Since our founding in 1983, the mission of the Albert Einstein Institution has been to provide the best resources possible on strategic nonviolent action to groups struggling for democratic freedoms. Whether the goal is undermining a dictatorship, preventing a coup d’état, defending against an invasion, or achieving social change, the Albert Einstein Institution helps people around the world to consider nonviolent struggle as a means to act in difficult circumstances without the use of physical violence.

In 2011, we witnessed a breakthrough in worldwide recognition of and demand for our work. People facing diverse challenges began to understand that the strategic use of nonviolent action can provide a powerful and effective means of struggle. Since that breakthrough, an increasing number of individuals and groups with a variety of interests have sought our research and analyses to help them understand and effectively use nonviolent action to produce important changes in their societies.

We are pleased to share a number of exciting activities and developments in this newsletter. These developments are further indications of the critical need for the continuation and expansion of our work.

Publicity and New Awareness

As the use of nonviolent action by groups increases globally, so do requests from journalists for interviews about our work and our ideas. This information provides their readers and viewers with important insights on the many complex political developments unfolding worldwide.

There have been a number of important articles about our Senior Scholar Gene Sharp and the work of the Albert Einstein Institution in the international media. These include Germany’s internationally broadcast Deutsche Welle, the Swiss newspaper Le Temps, the Russian journal Pravda, Ode Magazine, BBC HardTalk, BBC Russian, the Japanese newspaper Mainichi, and the Chinese online-newspaper China Youth Online (CYOL).

We have enclosed a significant profile article on Gene written by Mairi Mackay for CNN.com which was published in June. Another high-profile article appeared in The New York Times Style Magazine, referring to Gene as a “theorist of power.”

Impact

The Albert Einstein Institution’s publications, translations, consultations and workshops continue to help make future applications of nonviolent action more effective than the improvised struggles of the past. This in turn helps to reduce the propensity for violence and powerlessness, and also to increase greater popular control of societies through the use of
nonviolent means. Individuals and groups around the world recognize the demonstrated usefulness of our work and seek our assistance in a variety of ways.

Many individuals – from historians and academics to political and social activists, from students and refugees to political leaders – contact our office for in-depth phone conversations or to request in-person consultations. The interests of this year’s visitors varied widely and included individuals and groups from Cambodia, the Philippines, Cuba, Venezuela, Taiwan, Egypt, Nigeria, China, Kuwait, Mexico, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, Pakistan, Kenya, the Maldives, Syria, Bahrain, Tunisia, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Greece, Ethiopia, the United States, and Canada. Topics included political and social change, economic inequality, the environment, child welfare, the role of social media and the Internet, and more.

In early July, in response to allegations of fraud and irregularities in the 2012 Mexican Presidential elections, the Institution received hundreds of emails, phone calls, and letters, as well as an online petition from Mexican citizens who wanted information on how they could act to correct what they alleged was a falsified election. An online pirated Spanish language version of *How to Start a Revolution*, the film about Gene Sharp and our work, received over half a million views within a few days.

This was an amazing display of how ordinary citizens could mobilize in response to a problem and explore the ways in which they could address that problem through nonviolent means. The scale of this sudden demand for information about nonviolent struggle in the midst of a crisis was unprecedented, and signifies that groups around the world are increasingly aware that these tools exist, and are seeking these resources when they are needed.

In Afghanistan, we have observed the emergence of significant interest in the potential of nonviolent means of struggle to address the serious political problems there in recent years. At the request of Afghans, we initiated translations of *From Dictatorship to Democracy* into Pashto and Dari. With grants from the Institution, the texts were printed (a total of 10,000 copies have been printed since 2008) in a combined book format, along with a case study of the 1930s Khudai Khidmatgar Movement, a local historical example of an extremely significant disciplined nonviolent struggle.

The Pashto and Dari editions of *From Dictatorship to Democracy* are having a notable impact. Our contacts report that during a recent tribal meeting in Jalalabad, in which more than 5,000 tribal elders, district heads, and organizational representatives took part, 4,000 copies of the book were distributed. The meeting included discussions that identified the need for Afghans to explore the potential of nonviolent struggle to address the grievances that people have against both foreign forces and violent groups inside the country.
New Translations and New Writings

In addition to the new Pashto and Dari translations, we have had requests for several other translations. A Japanese translation of From Dictatorship to Democracy was completed by Noriko Takiguchi and published by Tokyo-based Chikuma Publishers. A Norwegian translation of the booklet is being published by Arneberg Forlag Publishing House, and a Turkish translation of the same booklet has been completed and is awaiting evaluation. Several other translations are currently in progress.

Another important translation that has been completed is the Vietnamese edition of Self-Liberation, with all of the readings that accompany it. This is the third translation of Self-Liberation and the second, after Mandarin, to include all of the readings, which total 900 pages. (An Italian language edition of the booklet alone was published last year.)

The text of Gene’s highly anticipated new book, How Nonviolent Struggle Works, has been completed and sent to the printer for formatting. The book is a concise analysis of how the technique of nonviolent struggle can operate in conflicts, even when strong opponents are willing and able to impose harsh repression. How Nonviolent Struggle Works will be published by the Albert Einstein Institution, and will be available in print and for download from our website in both English and Spanish early next year.

How to Start a Revolution

Ruaridh Arrow’s award-winning documentary, How to Start a Revolution, has been making its rounds. The film has been screened on television in 23 countries and has been translated into 10 languages, including Arabic, Russian, Mandarin, and Japanese. It has won awards at 6 international film festivals and a Scottish BAFTA. The film continues to be shown on television and in universities around the world, making an important contribution to the spread of these ideas. The DVD version of the film is now available for sale from www.mediaed.org.

A new application for the iPad has also been developed and released by the team that worked on the film and is now available for purchase from iTunes. The App contains the film as a “touch doc,” along with extra footage, Gene’s writings, resources for activists, journalists, and students, and a “Revolution Monitor” (a live stream of activist-generated tweets by location).

Speaking Events and Conferences

Both Gene and our Executive Director Jamila Raqib were invited to participate in several conferences and seminars, and to make presentations for universities, NGOs, community groups, and government agencies this year.
In February, Gene and Jamila traveled to England and Norway to participate in several important film screenings (including ones at the UK House of Commons and at a training for newly appointed bishops of the Church of England), meetings with politicians and church leaders, and a number of media interviews.

In March, the Children’s Defense Fund, a prominent children’s advocacy group, invited Gene and Jamila to participate in a three-day workshop analyzing the potential use of nonviolent action in their advocacy programs. In preparation for the workshop, the attendees read several of Gene’s writings. During the workshop, Gene presented information and led discussions on the potential use of strategic nonviolent action by the CDF, and the need for careful study and planning when using this technique.

In June, Gene and Jamila were invited to participate in a Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs seminar titled “Human Rights Defenders and Peaceful Protests.” Gene presented at the seminar, and he and Jamila had extensive discussions with human rights defenders from various countries.

Also in June, Jamila attended the Oslo Forum, a prominent event that invites senior international conflict mediators, high-level decision makers, and key peace process actors to discuss the role of negotiations and mediation in solving deadly conflict around the world.

Additionally, Jamila has made presentations and participated in discussions at several colleges and universities, including Simmons College, Kenyon College, Colby-Sawyer College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and The University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. She has also spoken at events organized by various local organizations, introducing many new individuals to the topic of nonviolent action and the work of the Institution.

Awards and Honors

In April, Jamila travelled to The Hague, Netherlands with the film How to Start a Revolution, where she and Gene were nominated for an award by Amnesty International’s A Matter of ACT film festival. The festival focuses on the work of human rights defenders around the world, and consists of a competition of 10 documentaries on human rights defenders or organizations, and a support program where Jamila was able to speak to activists, Dutch parliamentarians, students, and other members of the community.

This year, Gene was the recipient of several prestigious awards and honors.

In April, Gene received the Morton Deutsch Award for Social Justice, “to honor a distinguished scholar-practitioner in the field of social justice.” In May, he received a Doctor of Humane Letters from Brown University. Aktive Fredsreiser in Norway selected Gene as this year’s recipient of the Fangenes Testamente (Prisoners Testament) Award, which is given "to the person or persons, who, in writing, speech or action, contribute to promoting better
understanding of evil so that we will be enabled to build barriers against it in our own minds.”
The Zambrano Foundation awarded Gene with the first annual Distinguished Lifetime Democracy Award. And, finally, Gene was selected by the Right Livelihood Award Foundation as one of their laureates for 2012. The Right Livelihood Award honors and supports those "offering practical and exemplary answers to the most urgent challenges facing us today."

What’s Next for AEI?

Our goal this coming year is to substantially strengthen and improve public access to the resources of the Institution. To this end, a number of efforts are underway.

We have recently hired Michael Levy as an assistant to work directly with Gene on his writing and daily correspondence. The AEI staff is pleased to welcome Michael, who joined our staff in mid-October and has already proven to be extremely helpful and effective. This research and administrative support will allow Gene to be more productive in terms of his own work and writing, and will help us to better respond to the massive new demand for our work.

In addition, in order to increase worldwide access to our work, we are building a new website which will be designed to be easier to navigate than our current outdated site, allowing people to more quickly and readily locate the resources they need. We hope to have the new website online by late spring of 2013.

We are also exploring ways in which we can expand our office space in order to better accommodate new staff and volunteers who will help us to more efficiently carry out our work. Additional space will also allow us to meet with larger groups.

Worldwide demand for our resources is very high and is growing. Funding to support new translations and printings of our writings, and to prepare additional material can have significant consequences for the future. It is critical that we respond to this demand and interest by providing the resources that can help people to identify ways in which they can undermine oppression while empowering themselves and others.

We need your help to preserve and expand our important work. We have been grateful for your past support, and are encouraged by the increase in individual contributions and grants that we have seen this year.

It is only through your continued and generous support that we will be able take critical steps to increase worldwide access to and awareness of our resources on the strategic use of nonviolent action as an effective alternative to violence.

Please join us in these efforts.