



War Resisters' International

Office and Executive Report January 2010 – May 2011

This report has been prepared by the staff and the Executive Committee, covering the period January 2010 to May 2011. Items for discussion at the Council meeting will be especially highlighted.

1. Introduction

Two deaths mark the introduction to this report. The first – the brutal assassination of Chidi Nwosu, president of the Human Rights, Justice and Peace Foundation WRI's Nigerian affiliate – as a message calculated to intimidate all those who struggle against corruption. At times like this, international solidarity can be vital – as a source of support for those who carry on, and as a pressure on those responsible for investigating such crimes. Unfortunately, we have had no further news of the Human Rights, Justice and Peace Foundation since this crime.

The second death was expected. Devi Prasad, whose health prevented him attending last year's WRI conference in Ahmedabad, died on 1 June 2011, aged 89. Devi's historic contribution – to deepening WRI's discussions on nonviolence, to widening the organisation's geographical horizons – began in the Triennial conference in Gandhi, continued through his ten years as Joint Secretary/General Secretary, and carried on subsequently, especially in promoting the 1985-86 Triennial in Vedchhi and in his history of WRI from 1921 to 1974 – *War is a crime against humanity: the story of the War Resisters' International* (published in 2005). If in some ways it seems a weakness that one person can have been so central and had such an influence on the organisation, in other ways it is a strength that WRI was, is and remains open to the participation of people with very different talents who have a commitment to nonviolence and anti-militarism.

This year has seen predominantly nonviolent challenges to longstanding regimes and a further expansion of military intervention. It has seen youth-led movements arising to challenge governments who say the "*global economic crisis*" forces them to cut spending on human needs, while continuing to give priority to military spending. WRI and its network has much to offer in these circumstance, not least a perspective that goes beyond short-term and superficial transitions to promote deeper social protests based on participation and on deeply held nonviolent values.

This report concentrates largely on solid work that WRI has done. Beneath the surface, however, remains the vision – that WRI is a network of mutual support, for those who resist war and promote nonviolent action, for those who recognise that the structures and attitudes of political, social and economic power do not need just reform but a fundamental nonviolent transformation.

"War is a crime against humanity. I am therefore determined not to support any kind of war, and to strive for the removal of all causes of war."
WRI declaration

War Resisters' International is an international network with 83 affiliated organisations in 42 countries. It aims to:

- ▶ connect and support war resisters around the world
- ▶ promote nonviolent action to remove the causes of war

War Resisters' International

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2. Staffed programme

2.1 Right to Refuse to Kill (RRTK) programme

Staff: *Andreas Speck*

2.1.1. RRTK core work

2.1.1.1 Funding

This programme receives core funding from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT), which has now been extended until 30 April 2014. This covers:

- the RRTK staff salary
- £4,000 annually for travel in relation to the RRTK programme
- £3,000 annually for an RRTK internship of three months
- some overhead for the central office plus, with this grant, money for the RRTK programme committee to meet
- Seed money for work on counter-recruitment
- £5,000 for the web publication of an updated report on how COs can use the international human rights system (see 2. below)

2.1.1.2 Work

2.1.1.2.1 CO-Update

The e-newsletter CO-Update continues to be published as needed - 12 issues since January 2010 - and to be translated into Spanish. It is a valuable point of reference as it includes regular updates on changes in CO or recruitment laws.

2.1.1.2.2 CO-alerts and individual CO cases

WRI's co-alert system (http://wri-irg.org/programmes/co_alerts) continues to support conscientious objectors at risk of arrest, or already arrested. In addition, the WRI office contacts the authorities of the country concerned and relevant UN bodies. In June 2010, Andreas went to Colombia to participate in two conferences on the right to conscientious objection in Bogota and Barrancabermeja (see his presentation at <http://wri-irg.org/node/10569>). The conference followed up on a decision of the Constitutional Court of Colombia from October 2009, recognising the right to conscientious objection.

In the important case of *Bayatyan v Armenia* before the European Court of Human Rights, WRI, together with Rachel and Derek Brett, submitted a joint third party intervention in July 2010 (see <http://wri-irg.org/node/10689>). The Court held a public hearing in the case on 24 November 2010. We expect the

judgement of the Grand Chamber some time in summer 2011.

This judgement will have huge implications – at best, in effect recognising the right to conscientious objection under the European Convention on Human Rights (and by extension pressuring the Inter-American human rights system would to reconsider its latest ruling (the bad decision in the case of *Cristián Daniel Sahli Vera et al. Chile* – see <http://wri-irg.org/node/10698>). At worst, however, the UN Human Rights Committee would become isolated among international human rights tribunals dealing with CO. WRI has had initial discussions with the Quaker United Nations Office Geneva, Conscience and Peace Tax International, Amnesty International, the International Commission of Jurists and the European Bureau on Conscientious Objection (EBCO) to prepare a quick and coordinated response if there is a negative ruling. There is no indication which way the judgement may go.

2.1.1.2.3 International Day on Conscientious Objection (15 May)

In May 2010, International CO Day was organised jointly with the *Comuna de Chana, Emma, y todas las demas* in Asunción, Paraguay. The main theme chosen for of the meeting was gender and militarism, and a seminar linked to this took place at the beginning of the events. This was followed by a training in nonviolent direct action, which included gender issues, but was not entirely focused on these.

WRI published a special issue of *The Broken Rifle* on gender and militarism prior to the events (see <http://wri-irg.org/pubs/br85-en.htm>).

2.1.1.2.4 Prisoners for Peace

Some time has been taken up with updating the permanent *Prisoners for Peace list* in November, in time for **Prisoners for Peace Day** on 1 December. A printed version of the list was sent out with the November appeal letter.

As Prisoners for Peace Day is no longer a major event in the WRI calendar (last year, not even the appeal letter focused on Prisoners for Peace), the list was mainly an update from publicly available sources, such as NukeResister in the USA, the Jehovah's Witnesses website (Armenian COs), and some activist email lists. Rather than being a listing, this was more a reminder that people still go to prison for peace action and conscientious objection, and it is clear that it is far from being a complete list. One problem is that the list is heavily dominated by Jehovah's Witnesses (conscientious objectors in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Eritrea, Turkmenistan), and this is without even trying to include the hundreds of

South Korean JW's who are COs. This helps to reinforce the wrong perception that CO is basically a religious issue.

2.1.1.2.4 Representation and other issues

In October 2010, Andreas Speck participated in the *Paxx-Aktionsakademie*, organised by WRI's German section DFG-VK together with the *Werkstatt für Gewaltfreie Aktion Baden* (Workshop for Nonviolent Action Baden – WfGA). Part of this action academy was a workshop on the (German) military in schools, which allowed Andreas to link with some German counter-recruitment activists and activities, and get a better idea what is happening on this issue in Germany.

Also, the E-Council discussion in relation to the Right to Refuse to Kill programme focused on counter-recruitment. This involved *Michael Schulze von Glas*, a German counter-recruitment activist who recently published a book called *An der Heimatfront. Öffentlichkeitsarbeit und Nachwuchswerbung der Bundeswehr* (At the home front: Public relations and recruitment of the Germany military –

http://www.papyrossa.de/sites/buchtitel/schulze_heimatfront.htm). He subsequently also contributed an article to *The Broken Rifle*.

Andreas continues cooperating with the *European Bureau for Conscientious Objection* (EBCO) and attended their October 2010 meeting in Brussels. On 9 February 2011, Cynthia Cockburn represented WRI at the trial against Turkish feminist antimilitarist Pinar Selek, who has been on trial for more than 10 years on fabricated charges (see <http://wri-irg.org/node/12193>).

On 25 May 2011, Andreas participated in a hearing on Conscientious Objection in Europe in the European Parliament, organised by Greek MEP Michalis Tremopoulos, himself a CO activist in the 1980s now in the Greens/European Free Alliance (see http://www.europarl.europa.eu/members/public/geoS_earch/view.do?language=EN&id=96909).

2.1.1.2.5 Internships

The RRTK programme had three internships in the 2009-2011 period:

- *Myungjin Moon* from South Korea (January-March 2009). Myungjin has been sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment in April 2011, and started his prison sentence on 11 April 2011 (see <http://wri-irg.org/node/11891>)
- *Tznit* from Israel (February-May 2010).
- *Jota Ramos* from Colombia (June-October 2010).

The contribution of these interns has varied, but having interns can help improve networking and also spread understanding of how WRI operates.

2.1.2 A Conscientious Objector's Guide to the International Human Rights System (Emily Miles update)

In 2009 the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust made an additional £10,000 grant for WRI to update and extend Emily Miles's report "A Conscientious Objectors' Guide to the UN Human Rights System" (see <http://wri-irg.org/books/co-guide-un.htm>). The project also involves the Quaker UN Office in Geneva (*Rachel Brett*), Conscience and Peace Tax International (*Derek Brett*), and the CCPR Centre (*Peggy Brett* and *Patrick Mutzenberg*). However, this initial funding was not sufficient for the web publication of the updated guide, but additional funding is now included in the 2011-2014 grant from JRCT.

The updated web publication should be completed late in 2011 and launched publicly in Geneva in March 2012.

2.1.3 RRtK 2011-2014

The general application to Rowntree's emphasised our need for flexibility in responding to developments (such as the appearance of a CO in Egypt). However, certain concrete items need discussion at Council:

2.1.3.1 Counter-recruitment work

The Rowntree application emphasised what Europe could learn from US experience on counter-recruitment, pointed to some activities and Europe, and suggested some steps to develop the work:

- a European conference/seminar on military recruitment and counter-recruitment, to be held in 2012
- a European speaking tour of US counter-recruitment organisers
- a publication on military recruitment and counter-recruitment in Europe

The questions we might want to discuss are:

- strategy and focus of WRI work on counter-recruitment. While it might be European focus for the time being, how do we avoid too much Eurocentricity in the work?
- Preferences for conference: Germany or UK / additional fundraising
- Publication: what kind of publication? Before or after the conference/seminar? How should it be linked to the conference/seminar?

Andreas will prepare a presentation for the session at Council.

2.1.3.2 Emergency response Egypt

In autumn 2010 WRI was contacted by *Maikel Nabil Sanad* from Egypt who was about to refuse military service. WRI acted quickly when he was arrested briefly in November 2010 and again when he was arrested briefly in February 2011 during the revolution.

When Maikel Nabil Sanad was again arrested on 28 March, WRI was among the first organisations to react, and Andreas went to Cairo to meet with his supporters, trying (unsuccessfully) to attend the court hearings. WRI also edited and translated quite a bit of the material by and about Maikel (see <http://wri-irg.org/node/11403>), and is launching a campaign for his release. We also submitted his case to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

In May 2011, *Andreas Speck* and *Igor Seke* travelled to Egypt for a workshop on conscientious objection and nonviolence. This workshop was originally planned with Maikel, but during Andreas' visit in April it was decided to go ahead with it nevertheless.

Achievements

- Funding has again been secured for a further three years - until April 2014.
- The book *Women Conscientious Objectors – an Anthology* has finally been published in English, and is forthcoming in Spanish.
- WRI has been able to reach out to some groups/organisations working on counter-recruitment, and has secured funding to strengthen this work.

Challenges

- The *Right to Refuse to Kill programme Committee* (RRtKCom) that has been formed in Ahmedabad is not yet functioning. Initial attempts using online chat have not been satisfactory, and a face-to-face meeting of the committee will take place in Stockholm just before the Council meeting. The members of this committee are: *Adriana Castano* (Red Juvenil, Colombia), *Rachel Brett* (Quaker United Nations Office Geneva), *Sergeiy Sandler* (WRI Exec/New Profile, Israel), *Boro Kitanoski* (WRI Council/Peace Action, Macedonia), *Oskar Castro* (WRL, USA)
- The development of counter-recruitment work is still a huge challenge.

2.2 Nonviolence Programme

Staff: *Javier Gárate*

The Nonviolence Programme has two main areas: Providing nonviolence resources for nonviolent action and the initiative against war profiteers. The third area of the programme - Nonviolence for Change - now falls within various areas of the general work of WRI.

The Nonviolence Programme was heavily involved in organising the India International Conference in January 2010, as most of the themes fell within the programme scope. The Conference re-established connections as well as bringing in new contacts for the programme.

2.2.1. Resources for nonviolent action

WRI's *Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns* came out in English in February 2009, and now a further 1,500 copies have printed. The handbook has been translated into many languages, mostly the initiative not coming from the office, which show the positive reaction to the book. At the time of writing this report, the handbook has been published in English, Indonesian and Spanish. There are translations finished or about to be in Arabic, Nepali, Tigrinya, Turkish, French, Korean, Russian and Serbian. Some of the translations are already available on the web: <http://wri-irg.org/pubs/NonviolenceHandbook>.

WRI has teamed up with Vredesactie (Belgium), Kristna Fredsrörelsen/SweFOR (Sweden) and Bewegungsakademie (Germany) to make a grant application to the Grundtvig Programme of the EU. The grant is for a 3 years project under the title: "Active Strengthening of Civil Society through Education and Democratization" (ASCEND). The project will work analysing existing and coming up with new resources on nonviolence training in development of campaign strategies and group dynamics. This will be done by forming training circles in each country and a series of international meetings of trainers. The follow up of the project will be a series of training for trainers. We expect an answer from Grundtvig by the month of June, but there are already plans to start looking for alternative funding in case the application is not successful. If the project goes ahead, this will be the main priority of this area of work of the Nonviolence Programme.

In the last year there have been several training workshops in nonviolent action given at events of the European Antimilitarist Network. As we write this report a WRI delegation is about to travel to Venezuela for two weeks of activities, the main one being a training workshop with Venezuelan social movements. The programme in Venezuela is hosted by PROVEA and El Libertario.

In the past year staff person Javier Gárate, attended the Fletcher Summer Institute for the Advanced Study of Nonviolent Conflict, invited by the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict (ICNC) organised by the Fletcher School and the ICNC, which took place in Boston, USA. Several other members of WRI have active collaboration with ICNC. Javier also attended a weekend retreat on Direct Education hosted by Turning the Tide in St Albans, UK.

2.2.2 Initiative Against War Profiteers

The main work of the initiative against war profiteers, is producing the bi-monthly newsletter War Profiteers' News (http://wri-irg.org/publications/war_profiteers), which is now in its 28th issue. The newsletter highlights the work done by groups against war profiteering, many times commissioning articles from a range of groups in terms of their focus and also their origin. One highlight has been the activities by the Weapon Zero Team in South Korea, which was inspired by participation in a WRI event. The newsletter is produced in English and Spanish.

Javier attended in 2010 the Annual Meeting of the European Network Against Arms Trade (ENAAT), hosted by the Dutch Campaign Against Arms Trade in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. There is a good collaboration between WRI and ENAAT, with a number of members of ENAAT contributing to War Profiteers' News and Wendela de Vries of the Dutch Campaign Against Arms Trade represented ENAAT at WRI's International Conference in India. From this collaboration came the plan to organise an International Seminar under the title: **War Profiteering and Peace Movement Responses** to be held in Barcelona, 29 Sep - 2 Oct 2011. The seminar aims at bringing together campaigners against war profiteering from all over the world to learn from each others experiences and explore the potential for forming an international network against war profiteering. The seminar War Starts Here to take place in Luleå in July 2011 will have the issue of war profiteering as one of the main themes of the seminar.

2.2.3 Fundraising

Successful fundraising for the India Conference was a big success helped to finance the Nonviolence Programme. The existing Grundtvig Project – Europe for Peace – also helps support the work of the programme, and the pending ASCEND Grundtvig grant application would cover most of the costs of the Nonviolence Programme. If we are not successful, we urgently need to come up with alternative funding sources.

In the last year not much work has been done in getting individual donations, as they are very time consuming without much reward. Also due to a knee injury of the Nonviolence Programme staff person, there are no more Triathletes for Peace - but we will be back!

Achievements

- The Ahmedabad conference.
- Response to the Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns has exceeded expectations, mostly manifested in the number of translations.
- War Profiteers' News has become a reference point for information on campaigns against war profiteering.

Challenges

- Need to give more training workshops .
- Forming a Global Network Against War Profiteers is a huge goal and maybe unrealistic
- Need to follow up projects better, eg training with a particular group.
- Unless the ASCEND application succeeds, fundraising will be a huge challenge.
- The Nonviolence Programme lacks a functioning committee.
- The present cuts in social spending by many governments offer an opportunity to challenge the priority accorded to military spending.

3. Regionalisation:

3.1 Europe

The European network of WRI groups does not represent the full range of activities of WRI's European affiliates but focuses on nonviolent direct action against war and military intervention, It is also open for groups not affiliated to WRI.

3.1.1 Meetings and seminars

In 2009, a funding application to the European Union's Grundtvig Lifelong Learning Programme succeeded in gaining a total of €105,000 over two years. The money is mainly for meetings/seminars, and also contributes to the seminar in Luleå.

A first major activity was the participation of about 80 activists from abroad in the blockade of the British nuclear weapon factory AWE Aldermaston on 15 February 2011. In the days prior to the blockade, activists from the network met for a seminar and training in Milton Keynes (see <http://wri-irg.org/node/9683>). This was followed by a days of

action against nuclear weapons on 2-4 April (see <http://wri-irg.org/node/9863> for an overview).

In July, the network again met in Jarandilla in Spain, for an evaluation and future planning, especially in relation to the NATO summit in November 2010 in Lisboa, Portugal. The meeting also started a process to define what the network is, but so far there is no statement of principles.

In November 2010, a seminar was held in Brussels, which continued the process which began in Jarandilla, and also looked into future activities. It came up with the slogan "War starts here", to highlight that wars are not just fought far away, in Afghanistan, Iraq, or now Libya, but depend on the military infrastructure in our own countries. It was decided to set up a website (<http://warstartshere.org> <http://warstartshere.eu>), which is presently under development.

Many groups of the network then participated in the anti-NATO actions in Lisbon (see below). The latest meeting of the network took place in Ghent in Belgium in January 2011. This meeting again looked at the future of the network, and a new funding application. However, in the end no funding application was submitted, which will leave the network without funding of its own after July 2011. The meeting in Ghent could not decide about a clear focus for the European networking in the upcoming years.

3.1.2 Work against NATO

The work against NATO has mostly been part of the European network in the past few years, but goes beyond Europe. Andreas Speck represents WRI on the *International Co-ordinating Committee No to War – No to NATO* (ICC), a broad international umbrella network against NATO. In this capacity, he was involved in the preparation of the anti-NATO protests in Lisbon in November 2010 (and in Strasbourg in April 2009).

Within the broader anti-NATO work, WRI's focus is on nonviolent direct action against NATO, which links it closely to the European network, mostly because up until now anti-NATO actions have mainly been organised in Europe. In November 2010, WRI passed a pledge/call for nonviolent action against NATO (see <http://wri-irg.org/node/11629>), but unfortunately this came too late to have an impact on the mobilisation for the NATO summit in Lisbon, and later the momentum was lost.

The activities in Lisbon showed the symbolic power of nonviolent action, and a good co-operation among the network (see <http://wri-irg.org/node/11830>).

NATO decided at its Lisbon summit that the next summit will be held in the US in 2012, and indications are that it will be in April 2012 in Washington DC. WRI is part of a contact group between the broader ICC and the US organisers (which include WRI's section War Resisters

League), and is in discussion with WRI about a nonviolent action in the US in 2012. This would broaden WRI's anti-NATO work to also include the USA. However, it poses a significant challenge to the European side of the network.

Achievements

- close cooperation between European WRI affiliates (and some non-affiliated organisations) in nonviolent direct action, contributing to an exchange of experience and building trust among organisations and individuals.
- Funding could be obtained for 2 years
- Successful actions in several countries.
- WRI is a visible force within the anti-NATO movement

Challenges

- Get renewed funding for the network
- improving communication and decision making within the network, and sharing of responsibilities.
- The NATO summit in the USA in 2012
- Despite the serious problems facing operations of military intervention involving NATO countries, and there is no still substantial movement against such interventionism, let alone against the structures underpinning it.

3.2 Latin America

Latin America is a conflictive and vibrant region, where militarism manifests itself in full strength: military service is still compulsory in several countries, military expenditure has increased more than in any other region, national polices are heavily militarised, military bases or barracks are found almost in every town, patriarchy is taken as normal, caudillos or populist leaders with a strong militarist discourse rule many of the countries and faced internal problems repeatedly invoke nationalist hostility to neighbours to unite the population. In short militarism is part of the daily life of Latin Americans. This is why groups in Latin America sometimes are criticised of being too self-centred, unaware of what happens outside their local realities, in some way this is because the local realities are full of conflicts which means they take most of your time and energy.

As a response to this for the last years a number of groups in Latin America with links to WRI have been working on how to support each other more, and create the space for thinking and acting beyond each local realities. Since the last report, the irg-al network, has continued to exchange a lot of information through its email list (irg-al@lists.wri-irg.org), which helps for groups to know what others

are doing. The list has been most useful in times of crisis, like during the so-called frustrated coup d'etat in Ecuador on 30 September 2010 (<http://wri-irg.org/node/11779>). This way the network could know immediately what was happening directly from the people in Ecuador. The list is very useful for this kind of situations and also for sharing information, but at the same time needs better moderation and to become a place of dialogue and not only information sharing.

Since the last report, the network had a few opportunities for getting together. It is important to acknowledge the high number of people from Latin America who attended the Triennial in India 2010, helping to bridge the gap between groups in Latin America and WRI groups elsewhere. In May 2010 and using the opportunity that the activities around 15 May, International CO Day were held in Asuncion, Paraguay, a special effort was made to bring together representatives from groups from most of the countries active in the network. This meetings was very important to get to know us better and many plans came out of this meeting, including a revival of the plan for a regional map linking corporate presence and militarisation. The big problem so far has been that after each meeting there has been little follow up, and none of the ideas that came out in Paraguay have actually materialised, though the Venezuelan group managed to put together their own map (<http://bit.ly/iiEYGn>) and we are still hopeful that other groups will do the same.

As a joint project, the network put together the December 2010 issue of WRI's newsletter *The Broken Rifle* (<http://wri-irg.org/pubs/br87-en.htm>), which focused on militarism in the region. The network also helped getting the WRI Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns out in Spanish, with Pelao Carvallo writing a special introduction to the Spanish version and El Libertario Collective doing the layout. The handbook was printed in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and it has already been distributed to several countries in Latin America, with groups even organising book presentations in their countries.

Within the network there are many ideas of what to do in the region but not much follow up of them. Clearly there is the potential to make much more things happen. As with every loose network things take time, but there is a base to work from, so yes, there is hope.

4. WRI Publications

WRI continues to publish a range of electronic and print publications.

wri-irg.org

The WRI website is WRI's main publication, and has grown in content since the India conference. Visits seem to have stabilised at about 2,600-2,700 unique visits daily, or 75,000-85,000 visits monthly. The website needs further improvement, but this would require raising further funds.

E-mail and Web-Based Publications

Note: All our e-mail-based publications can be viewed and subscribed to on our website.

The Broken Rifle

The Broken Rifle continues to be WRI's quarterly newsletter, with most issues published in all four official WRI languages. Since January 2010, the following issues have been published: Gender and militarism (April 2010, see <http://wri-irg.org/pubs/br85-en.htm>), European Network Against Militarism - Against NATO and War (September 2010, see <http://wri-irg.org/pubs/br86-en.htm>), Latin American Antimilitarist Network (December 2010, see <http://wri-irg.org/pubs/br87-en.htm>), Military out of schools (March 2011, see <http://wri-irg.org/pubs/br88-en.htm>). In the last year, it has been increasingly difficult to get the issues of *The Broken Rifle* translated into German and French, and some issues have not been published in these languages.

wri-info

The email-newsletter wri-info is published as needed, and was used in April 2011 to distribute information on the imprisonment of *Maikel Nabil Sanad*. There is no clear policy on what qualifies as wri-info.

CO-Update / Informe OC / Objo-Infos

CO-Update is the monthly e-newsletter of the Right to Refuse to Kill programme. It is available in English and Spanish.

co-alert

WRI launched its email based co-alert system in July 2001. Although there has been a system for urgent actions before, this was the first time the email list co-alert has been used. Since then, hundreds of co-alerts have been emailed out. With the launch of the new website, the co-alert system has been integrated into WRI's conscientious objection database, and is now managed entirely through the WRI website. Co-alert is an English only email list, although some alerts are also available in other languages on the WRI website.

warprofiteers-news

The email newsletter warprofiteers-news is the newsletter of the Nonviolence Programme's work on war profiteers. Warprofiteers-news is published bimonthly in English and Spanish.

The email-newsletter has been an important tool to provide information on matters related to war profiteering to a wide range of groups and activists, and facilitates networking of groups working on war profiteers.

Facebook

WRI's Facebook cause now has more than 2,800 members and is mainly used to post announcements.

Attempts to raise funds using Facebook have so far seen only moderate success.

There is also a Facebook page for WRI at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/War-Resisters-International/116749965016853>.

Twitter

You can find WRI at <http://twitter.com/#!/warresistersint>.

Books and other print publications

Devi Prasad's *War is a Crime Against Humanity* (2005) is now online as a pdf.

WRI's *Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns* (2009) has now been reprinted in English. See the Nonviolence Programme report.

Ellen Elster and Majken Soerensen, eds, *Women Conscientious Objectors - An Anthology* was published in April 2010 is also available online at <http://wri-irg.org/pubs/WomenCOs>. Michelle Reny  has painstakingly translated this into Spanish and it could be online before the Council meeting in Lule .

The *WRI Yearbook* - this proposal discussed by Council in September 2008 and again in Ahmedabad - is presently stuck.

WRI supported the *Eritrean Antimilitary Initiative* (EAI) in publishing and distributing a Tirgrinya version of Gene Sharp's *From dictatorship to democracy*.

There has been a variety of publications by WRI staff, Executive and Council members in magazines, journals, books and encyclopaedias.

Achievements

- Since the web redesign in 2008, WRI has increased its presence on the internet.

- The regular email-newsletters of the two main WRI programmes have increased WRI's credibility in these areas.
- The publication of the *Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns* has clearly answered an existing need, as can also be seen by the number of translations being worked on.

Challenges

- The new WRI website was designed to facilitate contributions from the WRI network. However, this has so far rarely happened.
- A distribution network and strategy for publishing more books is so far missing.
- Translation of the e-newsletters and of the Broken Rifle has become increasingly difficult, especially into German and French, but WRI is also short of translators into Spanish, and from any of these languages into English.
- The *WRI Yearbook* needs new impetus.

5. WRI - the organisation

Many matters of organisational development, including representation and cooperation with other organisations and networks, are included throughout the report. They are not repeated in this section. The important work of mutual solidarity (beyond the programme work) is rarely featured but was highlighted shortly after Ahmedabad by the Zimbabwean government offensive against WRI affiliate, Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe.

5.1. Council

5.1.1 WRI Council members - whether they represent affiliates or were elected in Ahmedabad. They are an underused resource, as people with their own networks, ideas and activities. Within WRI, a number feel guilty that they have not found ways of contributing more.

5.1.2 Electronic Council - an electronic council took place in November, with patchy participation. It took decisions on affiliation, began discussion on some important topics, and had a lively forum on the Freedom Flotilla.

5.2. Executive

Far more work is now expected of the Executive committee, although it also meets less frequently. A large part of the January meeting in the Basque country was devoted to discussing how the Executive could be more effective.

The Executive has issued three political declarations - one on the Freedom Flotilla in 2010, one on the murder of Chidi Nwosu, and one on military intervention in Libya.

5.3. Working groups

The Africa Working Group is keen to promote the International Conference in 2013. Other working groups are more or less in abeyance, but there is now an initiative for a Queer working group.

5.4 Office

5.4.1 - Staff level

After the Ahmedabad conference, the post of finance and administrative worker in the office was abolished and Seth Wheeler was asked to leave. This work is now shared between the two programme workers. Having a staff level of two is not satisfactory, especially in view of the amount of travel they each are required to do, but maintaining a part-time post of finance and admin has been generally problematic and an inefficient use of resources.

5.4.2 - Interns and Volunteers

As well as the RRTK internships (see RRTK), WRI investigated some other possibilities for longer term internships - so far without fruit. In addition, *Christopher Bösch* continued his internship, primarily working on RRTK questions, until August 2010. *Jung-Min*, from WRI-Korea who is currently finishing an MA in Peace Studies in Britain, is hoping to be a volunteer with the Nonviolence Programme from September for the rest of the year. WRI's volunteer base in London is now weaker than ever, relying primarily on *Martyn Lowe* (now retired from employment and able to do regular data entry as well as his usual help with filing and mailings).

5.4.3 - Translation

A number of volunteer translators (not forgetting translation editors/re-writers) have helped in the period in the period since January 2009. These include: *Carlos Barranco*, *Francesca Denley*, *Gerd Büntzly*, *Igor Seke*, *Inge Dreger*, *Nayua Abdelkefi*, *Oscar Huenchunao*, *Pedro Ballesteros*, *Rene Burget*, *Tikiri*, *Denise Drake*, *Ian Macdonald* and *Benjamin Molineaux*.

5.4.4 - Council Medellín in 2012 and the International Conference in South Africa 2014 will be significant agenda items in the Luleå Council meeting.

Achievements:

- Apart from Skype, the office now runs on open source software.
- The high quality of the staff's work is widely recognised.

Challenges:

- To find more effective means to use the resources of Council
- To improve the functioning of the Executive
- Too many projects get stuck
- WRI internships do not seem to be attractive to organisations who arrange placements
- WRI's translation capacity urgently needs expansion

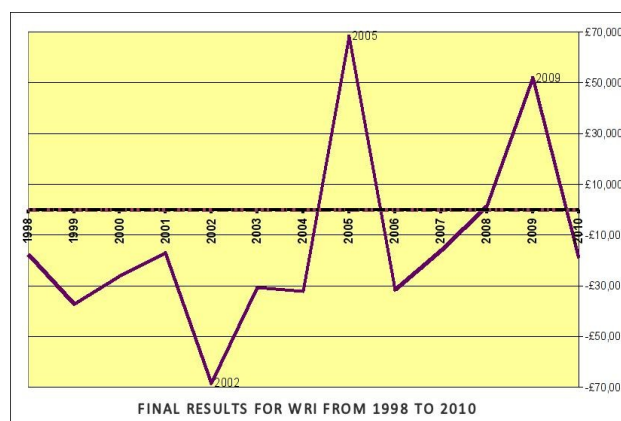
And finally a word from our Treasurer:

6. Finances - more of a team effort!

This is both what we have and what we need: a good degree of team effort has helped correct a few worrying trends in the last few years. However we need the continuous involvement of many people and affiliates to keep rowing upstream.

On the positive side: WRI income and expenditure is more balanced, including funding staff time on preparing the India conference; the income from affiliation fees has risen slightly (after several years of decline); the sales of the NV Handbook and the Women CO Anthology are making a difference in our budget; we have improved the accountancy system.

This we have done despite cutting the part-time post of "Finance and Admin Worker". We need to thank the programme workers – *Andreas* and *Javier* – for accepting this increase in their workload, as well as for the amount of fundraising work they were already taking on. As you know, writing funding applications is a strain on an organisation with such a small structure.



This is where the network comes in. Our successful fundraising would not have occurred without the involvement of several of our affiliates, who wrote up and presented grant proposals in their countries on our behalf, or who took on financing the participation of other network members. Several groups also placed big orders for WRI publications, guaranteeing that we could actually make a profit on sales.

However, we are very worried: in spite of a noticeable improvement, we have not managed yet to cover the structural deficit we show every year. In 2011, the Council meeting itself might break even, and the Rowntree grant covers the full cost of the RRTK programme and some overhead, but we still do not have enough to cover the rest. The big EU grant proposal we submitted this year might change that picture, but we certainly cannot only rely on unpredictable fundraising results from such institutions or on receiving legacies from long-time supporters.

Again, this is where the WRI network comes in: we need you to guarantee that we can maintain a minimum degree of financial autonomy and that the basic cost of our much needed international work can be sustained. If you represent an affiliate, can it increase its affiliation fee? If it doesn't pay anything, could it pay at least something? Could it collaborate in grant applications? Could you place orders to help distribute WRI publications? Or to try to get the Broken Rifle badges to again be a source of revenue and a visible image for our network? Can you help give us access to private donors in your countries? We keep talking about the same issues, we will deal with them in more details at Council, but we should be clear there are no miracle solutions, especially for a radical organisation like ours, which cannot and does not want to follow a classical NGO model. **The WRI affiliates and our donor base have been and remain the key to our sustainability.**