to these attacks, please see our website.

Also, the Albert Einstein Institution and Senior Scholar, Gene Sharp, have come under attack in at least two speeches by President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, who quoted from an article by a widely discredited French writer. Open letters to President Chavez and the French critic, as well as a copy of the Albert Einstein Institution Consulting Policy, are posted on our website.

How you can help

We operate under severe financial restrictions and are vastly overloaded. On the one hand our work has never had a greater impact internationally. On the other hand, we have never had to operate with such limitations of staff and finances. In October, our staff was joined by Will Travers, a new half-time Administrative Assistant. Will has a B.A. from University of Michigan in the Philosophy and Practice of Nonviolence, and minors in Political Science and French.

Hiring Will, who has been extremely helpful in relieving some of the pressure on our small staff, has been possible, in part, because a contributor, Dorcas Davis, remembered our work in her estate. This year we received the final payment from this bequest that has granted us a slight reprieve from our extreme financial difficulties.

This bequest enables us to explore possibilities for future expansion of our work, and is crucial for raising our institutional capacities. This assumes,

however, that the funding from you, our contributors, continues to make up the difference in providing the resources we require to continue our work. Your support permits the Albert Einstein Institution to respond in a timely manner to provide its unique services to prospective nonviolent struggle movements and to others who might explore nonviolent action in place of both violence and passivity. These funds provide us the ability to respond to inquiries, prepare new writings, encourage strategic thinking, as well as translate, print, and distribute publications, and to continue to expand our website content.

There is a world-wide hunger for knowledge of nonviolent struggle and specifically for our writings. At present we are able to achieve a great deal, even with extremely limited funding. With additional funding from your contribution, we can accomplish a lot more.

Please help us in this by sending us a tax-deductible contribution to make the continuing work of the Albert Einstein Institution on nonviolent alternatives possible. You may send us a check by letter mail at the above address, or donate online by visiting our website at www.aeinstein.org.

We thank you for your previous support and your new contribution to help advance our efforts for a more just and less violent world.

Good wishes,

Jamila Raqib
Executive Director

P.S. During the coming months, we expect to be able to report two or three major new achievements.

In the meantime, we enclose a copy of the Ohio State University Alumni Magazine that features an article about Gene Sharp and the Albert Einstein Institution for your information and interest.

Also, on the reverse side of the enclosed yellow insert, you may indicate whether you would like to receive copies of any of the papers prepared for the occasions described above, and we will be pleased to mail them to you. These papers are also available for immediate download from our website (www.aeinstein.org).