

Issue 3/2024

## Civil Resistance – Nonviolent Protest

**Deadline for Abstracts: February 20th 2024**

In recent years, civil resistance has attempted to force social change in many places around the world – from the Chilean student protests and the Iranian revolution in 2009 to the protests in Hong Kong from 2012, the non-violent revolution in Sudan in 2018/2019 and the Black Lives Matter protests – the list of possible examples is long and impressive. At the same time, Chenoweth (2021) attests a declining success rate of non-violent civil movements in the last 10 years and cites three main reasons for this: Learning experiences of the organs of repression, digitalisation of protests or mobilisation in the digital space and a false focus on mass protests.

In the context of civil resistance, the question of the limits of or the necessity for militant action or even clearly armed struggle flares up time and again (see e.g. *Forschungsjournal Soziale Bewegungen* 2/2023). While some see non-violent strategies as doomed to failure (Gelderloos 2013, et al.), others uphold strict non-violence as a strategic and practical basis for action (Chenoweth and Stephan 2011, et al.). So how do we deal with „violent margins“? How to validly interpret the case studies and data? What lessons can social movements learn for social transformation from which case studies? And are those who call for non-violence in movements primarily privileged people who are simply unable to assess the situation on the ground? Last but not least: Does research on civil resistance need to be decolonised (Chabot and Vinthagen 2015)?

For issue 3/2024 of „Wissenschaft und Frieden“ (W&F), we are placing these questions at the centre of the issue. Contributions can deal with one of the following questions (not an exhaustive list):

- What is the overall data situation on non-violent resistance? What alternative quantitative approaches beyond the Chenoweth et al. database (NAVCO dataset) are available?
- Case studies of individual resistance/protest movements and their course: critical stocktaking of knowledge on the course, successes and failures of individual protest movements; deepening and broadening of known case studies.
- Experiences of movements in Oceania, Abya Yala (Central and South America, and Mexico), East Asia, Southeast Asia, African states, Central Asian states.
- Strategic non-violence vs. supposedly necessary militancy: borderline cases of the use of violence;

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- Damage to property, sabotage, non-personal attacks: legitimate strategy or damage to the movement(s)?
- Digital mobilisation in times of social media: Helpful or problematic for the success of non-violent resistance?
- Differences in goals, reach, radicalism of the movements: What is the goal and how successful can movements be?
- Civil resistance movements between demarcation and openness: The problem of the „Querfront“ – purely theoretical consideration or practical challenge?
- What tactical and methodological decisions or archives of knowledge does a successful protest movement need in order to be able to adapt well to dynamic developments?
- How can protest movements counter the delegitimisation and criminalisation strategies of violent state actors?
- How do protest movements deal with repression? What strategies are pursued and how successful are they?
- Experiences from individual movements and their internal perspectives: Who is the acting „we“ and what challenges do we face?
- Maintaining resilience and mental health: How can activists do this?
- Unarmed civilian protection (civilian peacekeeping) and non-violent resistance
- Post- and decolonial, as well as feminist perspectives on civil resistance

**W&F is an interdisciplinary Peace Studies Quarterly.** We welcome contributions from all areas of research, peace work, social movements and investigative journalism.

Please send us your **abstract of max. 6,000 characters by 20 February 2024** to [redaktion@wissenschaft-und-frieden.de](mailto:redaktion@wissenschaft-und-frieden.de).

Here you will find **submission guidelines for authors** for W&F: [wissenschaft-und-frieden.de/projekt/autorinnen/](http://wissenschaft-und-frieden.de/projekt/autorinnen/)

After approval for publication, the **contributions are to be completed by 1 June 2024**. The finished contributions will usually be between 16,000-22,000 characters long (including title, footnotes and references); you will receive precise information when you are accepted. Contributions can be submitted in German and English, the publication will be in German.



**Any questions? Get in touch with:** David Scheuing ([redaktion@wissenschaft-und-frieden.de](mailto:redaktion@wissenschaft-und-frieden.de))