LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In recent years, we have witnessed major new developments in the field of strategic nonviolent struggle, which have greatly impacted our work at the Albert Einstein Institution. The widespread attention and recognition that nonviolent struggle has received since 2011, following the events of the Arab Spring, is unprecedented and has revealed exciting possibilities for the future potential of this powerful technique of action.

Long-standing misconceptions that limited the relevance of nonviolent struggle have now been diminished. It can no longer be said with credibility that nonviolent struggle is weak, that it can only be successful against “gentle” opponents, that it requires a charismatic leader, that in order to keep the required nonviolent discipline it is necessary that resisters believe in moral nonviolence or pacifism, that wise action requires a single strategic genius such as Gandhi, or that violence works quickly while nonviolent struggle takes a long time. All one has to do is point to the impressive displays of people power we witnessed in Tunisia and Egypt in which hundreds of thousands acted together in a highly disciplined way without an obvious leader or a shared ideology. For many, the idea that previously weak people could rise up against long-entrenched dictators, without using violence, was a stunning realization.

This new wave of interest in and use of nonviolent struggle is still reverberating far beyond Tunisia and Egypt, fueling a great hunger for knowledge about nonviolent struggle. This is evidenced by a massive increase in demand for our publications and translations, media interviews, and requests (continued on page 8)
This year we shared information about our work with numerous groups through lectures, meetings, and other presentations.

In February, we received a delegation of 20 students from UN Youth Australia, an organization focused on advocating for the aims and roles of the United Nations and facilitating youth empowerment and leadership in Australia. The students were selected to tour the United States and meet with various leading figures in academia and politics.

In March, Jamila Raqib, our Executive Director, traveled to Miami, Florida with Robert Helvey, author of *On Strategic Nonviolent Struggle: Thinking about the Fundamentals*, to conduct a two-day workshop on the operation and potential of nonviolent struggle for a group of students and young adults interested in Cuba.

In April, Institution staff attended a performance of Professor Severyn Bruyn’s oratorio, *The Teachers of Norway*. The oratorio is based on Gene Sharp’s *Tyranny Could Not Quell Them!*; an essay that describes resistance by teachers and others against the Nazi-backed government in Norway during World War II. The performance took place at Trinity Chapel on Boston College’s Newton campus and was followed by a panel discussion about the Norwegian teachers’ resistance, the work of the Albert Einstein Institution, and the importance of preserving the history of nonviolent struggles.

*Breakthrough*, the *Australian National Centre for Climate Restoration’s* annual forum to engage with a range of groups and activists on climate issues took place in June this year. Jamila spoke to the forum via video feed about the mechanisms of power in nonviolent struggle and the importance of strategic planning.

In October, Jamila discussed the elements of effective strategic planning for nonviolent action at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. Attendees included students of the Social Justice and Environmental Studies program and members of Great Old Broads for Wilderness, an organization dedicated to the protection of public land. She also spoke to about 120 people at Fort Lewis College’s Life-long Learning lecture series about the historical use and future potential of nonviolent struggle.

Also in October, Jamila spoke at the *Oslo Freedom Forum*. The forum brought together dissidents, activists, world leaders, journalists, policy makers, entrepreneurs, artists, philanthropists, and scholars to share their stories and discuss ideas for advancing human rights and defeating dictators. The talks were broadcast live from the Oslo Freedom Forum’s website and will soon be made available online.

From Norway, Jamila traveled to Taiwan,
TRANSLATIONS PROGRAM NEWS

The availability of knowledge about the nature and potential of nonviolent action continued to expand this year through the Institution’s Translations Program.

*Como Funciona la Lucha Noviolenta*, the Spanish-language edition of *How Nonviolent Struggle Works*, is newly available in print and for download through the Institution’s website. It is also available on Amazon. Promotional copies of the book were sent to several organizations that aim to promote human rights and democracy in Latin America.

A draft Turkish translation of *From Dictatorship to Democracy* is currently undergoing evaluation.

*From Dictatorship to Democracy* is now available for download in Macedonian, Nepali, Uzbek, Korean, and Catalan. Several additional translations are in progress. Promotional emails for these books were sent out to a variety of organizations and institutions in the regions where each language is spoken. Voice Of America conducted interviews with Jamila about the new translations for listeners in Korea and Uzbekistan. All four translations are available for download from the Institution’s website.

New translations of *There Are Realistic Alternatives* this year include Portuguese (for Brazil) and Uzbek. The Uzbek translation is available for download from our website and the Portuguese edition is awaiting publication.

*Waging Nonviolent Struggle: 20th Century Practice and 21st Century Potential* is now available on the Institution’s website in Spanish. Both the Spanish-language and the French-language editions of this publication are expected to be available in print by next autumn.

The Tibetan translation of *How Nonviolent Struggle Works* is now available on our website and printed copies have been sent to activists in Tibet.

The Farsi translation of *The Anti-Coup* has been completed and will soon be posted on our website for download.

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where she and Robert Helvey visited various cities to give presentations about nonviolent action, its operation, and how the technique can be made more effective through strategic planning.

In November, Jamila presented a series of lectures in Maine. She spoke at Bates College in Lewiston, the Curtis Library in Brunswick, and Colby College in Waterville before completing her tour at the University of Maine, Bangor.

This fall, she also spoke with students at Harvard’s Arab Weekend conference and at Simmons College.

In December, Jamila will speak at a conference in Tel Aviv, Israel sponsored by The Coalition of Women for Peace (CWP), a feminist organization of Jewish and Arab activists. Her talk will focus on the role of power in nonviolent struggles, constructive programs, and the importance of creating and strengthening independent institutions in planning strategy for nonviolent struggle.
NONVIOLENT ACTION IN THE NEWS

The practice of nonviolent struggle has a long history and continues today. This year, we collected information about numerous cases of nonviolent action by groups who held demonstrations and sit-ins, used symbolic public acts, wrote letters and signed petitions, and organized boycotts and strikes to express dissent and fight for diverse objectives in struggles around the world.

In November of 2013, the passing of an amnesty bill by the ruling party in Thailand sparked a series of protests by thousands of pro-government and anti-government groups. The protests continued until May 20th, when the Royal Thai military staged a coup d’état and installed a military junta. Since then, pro-democracy protesters have continued to oppose military rule, mainly through various symbolic protests.

Protests in Ukraine, which began last winter as then-President Viktor Yanukovych abandoned a trade agreement with the EU in favor of an agreement with Russia, continued into late February of this year and led to Yanukovych’s removal from office.

In January, 75 government officials in Burkina Faso resigned from President Blaise Compaoré’s ruling party in protest of a proposed amendment to the Constitution that would abolish presidential term limits. In October, mass protests forced President Compaoré to resign. Transitional leaders have since appointed a civilian-led government until new elections are held in November 2015.

In March and April, a coalition of students and organizations in Taiwan known as the Sunflower Student Movement occupied the Legislative and, later, the Executive branches of the government. The Movement was launched in protest at the lack of transparency in the review of a controversial trade deal with China, and ultimately pressured the government to delay the passing of the agreement.

In July, women in Turkey took pictures of themselves laughing to protest a suggested ban on women’s right to laugh in public.

In August, activists in Lebanon sent tomatoes to parliament members to protest moves by the lawmakers to extend their terms in office.

On October 26th, women in Saudi Arabia again protested the country’s de facto ban on women driving by uploading videos to YouTube showing themselves driving cars.

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The Publications Program currently has several new books and e-books in various stages of production. One of these is Before Lexington: Resistance, Politics, and the American Struggle for Independence, 1765-1775. This book, originally published in 1986, argues that the Stamp Act resistance and other campaigns from 1765 to 1775 were fundamental in shaping the outcome of the struggle for American independence, and were not merely a “prelude” to armed conflict. Next year, the 250th anniversary of the Stamp Act, a second edition of this book will be made available in print and electronic form.

Porter Sargent Publishers, the publisher of many of Gene Sharp’s works, donated its entire stock of Gene Sharp publications to the Einstein Institution this year. Thank you Nelia Sargent and Scott Nielsen!

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The brutal rape of a 23-year-old woman in New Delhi, India sparked a public outcry and triggered demonstrations demanding an end to the apathy of police and the judicial system in combating sexual violence against women.

Since September, activists in Hong Kong, collectively referred to as the Umbrella Movement, have held demonstrations and occupied major districts in the city to demand universal suffrage.

In addition to violent protests, demonstrations and vigils were held in Ferguson, Missouri after the fatal shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager, by a local police officer on August 9th. Demonstrations continued through the end of November and escalated after a grand jury decided not to indict Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson for Brown's death. Demonstrators in over 100 cities blocked highways and retail outlets in response to the decision.

In November, the disappearance of 43 students in Mexico led to mass protests against alleged government ties to organized crime and high levels of violence in the country. The protests expanded to include calls for the resignation of President Enrique Peña Nieto.

Workers in the US, UK, Yemen, Serbia, Ghana, Spain, Bangladesh, Argentina, Japan, Vietnam, Cambodia, and elsewhere held strikes and protests this year to combat rising energy costs, stagnant wages, poor working conditions, and budget cuts.

Environmental groups in Canada, the US, Tibet, the UK, Russia, Laos, Peru, India, and elsewhere used nonviolent action to protect lands and natural resources from a variety of threats.
**THE ALBERT EINSTEIN INSTITUTION STAFF**

**NEW STAFF MEMBER**

We are pleased to introduce you to our new Administrative Assistant, Will Wright. Will is a graduate of Williams College with a double major in Political Science and Russian.

After reading *The Politics of Nonviolent Action* two summers ago, he became fascinated with Gene Sharp’s writings and the work of the Albert Einstein Institution. Last April, he assisted with the evaluation and promotion of the Institution’s two Uzbek-language publications, translations of *From Dictatorship to Democracy* and *There Are Realistic Alternatives*.

At Williams College, Will wrote an honors thesis on nonviolent political opposition to the Putin regime in Russia. In graduate school at UCLA, he completed a research project analyzing the factors that make major civil resistance campaigns succeed or fail.

Among other tasks, Will is working to help develop the Institution’s social media presence, update and maintain the website, and increase the efficiency and capacity of the Translations Program.

**INTERNS**

Over the summer, the Einstein Institution welcomed three interns to the staff. Phoebe Shambaugh, Margaret Dalton, and Emmeline Cordingly completed projects to identify organizations who later received information about available publications in Nepalese, Armenian, Korean, Uzbek, and Macedonian. They created electronic copies of old documents, organized boxes of archival files and manuscripts, cataloged files, conducted research on ongoing political conflicts around the world, and assisted with other projects.

In September, Alia Braley began a one-year internship at the Institution. A graduate student at Harvard Divinity School, Alia is writing her thesis on how grassroots nonviolent movements can be effective against violent actors such as IS in Iraq and Syria.

She has been helpful on a number of tasks at the Institution, including assisting with creating posts for our social media accounts and helping prepare and edit writings, lectures, and presentations.

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Nelia Sargent - Chair of the Board
Mary E. King
Elizabeth Defeis
Curt Goering
Gene Sharp
Jamila Raqib

**STAFF**

Jamila Raqib - Executive Director
Gene Sharp - Senior Scholar
Jessica Drawe - Director of Operations
Will Wright - General Administration
Alia Braley - Intern

**AN INTERESTING NOTE ON THE OSLO FREEDOM FORUM:**

The forum was originally scheduled for May 2014. It was forced to reschedule due to threats of a hotel worker strike in Oslo leading up to the event. The threat of a strike succeeded in pressuring the hotel owners to double the wage increases that they had offered employees in previous negotiations.
Facing attack: repudiation and rejection

In the first hours, days and weeks after a coup d’État is attempted it is extremely important to take quick and solid action to block the putschists from becoming accepted and from establishing effective control over the state apparatus and the society. An immediate strategy of repudiation and rejection of the putschists and their attack is called for in order to defeat the coup quickly. That strategy would combine repudiation of claims to legitimacy and rejection of cooperation. It would include total or near total noncooperation with the putschists. An early defeat of the coup would make unnecessary a later long-term struggle with an entrenched and therefore much stronger oppressive regime.

Because coup attempts are generally at their weakest point in the first hours and days, it is vital that anti-coup defenders undertake immediate and resolute action against the attackers. The defense must be broad and deep enough in the society to constitute a resolute repudiation of the putschists. The attackers’ appeals for “national unity”—meaning supporting them—and to allow them time to prove their good intentions, must be dismissed.
for information and guidance. Requests have come from individuals and groups struggling for diverse social and political objectives. These objectives included immigration reform, women’s rights, environmental protection, child welfare, campaigns against corruption, and resistance to dictatorships and oppressive regimes.

Nonviolent struggle is finally receiving the serious attention and consideration that it has long deserved. There is a new political environment that has fueled realistic hope in this technique as a means to conduct conflict powerfully and effectively when it is applied with skill and preparation.

Hong Kong’s recent struggle for universal suffrage has revealed yet again the importance of advance preparation in planning a struggle and how this planning can help to prepare people to act effectively in times of crisis. There is clear evidence that leaders in Hong Kong took deliberate steps to prepare their population for effective action by educating participants about nonviolent struggle and civil disobedience, the goals of the movement, and the importance of maintaining nonviolent discipline, among other important topics. For people exploring the relevance of this technique, access to in-depth knowledge of how nonviolent struggle operates is essential. Otherwise, defeat is much more likely.

Effective nonviolent struggle is now known to be more possible than earlier believed. Despite this more accurate understanding and growing recognition, however, challenges remain. Increased attention has identified the needs of this underdeveloped field and brought to light examples of the great need for further research and refinement. We now know that people must learn how to plan a wise strategy for their struggle that includes preparation for how hard-won gains can be protected so that they are not later stolen.

**This is where the Albert Einstein Institution comes in.** With your help, the Institution has played a crucial role in meeting the need for high-quality knowledge and resources about nonviolent struggle. Your financial support has allowed us to continue and to expand our work to spread this powerful knowledge.

However, our current capacity limits our ability to meet the demand for our resources and guidance. It is critical that people searching for the resources and tools to conduct their struggles more effectively and powerfully continue to receive the help they are seeking.

**Please join us in supporting this work with your financial contribution.**

Jamila Raqib
Executive Director

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**About the Albert Einstein Institution**

Since our founding in 1983, the mission of the Albert Einstein Institution has been to advance the worldwide study and strategic use of nonviolent action in conflict. 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.