



# War Resisters' International

Report of the Office and Executive Committee to the  
International Conference on Activities in the years 2006–2009



Nonviolent blockade of the NATO summit in Strasbourg. Photo: Dan Viesnik

## Introduction

In this report, we present the good work that War Resisters' International has been involved with since 2006 and the challenges WRI faces to become more effective. Yet our starting point, as always, has to be the world in which we live. WRI's work mainly revolves around two themes - refusing war and war preparations, and promoting nonviolent action.

If our work on refusing war has registered some gains, these are far outweighed by the climate engendered by the "war against terror" which states invoke to justify state

terrorism and torture, and to insist on unquestioning obedience to "military necessity" - no matter how criminal. Where there is war, however, we usually find some level of resistance. If a strong movement has yet to cohere against the war in Afghanistan and the kind of thinking that lends it a veil of legitimacy, at least a basis is being laid for this, including through the work against NATO in which WRI is engaged.

At the WRI conference in 2006 on "Globalising Nonviolence", there was optimism about the growing "counter-power" of the movements opposing capitalist globalisation. Perhaps these movements are now in a less

optimistic phase, yet at the same time the spread of the use of nonviolent action on global issues continues in local livelihood struggles as well as on global issues such as climate change. The "people power" revolutions of the early part of the decade have had only limited success in establishing democratic values in their societies - and it is clear that there is need and more space for the kind of values-based construction of nonviolent movements that WRI advocates. At the same time, the current resistance to the coup in Honduras and the range of international nonviolent actions mounted in solidarity with the Palestinians are just the most publicised of a growing range of activities where people turn to nonviolent action to confront unjust and illegitimate power.

WRI itself has not made many headlines in the last three or four years. However, we think we have taken some solid steps in both of our staffed programmes – the Right to Refuse to Kill and the Nonviolence Programme (which includes our work against War Profiteers) – as well as in our networking activities, especially in Latin America and in the European campaign against NATO (which includes opposing the further militarisation of the European Union). Moreover, five years ago, we rather expected that by 2009 we might be discussing how to close down the WRI office. Instead, we are in a slightly stronger position and looking forward with some optimism. Our work is having an impact, which puts us in a better position – with your help – to find the resources to make it viable.

## Finances

### Achievements

- WRI received two significant (but one-time) grants, including our first ever from EU funds, which may be used as a model for future fundraising.
- We were able to significantly cut our regular costs, especially the costs of office rent.
- Not exactly an achievement, but due to several legacies WRI has received, we were able to keep afloat, and now have a better balance than at the beginning of this period.

### Challenges

- Network-generated income continues to be a small proportion of what WRI needs.
- There is still no permanent and reliable source of funding for the Nonviolence Programme.
- Income from sales and individual donations is dwindling.
- WRI needs to find other reliable sources of income (e.g. through affiliates doing more international fund-raising, through merchandising, through internationalising our donor base, etc.)

As we prepare for the Triennial, time has come to have a look back at the evolution of WRI's finances over the past few years. We found quite useful to do it from a 10-year perspective, keeping in mind what Council said in 2004:

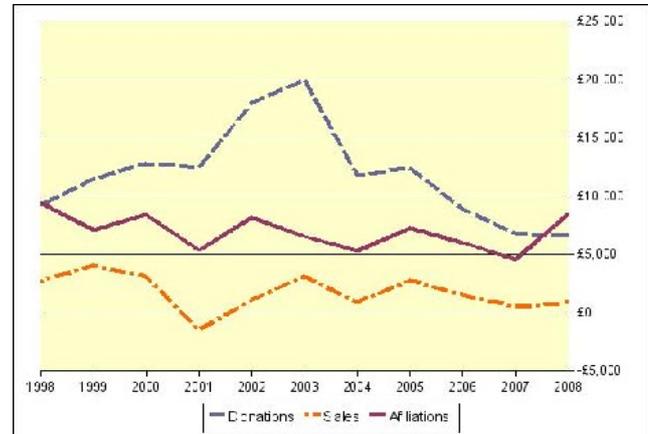


Figure 1: Evolution of WRI's network income sources 1998-2008

"WRI should maintain its radical anti-militarist character and should function as a network rather than switch to being a funding-led NGO".

The figures you see tell a different story:

- Our main direct income from the WRI network, the affiliations fees, have gone up and down over the past decade, reaching an all-time low in 2007 (See Figure 1). We have fared much better in 2008 and will try to maintain that trend through more efficient reminders to affiliates, but this income covers less than half a salary in the London office, which makes us highly dependent on external non-network based funding.

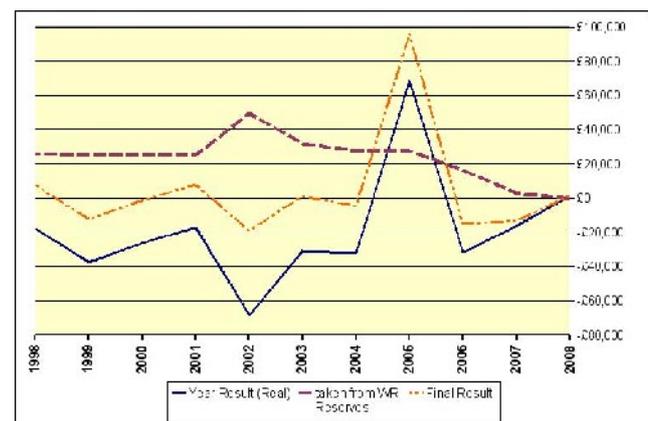


Figure 2: WRI general financial results 1998-2008

- WRI project fundraising (mostly the Right to Refuse to Kill programme) is the single most important funding source. In 2007, for example, it accounted for 57% of our overall income. However, this grant will not go on forever, and we will have to find alternatives in the short to medium term. In the meanwhile, we are still faced with the challenge of getting a stable

funding source for the Nonviolence programme, which WRI has been financing mostly out of its general funds. It is an extremely valuable programme, well-received within and outside the WRI network. Giving it continuity is one of our top priorities.

- **Individual donations**, once a significant source of funding, **have come down** to represent less than 10% of the overall income. Our donor base is still overwhelmingly British and does not renew itself.
- The rest of our regular income comes from **merchandising**. However, this is a **very small contribution**, especially since the sales of Broken Rifle badges have dwindled to almost nothing.

As you can see from Figure 2, the year results (i.e., straight income minus expenses) have shown mostly deficits, with a record low in 2002. So, what has saved the WRI central office from having to shut down? Of course, we have **cut on office expenses all we could** without major disruption, the last one being a significant reduction in office space at Caledonian Road, which does not make staff work any easier. But what has kept us afloat have actually been periodical, life-saving **legacies** (see Figure 3). We would, of course, like to express our gratitude to the individuals – past volunteers and supporters, such as *Ron and Inge Carley* and *Dorothy Merkins* – who bequeathed these life-saving sums to us. However, legacies are hardly a predictable, sustainable funding source for an organisation like ours.

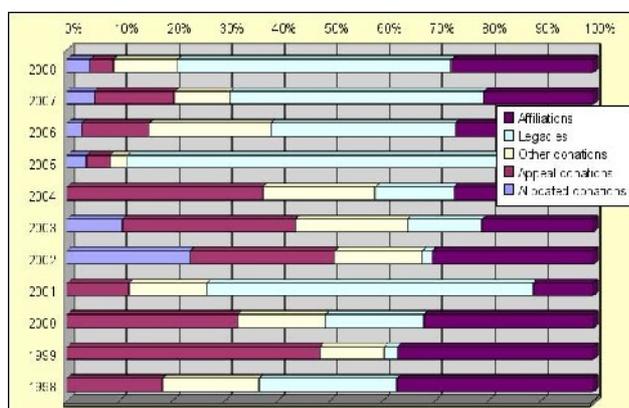


Figure 3: Proportion of different funding sources in WRI's income, 1998-2008, not including grants.

In summary, there is therefore a **permanent tension between our ambitions** – following a network rather than NGO model, investing in projects we believe in, organising costly international meetings, etc. – **and our ability to diversify funding sources** and obtain funds in due time.

Not everything is bad news, though, and there are some encouraging signs we might be able to start turning things around. Here are some examples:

- In 2008, we managed to break even thanks partly to a £15,000 legacy, but mostly to

getting 100% funding for the Bilbao Council meeting (including almost £10,000 for the Nonviolence Programme). We also cut down on central office costs.

- The 2009 CO day event was a financial success, mostly due to the efforts of our Korean affiliates. This is the way to go.
- Towards the end of 2009, we have received a €20,000 grant as part of the “Europe for Peace” project. The programme and fundraising process is a collective effort by several groups in Europe (initiated by our Flemish section, *Vredesactie*), most of which are WRI affiliates. WRI's central office participated in this project as a UK-based group, and the money will be used to organise a meeting in the UK linked to the work of the Nonviolence Programme. This is the first time that WRI (as distinct from its affiliates) receives European Union funds. It is also a very good model to follow in the future, especially because it is a consequence of political work.
- On the merchandising and publications side, almost all the copies of the English edition of the *Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns* have been speedily distributed through bulk orders to WRI affiliates and other organisations. We are also looking into merchandising options which can be organised and shipped from outside the London office (e.g. a music CD), and would like to pursue other ideas with WRI affiliates who could take the lead on it. The new WRI webshop will prove a big help in that respect.

**Looking at the future**, we have to keep working on long-term sustainability and one of the main goals is **to increase the percentage of funds coming from the WRI network**. Getting external funding costs an enormous amount of time, and fundraising cannot fall only on an already overstretched staff and Exec, as the work priorities shift too far away from continued network building and programme development.

We therefore need **more overall commitment from the network to pay affiliate fees** and to engage in other international fund-raising activities as several have for the conference in India. We also could organise **merchandising agreements** with some of our member organisations, both for income and visibility (such cooperation is also necessary because the London office is now very limited in storage space). And we need to **adapt our pattern of events to financial reality**. Important savings have already been made. For instance, we are testing out an electronic Council format; but face-to-face meetings remain indispensable and the success of such meetings depends strongly on fundraising efforts by local organisers and specific affiliates, as conference and travel

costs are increasingly difficult to obtain from foundations and trusts.

**Another important goal is to internationalise and diversify our individual donor base:** WRI's new website will be very useful to reach out to even more people, but the support of our affiliates remains absolutely necessary, especially outside of Britain. Affiliates could help by giving WRI access to their database, organising an appeal on WRI's behalf or holding a fundraising event in WRI's benefit.

Finally, it is very important we identify and pursue **funding sources for the Nonviolence Programme**, which cannot receive deficit funding any longer. Here again, WRI affiliates can help, approaching funders in their own countries.

It is hard work, but we do get the rewards from it: higher visibility outside the network, more dynamism inside the network, more representation from countries in the South and more south to south collaboration... WRI is still up and walking after all these years, this is no mean feat in our current world.

## Programme Work

### *The Nonviolence Programme*

#### Achievements

- The *Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns* has been written and published. Within six months of its publication it has already been translated to five languages and more than a thousand print copies have been sent out.
- Important networking has been fostered by various programme activities.
- A first training project (in Russia) has been organised under the auspices of the programme, and others are planned.
- WRI has gained much credibility in its work on linking different struggles against war profiteering.
- Some fundraising successes have been scored, from the relatively small-scale "Triathletes for Peace" effort to the relatively large one-off grants secured for the Nonviolence Trainers' Exchange in Bilbao and the new Europe for Peace project.

#### Challenges

- Despite these local successes, the Nonviolence Programme still has no regular source of funding, and creates a deficit of up to £30,000 in WRI's annual balance. A reliable source of funding for the programme has to be secured.
- The programme needs to have a stronger programme committee accompanying it.

The Nonviolence Programme was created in 2005 and has since been staffed by Javier Gárate. In 2005 the NV Programme was supposed to run for two years using money in WRI's general funds, with the aim of making the programme self financed afterwards.

### Funding

Funding still remains the biggest challenge of the programme, though we had some successful experiences, especially thanks to the work of *Dominique Saillard* as WRI Treasurer, who obtained a considerable, but non-renewable, grant from the Basque Government. The programme has launched a number of appeals to individuals, some bringing in more money than others. The latest and relatively successful one was the Triathletes for Peace appeal, where *Javier Gárate*, *Andy Neidhardt*, *Ed Neidhardt* and *Matt Neidhardt* ran the London Triathlon to raise funds for the programme. The programme has received some project-specific grants, which include the grants for the Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns from *Haella Foundation* and a grant for the work against war profiteering by Greenpeace London.

Obtaining a larger grant that can cover for a larger percent of the programme expenses is still a challenge for the programme. We are now working on raising funds for our work against war profiteers and for projects linked to nonviolence training and resources.

### Projects

#### *Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns*

After much work by the editorial committee and staff, the Handbook was published in February 2009, with a print run of 1200 copies. Currently (October 2009) there are less than 100 copies left in the WRI office and a new print run is being considered. All the content of the handbook is available on the WRI website, where there are already new resources that did not appear in the printed version, and which we plan to continue updating.

The Handbook has so far been translated into Arabic, Indonesian, Korean, Russian and Spanish. Some of the texts in the other languages are available from the WRI website as well. The Indonesian version has already been published while the Arabic, Korean and Spanish are in the process of being published. The Russian version is only planned to be distributed as a PDF file. A Turkish version is being worked on and plans for translating the Handbook into Hebrew are also being considered.

Both the demand for the English version and the number of translations show that the Handbook has been well received and that it answered a real need in terms of resources for nonviolent campaigning.

#### *Nonviolence training*

Since 2006 the Nonviolence Programme has conducted several nonviolence trainings. Some have been offered at world and regional Social Forums, as well as at the Alternative Social Forum in Caracas, Venezuela. In April

2009, a weekend training was given in Russia by *Jørgen Johansen* and coordinated by the Nonviolence Programme. The Nonviolence Programme also helped coordinate the nonviolent direct action training in preparation for the NATO-ZU action at the NATO Summit in Strasbourg in 2009.

**Nonviolence Trainers' Exchange**

Attached to the 2008 WRI Council, there was a nonviolence training exchange gathering organised by the Nonviolence Programme in Bilbao, Basque Country. The gathering brought together trainers from different parts of the world for a three day event. Participants mainly included members of WRI but trainers from outside the WRI network also took part.



Nonviolence Trainer's Exchange, Bilbao

**Global Initiative against War Profiteers**

Working against war profiteers has been part of the programme since its beginning. First it was conceived as a global campaign against war profiteers, with the aim of building a global campaign. This effort was not pursued as it was hard for the network to agree on one focus for a campaign. In the last years the effort has been on sharing resources on campaigns against war profiteers. In 2006 the programme started producing a by-monthly newsletter – War Profiteers' News – featuring stories on campaigns against war profiteers and with the highlighted sections The War Profiteer of the Month and the Campaign of the

Month. For the production of the newsletter there has been a special effort to invite people working in the field to write articles and also do their own companies and campaigns profiles, which has strengthened the cooperation with groups working against war profiteers.

Javier Gárate has represented WRI at several European Network Against Arms Trade (ENAAAT) meetings, he also attended the Stop the Merchants of Death Conference in the USA. As part of this work the programme has regularly given workshops on the topic at Social Forum gathering and also gave a presentation at a conference in Medellin, Colombia, organised by Red Juvenil.

**Nonviolence for Change**

As mentioned above, the NV programme organised a WRI presence at a number of Social Forums – with a comparatively large delegation at the World Social Forum in Nairobi, Kenya. The NV programme also helped coordinate the efforts of the European Peace Action Forum in Malmø, that was part of the European Social Forum. See also under Regionalisation.



WRI staff Yvonne Kassim at the World Social Forum in Kenya

**WRI's International Conferences**

The Nonviolence Programme is closely linked to the thematic focus of both the previous and the upcoming WRI International Conference. The 2006 Triennial in Paderborn, Germany covered a wide range of areas of where nonviolence is alive in social movements and brought together activists from all continents. The upcoming Triennial in Ahmedabad, India, with the theme: "Nonviolent Livelihood Struggle and Global Militarism: Links & Strategies" is also closely related to the work of the Nonviolence Programme and promises to be an important gathering to continue strategising on how to make nonviolence play a more fundamental role in our work for social change.



WRI's e-newsletter warprofiteers-news

## ***The Right to Refuse to Kill Programme***

### **Achievements**

- WRI was able to renew the grant for the Right to Refuse to Kill programme. The programme is now financed until April 2011.
- The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention now considers any detention of a CO as arbitrary, not just repeated imprisonment.
- Work with Colombian CO groups has been stabilised.

### **Challenges**

- It is becoming increasingly difficult to find a focus country for the International Day on Conscientious Objection (15 May), and to raise the funds needed for the international event.
- It has so far not been possible to strengthen the work of WRI and European WRI affiliates on counter-recruitment and the professionalisation of the military.
- There is presently little awareness of the issue of conscientious objection for professional soldiers.
- The programme needs to have a stronger programme committee accompanying it and promoting more activist involvement.

The Right to Refuse to Kill programme was launched in 2001, with initial funding for 2 years (up to April 2003). WRI succeeded in securing further funding three times, now until April 2011. The programme is staffed by Andreas Speck.

## **Activities**

### ***International CO Day***

WRI started to co-ordinate activities for International Conscientious Objection Day (15 May) in 2002, to fill a void left by the International Conscientious Objection Meeting (ICOM), which did not meet after 1996, and now no longer exists.

In 2007, International CO Day focused on Colombia, and was organised in co-operation with the *National Assembly of Conscientious Objectors* in Colombia. The event was hosted by WRI affiliate Red Juvenil in Medellín.

The focus of International CO Day 2008 was on the professionalisation of the military, and counter-recruitment. However, due to a range of problems an international event did not happen that year.

In 2009, the focus was on South Korea. In addition to an issue of *The Broken Rifle*, WRI published a documentation on conscientious objection in South Korea, in close co-

operation with *Korea Solidarity for Conscientious Objection* (KSCO).



Performance in Seoul on 15 May 2009 - International Conscientious Objection Day. Photo: Simo Hellsten

In 2009, South Korean intern *Myungjin Moon* and German volunteer *Julian Dinkgrefe* did a lot of the work on the documentation. In addition, Myungjin Moon drafted an update to the WRI *World Survey Conscientious Objection and Recruitment* country report.

For 2010, it is planned to have a focus on Women and Conscientious Objection. A possible host country for an international event is Paraguay.

### ***Prisoners for Peace Day***

While WRI attempted in the past to develop Prisoners for Peace Day on 1 December into more of a campaign, this has not been successful. Since 1 December is now also World Aids Day, it is almost impossible to get media attention for a niche theme such as Prisoners for Peace on that day.

In 2006, the focus of Prisoners for Peace Day was on "Supporting peace and human rights in Russia", following the murder of Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya. In 2007, the focus was "Support antimilitarists in Turkey".

In 2008, it was decided to scale back *Prisoners for Peace Day*, and to no longer produce an issue of *The Broken Rifle* dedicated to it. This coincided with the launch of WRI's new website, which includes a permanent *Prisoners for Peace* list, accessible via the "In Prison Now" link on the front page. However, in 2008 WRI still produced a "Prisoners for Peace Honour Roll", which was also included with WRI's December Appeal.

### ***Conscientious Objection Information System (COBIS)***

With the launch of WRI's new website in November 2008, WRI also launched the *Conscientious Objection Information System* (COBIS). The COBIS system combines several elements of WRI's work on conscientious objection:

- WRI's co-alert system in cases of imprisoned conscientious objectors;
- a conscientious objector and activist database;
- the co-update e-newsletter;
- and the world survey on conscientious objection and recruitment.

The system also includes a permanent Prisoners for Peace list, which will strengthen our support for imprisoned conscientious objectors and peace activists.

The core of COBIS is the Activist/Conscientious objectors' database, which features conscientious objectors from many countries, and includes a range of data.

### Women CO Anthology

While the project to publish a Women CO Anthology, which started after the WRI Council meeting in South Korea in 2005, got stalled in 2008, despite some initial enthusiasm, it was revived again in 2009 and is now scheduled for publication in early 2010 (ISBN 978-0-903517-22-5).

Almost all contributions have now been received and translated into English. They also have been reviewed by editors *Ellen Elster* and *Majken Sørensen*, and are presently being copy-edited by *Mitzi Bales*. *Cynthia Enloe* has contributed a preface, and so far WRI received endorsements from *Cynthia Cockburn* and *Ayse Gül Altınai*.

### World Survey of Conscientious Objection and Recruitment updates

As a cooperation project with WRI Council member *Tobias Pflüger* MEP, WRI produced an update to the *Refusing to bear arms* world survey, limited to the countries of the European Union and European Union candidate countries. This update includes information on conscientious objection for professional soldiers. The update was published by the GUE/NGL parliamentary group in October 2008, and the individual country reports have also been incorporated into WRI's *World Survey on Conscientious Objection and Recruitment*. The report itself can be downloaded from WRI's website. Print copies are available free of charge on WRI's webshop at <http://wri-irg.org/node/8415>.

In addition to this update, the country report on Eritrea has been updated by *Julian Dinkgreffe*, and the country report on Switzerland was updated by WRI's programme staff.



## Country-Specific Work

### Colombia

Since 2006, Colombia has been one focus of WRI's Right to Refuse to Kill programme. In July 2006, just before the WRI Triennial in Germany, *Andreas Speck* participated in an international conference on solidarity with Colombian conscientious objectors in Bogota. This was the beginning of a close co-operation with the *National Assembly of Conscientious Objectors* (ANOOC) in Colombia.

International Conscientious Objection Day 2007 focused on Colombia (see above), and on this day WRI and ANOOC also launched the "Conscientious Objectors' ID Card". Although the card does not have any legal status, it is a symbol of the recognition of the right to CO in international law, especially following the groundbreaking decision of the UN Human Rights Committee on two South Korean CO cases from November 2006 (CCPR/C/88/D/1321-1322/2004, 23 January 2007).

The card and the underlying Conscientious Objectors' Database form the basis of solidarity activities in case a 'registered' conscientious objector gets into trouble with the Colombian authorities, as background information about the CO concerned is then already available to the network (with the launch of WRI's new website in November 2008, the database has been expanded to also include conscientious objectors from other countries. It is now also the basis for WRI's permanent Prisoners for Peace list).



Two members of the *Accion Colectiva de Objetores y Objektoras de Conciencia* from Bogotá visited Europe in November and December 2007, and also visited several WRI affiliates – among others, groups of AA-MOC in the state of Spain and Union Pacifiste in France.

*Andreas Speck* visited Colombia again in May 2008, and visited groups in Cali, Villa Rica, Bogotá, Sincelejo, and Medellín. He also met various governmental officials and the *Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights* in Colombia.

Also in May 2008, the United Nations *Working Group on Arbitrary Detention* published its Opinion No 8 (Colombia) on three cases from Colombia, submitted to the Working Group by War Resisters' International.

In March 2009, Colombian NGOs and CO groups submitted a "demand of unconstitutionality" to Colombia's Constitutional Court, claiming that the country's recruitment law violates the constitution by not providing exemption for conscientious objectors. Jointly with the Quaker United Nations Office at Conscience and Peace Tax International, WRI submitted an *Amicus Brief* to the Constitutional Court.

In August 2009, WRI submitted a detailed report on recruitment and conscientious objection in Colombia to the United Nations *Human Rights Committee*.

In addition, WRI has intervened with Colombian authorities in several individual cases of recruitment. In spring 2008, the combined efforts of ANOOC, WRI and others lead to the release of Diego Alexander Pulgarin and Diego Yesid Bosa Rico from military service, after several months of resisting within the military.

### Turkey

Turkey was the focus for Prisoners for Peace Day 2007. In addition, WRI acted on the cases of COs *Halil Savda* and *Mehmet Bal*, both of whom were arrested in the course of 2007. Mehmet Bal has now been released, while Halil Savda was only released after serving his prison term. Both have been discharged from the Turkish army as unfit for military service. Turkish COs consider the discharge of objectors from the military as “unfit for service” following an arrest to be possibly a new strategy of the Turkish state.



WRI presented the case of Halil Savda to the *Working Group on Arbitrary Detention*. Its opinion, published in May 2008, goes further than in the past and now says that any deprivation of an objector's liberty – not just repeated imprisonment – has to be seen as arbitrary.

The Turkish edition of the book documenting the international conference on CO in Istanbul on 27-28 January 2007 has been published. The English edition was published by Zed Books in spring 2009, and is now available on WRI's webshop. Both have been edited by *Özgür Heval Cınar* and *Coskun Üsterçi*, and include contributions by, among others, *Andreas Speck*, WRI Executive member *Pelao Carvalho*, and several other WRI activists.

### Russia

*Andreas Speck* and Exec member *Sergeiy Sandler* visited Russia in late February and early March 2007, consolidating existing links and making new contacts with a variety of Russian groups. It is becoming increasingly clear that most Russian contacts are interested in WRI for its experience of antimilitarism and nonviolence, and work little on the formalities of conscientious objection. As a follow-up, *Olga Miryasova* participated in the WRI/New Profile seminar on gender and militarism in August 2007, where she gave a presentation on “Abuse in the Military – Gender Aspects” (available on the WRI website).

Work on Russia also continues as part of the Nonviolence Programme.

## Organisation and Network

### The Office

#### Staff, Volunteers and Interns

All three WRI staff members have often been working long hours, and the workload has sometimes been increased due to changes in the office (see below). In September 2009, WRI's finance and admin worker *Yvonne Kassim* retired, and at the time of writing the report WRI is recruiting a replacement.

In the last three years WRI has received a range of volunteers and interns. *Sofie Henell* helped in the office about two days a week in autumn 2008 with work on the India conference. *Julian Dinkgreffe* from Germany did a voluntary social year in the WRI Office from August 2008 to July 2009, doing most of the porting of the old WRI website to the new website. In September 2009, *Christopher Bösch* from Germany started his voluntary social year in the WRI Office. From January to April 2009 *Myungjin Moon* from South Korea did a three month internship in the WRI office, mostly working on conscientious objection in South Korea.

Unfortunately, in September 2007, two Russian interns who were supposed to come to London got their visas denied. This meant that work on Russia could not progress as much as we would have hoped.

London-based volunteer *Natasha Burton* volunteered in the office three days a week from 2007 until December 2008, first trying to raise funds for a co-operation project with the Eritrean Antimilitarism Initiative in Germany and the Eritrean Movement for Democracy and Human Rights in South Africa. After that, she developed a research proposal on military service and domestic violence. *Martyn Lowe* is still taking care of WRI's paper archives, and helps with mailings. *Mitzi Bales* is presently volunteering to copy-edit the Women CO Anthology.

Until the launch of the new WRI website, in November 2008, *Ken Simons* was the voluntary webmaster of WRI, often putting up new information at an incredible speed. *Simo Hellsten* volunteered to provide the theming for WRI's new website.

WRI has also benefited from the work of our financial agents: *Tom Leonard* in New York, taking over from the late *Ralph DiGia*, and *Helga Weber* in Germany continue to do vital voluntary work handling WRI's income in the USA and Germany.

And last but not least, WRI would not be able to function without the many voluntary translators: *Inge Dreger*, *Gerd Büntzly*, *Francesca Denley*, *Pedro J. Ballesteros*, *Carlos Barranco*, *Nayua Abdelkefi*, *Pelao Carvalho*, *Oscar Huenchunao*, *Cecile Barbeito Thonon*, *Ima Katarina Segunda Drolshagen*, *Silke Makowski*, *Tikiri*, *Rene Burget*, and many others.

**Deaths:** Under finance, we have already noted legacies bequeathed to WRI by people who have died since 2006.

We also look back with gratitude on the long and active lives of figures such as *Jean van Lierde*, past treasurer and vice-chair of WRI, *Ralph DiGia*, our US financial agent for decades, and *Howard and Margaret Cheney* (British tax resisters and generous donors to WRI). The sudden death of *Keith Goddard* in October 2009, director of Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe who had planned to come to the conference in Ahmedabad, has been a heavy blow for all those who worked with him.

## Office Space and Equipment

There have been many changes in the office space, especially in 2007, aimed at cutting down on office rent. WRI gave up the meeting room and the small front office at the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of 5 Caledonian Rd., London. In exchange, WRI got a new small office extension on the roof of the building. Peace News Trustees, the owners of the building, have also created a new meeting room space in the basement, which can be used by all the groups based at 5 Caledonian Rd. free of charge.

All these office changes put an extra burden on WRI staff, who not only had to cope with the construction works, but also had to do some of them, especially wiring and furnishings, themselves. However, these changes allow us to save several thousand pounds a year on rent.

In 2008, WRI took over managing its premises from the *Lansbury House Trust Fund*, who had acted as an intermediary before. Immediately, WRI switched its electricity provider and now uses *Ecotricity*, a company providing electricity produced entirely from renewable sources, mainly from wind turbines.

In terms of equipment, WRI maintained its policy to buy one new computer every year, to keep its computer system up to date. In September 2009, WRI also completed the process of moving the entire office to the *GNU/Linux* operating system, so that WRI no longer is dependent on commercial proprietary software.

## The Network

### Achievements

- After a long break, WRI again has a treasurer.
- Serious work has been done, and partly implemented, on the WRI's pattern of meetings.
- WRI's first ever Internet-based Council meeting took place in June 2009.

### Challenges

- Follow-up on discussions and decisions between Council meetings is minimal. Almost all of the work that is being done is coordinated, and mostly performed, by the office staff and, to a lesser degree, by Executive members and a handful of other committed, but busy, individuals.

- Gender balance on Council and in the Executive Committee is difficult to attain.
- Participation in the e-Council was strongly dominated by men, and by staff and Executive Committee members.
- WRI needs to review the utility of the Working Groups, that only exist nominally, and adopt other models for developing cooperation.

## Executive Committee

The Executive consists of *Howard Clark* (chair), *Boro Kitanoski*, *Sergeiy Sandler*, *Majken Sørensen* (until July 2008), *Pelao Carvallo* (from September 2008), and *Hilal Demir* (from September 2008). *Dominique Saillard* joined the Executive as Acting Treasurer in February 2008, and was appointed as Treasurer at the Council Meeting in Bilbao in September 2008. The Executive as a whole now has a clearer understanding of financial objectives. Dominique has also contributed her own fundraising and organisational skills into our work. She obtained the funding for the *Nonviolence Training Exchange* and the 2008 Council in Bilbao and did much of the organising work for the event.

The Executive usually met three times a year – once at the seminar and Council meeting, and twice in the course of the year. While regular Executive meetings were traditionally held in the office, since 2008, they have increasingly taken place elsewhere, often linked to other activities (such as NATO-Game over in Brussels in March 2008, or the Berlin anti-NATO conference in October 2009), to allow for a stronger WRI presence in these events.

## Council meetings and conferences

The 2007 Council meeting was held in Neve Shalom, Israel, in August 2007. The 2007 Council meeting raised several issues of importance for our future work. Substantial progress has been made on the difficult issue of the WRI Constitution, serious and detailed consideration has been given to planning WRI's pattern of meetings in the coming years and some thinking was started on decentralising WRI's activities, both to prepare for the possibility of losing our central office and to strengthen the WRI network in general.

Alas, follow-up on these subjects in between Council meetings was a problem – another testimony to the need to expand and invigorate our network. The issue of decentralisation was essentially not followed up. The Constitution Committee held very few discussions over the following year.

Council 2008 took place in September 2008 in Bilbao in the Basque Country (State of Spain), and was mainly organised by WRI's Treasurer *Dominique Saillard*. The Council finalised a proposal for a new WRI Constitution (see under Constitution), and decided on to hold WRI's an electronic Council meeting in summer 2009.

WRI's electronic Council meeting (or e-Council, for short) was held on 3-16 June 2009. While we did have an e-mail consultation of Council back in 2003, this was the first time we experimented with an internet-based format for a proper Council meeting. This, of course, allowed for a very significant saving in resources, and is a format that we should probably be using more in the future.

In some senses the experiment was a success. There were discussions, some quite lively, on the different Council threads. All in all, we had 34 people taking part, on one level or other, in e-Council discussions, which is quite comparable to the attendance of a physical Council meeting.

That said, the pattern of participation revealed many problems. About two thirds of participants were men, who were responsible for more than 85% (!) of all posts to the discussion threads – a classical exercise in gender studies wouldn't have produced a more telling picture. The participation was also very much centre-driven, in that WRI staff, Executive Committee members, and a few others who were facilitators of discussion threads were together responsible for almost two thirds of the posts made. On the other hand, the relatively large number of contributions made was very off-putting for many other participants, who could not handle the amount of e-mail messages they received, or had difficulty with the technical side of things. Finally, language was also an important issue, as the little discussion there was on the Spanish language Council forum was often quite disconnected from the discussion on the same subjects in English.

All these problems call for reworking the ways in which future e-Council meetings will be conducted, both in terms of the technological systems used and in terms of our own discussion etiquette.

As for the topics discussed, the e-Council accepted the HRJP Foundation of Nigeria to WRI as an associate, and the Tolstoyans (UK) as a section, some discussions have been held in preparation for our International Conference in India and our Global Initiative against War Profiteers (see under Nonviolence Programme above) was discussed and received the blessing of several activists inside and outside the WRI network, who took part in the discussion.

## Working Groups

The idea of Working Groups was that they could offer a place for WRI activists to network with each other on particular themes without depending on the office. Historically some valuable work has been carried out by some of these groups – but at the moment not one of them offers a model of how our network can function more effectively.

The Africa Working Group, despite the effort made in having a noticeable WRI presence at the Nairobi World Social Forum in 2007, remains largely limited to the information-gathering and networking with African groups of its long-time convenors, Matt Meyer and Jan

van Crieking. Their valuable work is greatly appreciated, but 15 years ago we thought of this as a launchpad for something more.

The Colombia Working Group is no more than an email list – useful for some coordination but not a group, and with no plans.

There has been little activity in the Nonviolence Training Working Group email list. Group convenor Dorie Wilsnack and some list members made a significant contribution to the editorial process of the *Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns*, but it seems a different structure is required to give more support to the development of nonviolence training as part of the Nonviolence Programme.

WRI's work on gender has continued – notably the 2007 seminar in Neve Shalom, the gender exercises in the 2008 Nonviolence Training Exchange, the bringing to completion of the Women's CO Anthology (credit goes to editors Ellen Elster and Majken Sørensen), and the process of reflection stimulated by Cynthia Cockburn's research work on WRI (Cynthia was present at our Council meeting, and the preceding trainers' exchange, in Bilbao, and has presented her project to us there; her profile of WRI has been completed and sent out on the WRI-Internal mailing list). However, this has largely taken place outside the framework of the Women's Working Group, and there has been little activity on its email list.

The Working Group on Military Intervention established notionally at WRI's 2006 conference has not functioned as envisaged but see the section below on European regional networking.

Apart from the Women's Working Group, WRI Working Groups have not provided a good vehicle for cooperation within WRI more or less since the advent of the internet! Increased regional cooperation in Latin America and Europe is pointing to a different way of improving cooperation between WRI activists, but the need remains for some more global and more thematic meeting points.

## Regionalisation and Liaison with Other Groups

### Achievements

- In recent years, it has been possible to develop a core network of European WRI and non-WRI groups working together against NATO and militarism.
- The work within the broader anti-NATO coalition has also increased the visibility of WRI and its affiliates in the broader peace movement.
- On the initiative of *Vredesactie*, it has been possible to obtain funding for several European WRI affiliates to continue this networking.
- A Latin American regional network is also forming. The need for such a

network has been felt and recognised by a number of Latin American activists and groups, and lively communication has been established between them, linking also with the WRI office in London.

- WRI has strengthened its cooperation with a range of international and regional organisations.
- The participation in the International Coordination Committee No to NATO 2009 has increased WRI's visibility in the broader peace movements, although it has not always been easy.

### Challenges

- Too much of the European networking has so far been initiated or coordinated by the WRI Office, and also by WRI's Belgian affiliate *Vredesactie*. The network does not yet function on its own, and does not yet take decisions as a network.
- The Latin America network is yet to arrange a regional meeting (although one is planned for the coming year).
- Too much of the liaison with other organisations is reliant on the WRI Office, even when there is not a clear need for this.

### Regional Networking: Europe

In early 2003, in the run-up to the war on Iraq, British nonviolent action groups called for coordinated action at military bases against the war on Iraq. In February 2003, the WRI Executive Committee decided to take up the idea to call for a weekend of nonviolent action at military bases under the slogan "*Reclaim The Bases*". This was meant also to strengthen networking among WRI's more action-oriented European affiliates.

While back then the success was very limited – not only in terms of the attempt to prevent the war on Iraq, but also in terms of strengthening our network – WRI's Belgian section *Vredesactie* later took the initiative to build a stronger European network focusing on nonviolent direct action (expanding a network of its own European contacts, including some other WRI affiliates, developed while organising actions against nuclear weapons sites since 1997).

For the *European Social Forum* (ESF) in London in 2004 the WRI Office initiated some cooperation between European WRI groups and other peace organisations, to organise a series of workshops at the forum. This involved – among others – *DFG-VK*, *Vredesactie*, and the *Campaign Against Arms Trade*.

At the Triennial in Germany in 2006, it was decided to establish a *Working Group Against Military Interventions*, focusing primarily on groups in Europe. The objectives were:

- to create a network of groups (WRI and non-WRI) to work on actions against military interventions and military infrastructure
- to promote this area of work among European WRI members

While it is hard to claim that the Working Group really functioned, *Vredesactie* and the WRI Office have cooperated in strengthening the European network since.



NATO-Game over action in Brussels, Easter 2008

In March 2008, *Vredesactie* organised an international *Bombspotting* action at the NATO headquarters in Brussels, with support from the WRI Office. Of the 1,000 participants, more than a hundred came from other European countries – Spain, France, Britain, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Finland, Croatia, Macedonia, Russia, and possibly other countries.

Following the action itself, a seminar on *Military Globalisation and Nonviolent Resistance in Europe*, co-organised by *Vredesactie* and WRI, was held with the aim of strengthening the European coordination of groups campaigning against military infrastructure and military intervention coming out of Europe. The seminar was attended by many groups in the WRI network and beyond. WRI affiliates *AA-MOC*, *KEM-MOC*, *Peace Action*, *AMK*, *DFG-VK*, *AKL Finland*, *UPF* and possibly others were involved.

In September of the same year, WRI was involved in an initiative of the Swedish antimilitarist group *Ofog* to organise a *European Peace Action Forum* as part of the *European Social Forum* in Malmö, 17-21 September 2008. This again brought many of the groups mentioned above together.

Following the European Social Forum WRI got involved in the international coalition against NATO, which was formally launched at an international conference in Stuttgart on 4/5 October 2008. In addition, *Vredesactie* and the WRI Office pushed for nonviolent direct action at the NATO summit in Strasbourg on 3/4 April 2009, which led to the formation of the coalition *NATO-ZU (Shut down NATO)* in January 2009. In April, more than 200 people from many WRI affiliates participated in the NATO-ZU blockade. In October 2009, a meeting of several European WRI affiliates and other nonviolent groups is to take place in Berlin, to plan coordinated activities against NATO in the future.

## Regional Networking: Latin America

Since the last WRI Triennial, there have been a number of developments on regional networking in Latin America. Latin American participants at the 2006 Triennial in Germany agreed that more and better cooperation between antimilitarist groups in Latin America is needed. In parallel, following the CO day training and action in the USA in May 2006 some of the activists present proposed to relaunch a Latin American network, which later included the proposal of having a WRI regional office. The proposal was discussed at later gatherings (the *No Bases* conference in Quito and the 2007 CO day events in Colombia). The idea of a regional office fell through, at least for the time being, but work began on strengthening the direct cooperation between antimilitarist groups on the regional level.

As a first step, an e-mail group of Latin American antimilitarist activists was created for sharing information and working on concrete proposals of cooperation. Through these last years this listserve has been very active and groups from several countries are subscribed to it.

Some concrete examples of cooperation have been the two statements from the network, the first denouncing the escalation of conflict between Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador in March 2008, and the second condemning the recent coup in Honduras.

Another important cooperation effort has been the publication of the magazine *Periferica*, an initiative of GAAA in Asunción, Paraguay. The magazine has enjoyed the active participation of members from the regional network, which is consistent with their editorial line. The magazine has been a space for exchanging content and promoting the work of different organisations in the region.

An initiative that is still pending is to have a regional meeting that provides the space for consolidating the regional cooperation process. A proposal for a meeting in Quito, Ecuador, has been explored, without much success yet (mainly due to funding problems), but there is confidence that some kind of regional meeting will take place within the next year.

Following on the relatively good level of presence of Latin American activists at the 2006 Triennial, WRI has had Latin American activists present at its meetings since. Xavier León of Ecuador was present at the 2007 Council in Israel. A larger contingent of activists from Paraguay, Ecuador and Colombia took part in the 2008 Council in Bilbao. Latin American regionalisation was also one of the subject threads of our e-Council in 2009.

The presence of Adriana Castaño Román and Pelao Carvallo as elected Council members and especially Pelao joining the Executive, has helped to make WRI more visible in Latin America and to make Latin America more visible in WRI. We hope that the seeds that have been planted in these four years will bear fruit in the future.

## Liaison with groups outside WRI

WRI has more or less close relationships with a range of other organisations.

### *International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR)*

WRI has had contact with the IFOR office in Alkmaar on several occasions. Isabelle Geuskens and Benashe Hejazi from IFOR's *Women's Peacemaker Programme (WPP)* participated in the WRI/New Profile seminar "Gender and Militarism" in Israel in August 2007. This followed on from the close co-operation between the WRI Women's Working Group and IFOR's WPP on the international training consultation "*Asking the Right Questions: Gender and Nonviolence*" in 2004.

The Women's Peacemaker Programme will also be present at our upcoming conference, *Nonviolent Livelihood Struggle and Global Militarism – Links & Strategies* in January 2010 and gave us a crucial lead for fund-raising.

IFOR is also helping to spread WRI's *Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns*, and in spring 2009 ordered 200 copies of the handbook.

### *Quaker Peace and Social Witness/Turning the Tide*



Steve Whiting from QPSW/Turning the Tide at the Nonviolence Trainers' Exchange in Bilbao

WRI has had a good cooperation with Turning the Tide in the past few years. Staff members of TTT helped in the process of producing the Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns and helped promoting it. Steve Whiting from TTT attended the Nonviolence Training Exchange in Bilbao. TTT also cooperated with WRI in the preparation for workshops in nonviolence at the European Social Forum in Malmö in 2008. Marcus Armstrong represented them in Malmö and conducted a workshop on the Movement Action Plan together with Andreas Speck.

TTT has a year-long nonviolence training programme, which WRI interns have attended.

### ***International Coordination Committee No to NATO 2009 (ICC)***

In October 2008, WRI joined the International Coordination Committee No to NATO 2009 (ICC), which has been formed to organise the protest against the NATO summit in Strasbourg and Baden Baden on 3/4 April 2009. The ICC is a broad international (mainly European) coalition of peace, anti-war and anti-capitalist groups, involving groups from most European countries, but so far dominated by German and French groups.

Working in this coalition has not always been easy. Before the summit, WRI had to work hard to create understanding and acceptance for actions of civil disobedience during the summit – something which especially most of the French groups found hard to accept.

After the summit, which was overshadowed by violent actions, WRI's objective is to be clearer on nonviolence within this broader coalition. This has been reflected, among other things, in a series of articles by Andreas Speck, which have generated a fair amount of debate in the movement (see: "Strasbourg – The organiser's viewpoint", in *Peace News* No 2510, June 2009; "NATO-ZU/Shut down NATO: A successful nonviolent blockade in Strasbourg in the middle of violence", <http://wri-irg.org/node/7162>; "After Strasbourg: On dealing with violence in one's own ranks", in *Graswurzelrevolution* No 339, May 2009).

WRI's future involvement in the ICC and the broader anti-NATO coalition is to be discussed at a meeting with several European WRI affiliates and other nonviolent action oriented groups in Berlin, in October 2009.

### ***Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) Geneva***

WRI has a close cooperation with QUNO Geneva as part of the work of the *Right to Refuse to Kill* programme. Rachel Brett from QUNO Geneva participated in meetings with Colombian authorities following the 15 May activities in Colombia in May 2007. There has also been a close co-operation on submissions to the *Working Group on Arbitrary Detention* and in relation to the *Universal Periodic Review* and the evaluation of country reports by the *Human Rights Committee*.

### ***Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI)***

WRI has a close cooperation with CPTI as part of the work of the *Right to Refuse to Kill* programme, also linked to our joint work with QUNO (referred to above). Derek Brett from CPTI participated in meetings with Colombian authorities following the 15 May activities in Colombia in May 2007. In addition, Derek Brett and Andreas Speck regularly share information on the situation regarding conscientious objection in a range of countries – information which forms the basis of CPTI's and WRI's submissions to the *Human Rights Committee* and the *Universal Periodic Review*.

Andreas Speck also participated in the International Conference on War Tax Resistance and Peace Tax Campaigns in Manchester in September 2008.

WRI, CPTI and QUNO Geneva submitted a joint amicus brief to the Constitutional Court of Colombia, in support of a claim of unconstitutionality of the Colombian law on recruitment (see *Right to Refuse to Kill* programme). The same organisations – plus the Geneva based *CCPR Centre* – hope to co-operate on a project to update and expand Emily Miles' book *The Conscientious Objector's Guide to the UN Human Rights System*", originally published by WRI in 2000.

### ***SFD Kassel***

In 2008, WRI began a cooperation with the SFD Kassel, an organisation sending Germans abroad for a year-long voluntary service. As part of this cooperation, Julian Dinkgreffe did a voluntary service at WRI from August 2008 to July 2009. Christopher Bösch started his voluntary service on 1 September 2009.

### ***El Libertario***

*El Libertario* is an anarchist and antimilitarist periodical published by a collective of the same name. Cooperation with *El Libertario* started in 2004 when Rafael Uzcategui, from Venezuela, attended the 15<sup>th</sup> of May event in Santiago, Chile. In 2006 WRI actively participated at the Alternative Social Forum in Caracas, Venezuela which was organised by *El Libertario*. In 2007 Rafael Uzcategui joined the WRI delegation to the World Social Forum in Nairobi, Kenya, to speak about the importance to strive against all militarism, highlighting the strong militarisation that the Venezuelan society is facing in the past years, while at the same time recognising the importance of changes in Venezuela. More recently Howard Clark wrote the preface for a forthcoming book published by *El Libertario* about militarism. Rafael Uzcategui has been one of the key members promoting a stronger cooperation between antimilitarist groups in Latin America and helped draft the statements against the escalation of confrontation between Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador as well as the statement against the coup in Honduras. Finally WRI has published several articles written by Rafael Uzcategui focusing on Venezuela and the arms trade and the general increase of militarisation in Venezuela.

### ***Ofog***

WRI's worked closely with the Swedish antimilitarist group *Ofog* in organising the European Peace Action Forum at the European Social Forum in Malmö, Sweden, in 2008. *Ofog* has also been our partner in several anti-Nato actions, and, most recently, in the Europe for Peace project (see under Finances above).

### ***European Network Against Arms Trade (ENAAT)***

WRI has had a good cooperation with ENAAT since the last WRI Triennial. ENAAT was very well represented at the Germany Triennial, with activists from Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) in the UK, Vredesactie in Belgium (also a WRI affiliate) and Campaign Against the Arms Trade in the Netherlands, who were key participants

of the theme group on war profiteers. WRI has attended ENAAT annual meetings in Oslo and in Barcelona (where we were represented by Exec member Hilal Demir).

WRI organised a workshop on war profiteers at the 2008 European Social Forum, where SPAS from Sweden, Centre d' Estudis JM Delas from Catalonia and Vredesactie from Belgium were speakers representing ENAAT. The latest manifestation of this cooperation was the participation of Ann Feltham (CAAT, UK), Inez Louwagie (Vredesactie) and Wendela de Vries (Campaign Against the Arms Trade in the Netherlands) at the war profiteers topic at WRI's e-Council.

### ***Committee for Conflict Transformation Support (CTS)***

As in previous years, WRI remained represented at CTS meetings. At the moment the future of the committee is not clear. Some individuals and organisations are still keen to have the committee continue functioning. WRI has been clear that it cannot put any energy into it apart from attending meetings and the odd cooperation when requested. Nevertheless, it was through the contacts made in the CTS that we managed to raise funds for the nonviolence training in Russia from the International Peacemakers Fund of FOR England.

### ***European Bureau for Conscientious Objection (EBCO)***

WRI cooperates with EBCO especially as part of its *Right to Refuse to Kill* programme. Andreas Speck attended EBCO meetings in Brussels and Athens.

## ***WRI publications***

### **Achievements**

- Through its new website, 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 high 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, and especially a WRI Yearbook, is so far missing.

Since summer 2006, WRI's publications have seen quite a few changes. New publications have been launched, and existing ones revamped. With the launch of WRI's new website in November 2008 (see below), WRI's publication strategy focuses much more on the internet.

### **Launch of WRI's new website wri-irg.org**

On 26 November 2008, WRI finally launched its new website, based on the open source Drupal Content Management system. The website was developed by *Netuxo Ltd*, a workers co-operative providing IT services for small NGOs and ethical business, and designed by *Simo Hellsten*, a long term activist with Finnish WRI section AKL and their section representative at the WRI Council for several years.

The new site includes a new online *Conscientious Objection Information System* (COBIS), which combines WRI's co-alert system in cases of imprisoned conscientious objectors, a conscientious objector and activist database, the co-update e-newsletter, and the world survey on conscientious objection and recruitment. The system also includes a permanent Prisoners for Peace list, which strengthens our support for imprisoned conscientious objectors and peace activists. In addition, the new website fully integrates *WRI Wiki*, WRI's own Wiki.

**Website access statistics**

Month	Daily Average				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	Volume	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Sep 2009 <sup>*)</sup>	23461	21953	12868	2628	8503	2.75 Gb	18401	90081	153677	164230
Aug 2009	29625	27171	19023	2833	29885	13.24 Gb	87827	589735	842331	918385
Jul 2009	28226	26403	17776	2048	28345	12.77 Gb	63508	551063	818513	875008
Jun 2009	30519	28180	17281	1996	29936	13.52 Gb	59887	518434	845402	915572
May 2009	30732	28779	16894	2026	32200	13.95 Gb	62809	523738	892169	952713
Apr 2009	33340	30784	17122	1968	30346	18.89 Gb	59067	513661	923538	1000224
Mar 2009	35329	32669	18469	1889	35576	27.97 Gb	58588	572547	1012762	1095204
Feb 2009	31192	28027	19308	1844	26570	13.72 Gb	51641	540630	784756	873399
Jan 2009	26889	24331	16153	1328	23710	11.55 Gb	41195	500760	754282	833579
Dec 2008	32419	28341	20910	1363	26993	12.95 Gb	42275	648235	878582	1005007
Nov 2008 <sup>**)</sup>	7754	5504	4013	277	5526	2.93 Gb	8324	120415	165143	232633

<sup>\*)</sup> Statistic has been prepared on 7 September, so does not cover all of September

<sup>\*\*)</sup> The website only went live at the end of November 2008, so the statistic does not cover the full month

Since the launch of the website in November 2008, the site has seen a steady increase of *visits*, with an average of 2800 daily visits in August 2009 (viewing 19,000 individual pages).

At the end of August 2009, WRI also launched its new webshop, which integrates better into the website. To increase the number of items for sale (especially books), WRI is now co-operating with its British affiliate *Housmans Bookshoop* who will stock peace and nonviolence related books which will be available for sale on WRI's webshop.

## 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, and some even in additional languages. Each issue focuses on a specific theme. Themes covered since summer 2006 include *war profiteers* (No 71, September 2006, No 77, February 2008), *Supporting peace and human rights in Russia* (No 72, November 2006), the *World Social Forum* (No 73, January 2007), *Support Conscientious Objectors in Colombia* (No 74, May 2007), *Choosing Nonviolent Action* (No 75, September 2007), *Support antimilitarists in Turkey* (No 76, November 2007), the *Professionalisation of the military* (No 78, May 2008), *NATO* (No 79, September 2008, No 81, February 2009), *Nonviolence Training* (No 80, December 2008), *conscientious objection in South Korea* (No 82, May 2009), and *Nonviolent Livelihood Struggle and Global Militarism: Links & Strategies* (No 83, September 2009).

Since the launch of the new WRI website in November 2008, *The Broken Rifle* is no longer published as a print publication, and as a consequence the English edition is no longer included in *Peace News*. All four language versions are now published as email-newsletter, and are available as HTML and PDF on the WRI website. Also, each individual article is now integrated into the website categorisation system.

### *wri-info*

The email-newsletter *wri-info* was launched in July 2005, with the first newsletter promoting WRI's seminar and Council meeting in South Korea. The objective of the newsletter is to provide information from the WRI Office. *wri-info* is mostly published in English, but some issues have also been translated into some of the other WRI languages.

The email-newsletter *wri-info* is not published regularly, but only ad-hoc when it is needed. The last edition, as of this writing, was published in July 2009, to promote the upcoming conference in India.

### *CO-Update / Informe OC / Objo-Infos*

*CO-Update* was launched in September 2004 as a monthly email-newsletter of WRI's *Right to Refuse to Kill* programme. Since June 2006 (No 21), *CO-Update* is also published in Spanish as *Informe-OC*, mostly translated by *Cécile Barbeito Thonon*. From August 2006 (No 22) until October 2008 (No 42), most issues were also published in French as *Objo-Infos*, mostly translated by *Tikiri*. However, since then a lack of volunteers for translation into French has made it impossible to continue the French edition of *CO-Update*.

In September 2009, the 50<sup>th</sup> edition of *CO-Update* was published.

### *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* has been launched in June 2006 as a newsletter of the *Nonviolence Programme's* work on war profiteers. *Warprofiteers-news* is published bimonthly in English, and since December 2006 also in 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. Some issues have also been translated into Korean, Turkish and Macedonian.

## Facebook

WRI started a "cause" on Facebook called War Resisters' International in 2008. The cause has now more than 2,800 members. The "cause" is mainly used to post announcements, for example co-alerts, or new editions of *warprofiteers-news* or *co-update*.

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

## Books and other print publications

The publication of Devi Prasad's book *War is a Crime Against Humanity* in 2005 was the beginning of WRI's more recent publishing activity. In January 2009, WRI published the *Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns*, of which 1,200 copies have been printed, and more than 1,100 sold by September 2009 (see more under *Nonviolence*

*Programme*). The Indonesian edition has been published by *Walisongo Mediation Centre* in 2009. At present, the project of a *Women CO Anthology* is nearing completion, and will be published early in 2010 (see more under *Right to Refuse to Kill*).



At the Council Meeting in Bilbao in September 2008, WRI started a discussion to publish a *WRI Yearbook*. While this project is still in its early stages, the WRI Executive hopes that a first edition can be published at the end of 2010 (Yearbook 2011).

In cooperation with Tobias Pflüger, WRI Council member and Member of the European Parliament, WRI worked on a publication called *Professional Soldiers and the Right to Conscientious Objection in the European Union*. It was published by the *GUE/NGL* parliamentary group in October 2008.

WRI staff, Executive and Council members contributed to several book projects. WRI staff *Andreas Speck* and Executive member *Pelao*

*Carvallo* contributed to the book *Conscientious Objection. Resisting Militarized Society*, edited by *Coskun Üsterci* and *Özgür Heval Çinar* and published by *Zed Books* in 2009.

WRI Chair *Howard Clark* co-edited *People, Power and Protest since 1945. A bibliography of nonviolent action*, published by *Housmans Bookshop* in 2006 and which he frequently updates at <http://civilresistance.info/bibliography/update>. *Howard Clark* is also editor of *People Power: Unarmed Resistance and Global Solidarity*, published by *Pluto Press* in 2009 – most of the contributors to this have links with WRI. This and all other books mentioned above are available for sale through the webshop on our new website.

With *Véronique Dudouet*, *Howard Clark* was also co-author of a report commissioned and published by the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the European Parliament on Nonviolent Civil Action in support of Human Rights and Democratisation.

WRI staff, Executive and Council members have also published a range of articles in movement and scientific magazines and journals.

## ***The WRI Constitution***

The WRI Constitution has been in need of revision for more than a decade, to bring it into line with the current practice of the international and its affiliates. Thanks especially to the persistence of *Kai-Uwe Dosch*, Council has reached a consensus on major revisions to the Articles which have now been submitted to Sections for a postal ballot. If passed, the next stage will be to revise the Rules.

## Appendix: WRI's financial figures

### Summary account

SUMMARY ACCOUNT	2008 % of budget	2008 Account	2008 Budget	2007 Account	2007 Budget	2006 Account	2006 budget
<b>Income</b>							
WRI Network (affiliations & sales)	109.63%	9,318.53	8,500	5,064.41	9,500	7,538.92	9,000
Donations	95.49%	22,918.43	24,000	17,221.98	9,500	16,937.65	15,500
WRI Project fundraising	103.96%	51,792.82	49,820	39,631.56	44,346	40,802.05	45,260
Seminar & Triennial fundraising	105.11%	14,190.07	13,500	4,266.93	14,400	22,732.09	50,800
Other income	172.49%	14,376.17	8,334	3,381.88	2,000	3,053.94	2,000
taken from WRI Reserves		0.00	0	2,929.07	4,922	16,358.67	20,720
<b>Total</b>	<b>108.10%</b>	<b>112,596.02</b>	<b>104,154</b>	<b>72,495.83</b>	<b>84,668</b>	<b>107,423.32</b>	<b>143,280</b>
<b>Expense</b>							
Central Office	99.08%	29,447.02	29,720	25,164.50	34,550	33,916.44	28,040
WRI Network	47.98%	3,166.53	6,600	1,954.28	3,750	1,645.47	3,100
WRI Projects	96.13%	63,704.84	66,270	55,489.07	61,346	49,248.96	59,760
Seminar & Triennial	158.47%	13,470.03	8,500	1,960.64	14,400	37,295.83	55,200
WRI Publications	171.28%	1,541.54	900	1,200.00	3,000	600.49	2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>99.41%</b>	<b>111,329.96</b>	<b>111,989</b>	<b>85,768.49</b>	<b>117,046</b>	<b>122,707.19</b>	<b>148,100</b>
<b>Year Result</b>	<b>-16.16%</b>	<b>1,266.06</b>	<b>-7,835</b>	<b>-13,272.66</b>	<b>-32,378</b>	<b>-15,283.87</b>	<b>-4,820</b>

### Summary balance sheet

BALANCE SHEET	31 Dec 08	31 Dec 07	31 Dec 06	31 Dec 2005
<b>Assets</b>				
Financial agents balances	5,761.93	9,282.11	6,796.87	2,236.91
Current accounts & cash	23,772.60	20,811.29	18,263.26	3,294.11
Accounts receivable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other current assets	30,752.12	1,440.00	1,440.00	1,440.00
Fixed assets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Deposit accounts	21,920.99	33,113.42	51,839.25	88,964.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>82,207.64</b>	<b>64,646.82</b>	<b>78,339.38</b>	<b>95,935.22</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accounts payable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Designated funds	5,449.16	998.98	203.26	-200.00
Debts	7,316.67	868.80	1,475.25	3,822.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,765.83</b>	<b>1,867.78</b>	<b>1,678.51</b>	<b>3,622.50</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>69,441.81</b>	<b>62,779.04</b>	<b>76,660.87</b>	<b>92,312.72</b>
<b>WRI reserves (held by LHTF)</b>	<b>1,114.40</b>	<b>1,553.62</b>	<b>4,921.91</b>	<b>21,719.80</b>

## Detailed accounts

<b>INCOME</b>	2008 % of budget	2008 Account	2008 Budget	2007 Account	2007 Budget	2006 Account	2006 budget
<b>WRI general income</b>							
Allocated donations				1,144.82	500	663.66	4,500
Appeal donations	33.95%	1358.18	4000.00	3,310.29	3,000	2,910.08	5,000
Donations (non appeal)	104.47%	5223.60	5000.00	2,298.80	5,000	5,310.59	5,000
Legacies		16336.65	15000.00	10,468.07	1,000	8,053.32	1,000
Affiliations	105.99%	8479.17	8000.00	4,552.80	7,000	6,005.58	7,000
Sales	167.87%	839.36	500.00	511.61	2,500	1,533.34	2,000
Interest received	92.45%	924.47	1000.00	1,467.64	1,500	2,365.25	0
Other income		4252.47		1,914.24	500	688.69	2,000
Service charges	145.51%	4889.88	3360.60				
Overhead from projects	108.44%	4309.35	3973.80				
subtotal Donations	95.49%	22,918.43	24000.00	17,221.98	9,500	16,938	15,500
subtotal Affiliations/sales	109.63%	9,318.53	8500.00	5,064.41	9,500	7,539	9,000
subtotal Other income	172.49%	14,376.17	8334.40	3,381.88	2,000	3,054	2,000
Total	114.15%	46,613.13	40834.40	25,668.27	21,000	27,531	26,500
<b>WRI Projects</b>							
Dealing with the past				0.00	0	0.00	0
Right to Refuse to Kill	103.02%	41022.22	39819.95	31,458.26	29,346	34,649.63	33,760
Nonviolence programme	96.98%	9697.54	10000.00	8,173.30	15,000	6,152.42	11,500
History Project				0.00			
Regionalisation		1073.06		0.00			
Total	103.96%	51,792.82	49819.95	39,631.56	44,346	40,802	45,260
<b>Yearly Seminars &amp; Triennial</b>							
Yearly Seminars		14190.07	9500.00	1,075.81	14,400	0.00	0
Triennial				3,191.12		22,732.09	50,800
Council			4000.00				
Total	105.11%	14,190.07	13500.00	4,266.93	14,400	22,732.09	50,800
<b>From WRI Reserves</b>				2,929	4,922	16,358.67	20,720
<b>Total Income</b>	108.10%	112,596.02	104154.35	72,495.83	84,668	107,423.32	143,280
LHTF rent&premises				2,929.07	4,922	11,858.67	

<b>EXPENSE</b>	<i>2008 % of budget</i>	<i>2008 Account</i>	<i>2008 Budget</i>	<i>2007 Account</i>	<i>2007 Budget</i>	<i>2006 Account</i>	<i>2006 budget</i>
<b>Central Office</b>							
Staff and volunteers	86.55%	12878.61	14879.60	11,383.91	13,000	12,480.25	12,800
Office rent & premises	110.83%	9464.61	8540.00	12,221.69	13,000	12,561.24	10,500
Office equipment & IT	93.75%	937.49	1000.00	848.61	1,500	2,128.09	600
Postage, copying & stationary	139.48%	3486.94	2500.00	-493.05	4,000	3,750.88	3,000
Telecommunication	192.41%	1346.87	700.00	627.60	750	740.29	1,200
Fundraising costs	77.89%	1168.41	1500.00	1,063.91	1,500	1,392.12	2,000
Sales costs			0.00	-3.60		28.62	500
Bank & admin costs & other	24.06%	144.35	600.00	-484.57	800	834.95	800
War Tax Resistance		19.74					
Overhead allocated to projects							-3,360
<b>Total Central Office</b>	<b>99.08%</b>	<b>29,447.02</b>	<b>29719.60</b>	<b>25,164.50</b>	<b>34,550</b>	<b>33,916</b>	<b>28,040</b>
<b>WRI Network</b>							
Representation (unallocated)						0.00	0
Networking						0.00	0
WRI Affiliates			100.00	0.00		0.00	100
WRI Council			3500.00		1,250	0.00	0
WRI Executive	105.55%	3166.53	3000.00	1,954.28	2,500	1,645.47	3,000
Regional networking			0.00				
<b>Total WRI Network</b>	<b>47.98%</b>	<b>3,166.53</b>	<b>6600.00</b>	<b>1,954.28</b>	<b>3,750</b>	<b>1,645.47</b>	<b>3,100</b>
<b>WRI Projects</b>							
Dealing with the past				0.00		0.00	0
Right to Refuse to Kill	96.74%	38523.51	39819.95	26,400.02	33,346	25,590.35	33,760
Nonviolence programme	91.53%	24210.57	26449.92	29,089.05	28,000	23,658.61	26,000
Crisis Response				0.00		0.00	0
History Project				0.00		0.00	
Regionalisation		970.76		0.00		0.00	
<b>Total WRI Projects</b>	<b>96.13%</b>	<b>63,704.84</b>	<b>66269.87</b>	<b>55,489.07</b>	<b>61,346</b>	<b>49,248.96</b>	<b>59,760</b>
<b>Yearly Seminars &amp; Triennial</b>							
Yearly Seminars		13470.03	8500.00	1,806.24	14,400	0.00	0
Triennial				154.40	0	37,295.83	55,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>158.47%</b>	<b>13,470.03</b>	<b>8500.00</b>	<b>1,960.64</b>	<b>14,400</b>	<b>37,295.83</b>	<b>55,200</b>
<b>WRI Publications</b>							
Broken Rifle	171.28%	1541.54	900.00	1,200.00	1,500	600.49	2,000
Peace News Magazine				0.00			0
Books				0.00	1,500		
WRI Women				0.00			0
<b>Total WRI Publications</b>	<b>171.28%</b>	<b>1,541.54</b>	<b>900.00</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>600.49</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>99.41%</b>	<b>111,329.96</b>	<b>111989.47</b>	<b>85,768.49</b>	<b>117,046</b>	<b>122,707.19</b>	<b>148,100</b>
<b>YEAR RESULT</b>	<b>-16.16%</b>	<b>1,266.06</b>	<b>-7835.12</b>	<b>-13,272.66</b>	<b>-32,378</b>	<b>-15,283.87</b>	<b>-4,820</b>

## Elected and appointed positions chosen or confirmed at the 2006 International Conference

Chair: **Howard Clark**, Britain/state of Spain

Internationally elected council members:

- **Adriana Patricia Castaño Román**, Colombia
- **Albert Beale**, Britain
- **Boro Kitanoski**, Macedonia
- **Chesterfield Samba**, Zimbabwe
- **Hilal Demir**, Turkey/Spain
- **Joanne Sheehan**, USA
- **Jørgen Johansen**, Norway/Sweden
- **Pelao Cavallo**, Chile
- **Sergeiy Sandler**, Israel
- **Stellan Vinthagen**, Sweden
- **Tobias Pflüger**, Germany

*The Council also includes a representative from each section and a non-voting observer from each associate organisation or publication.*

Executive committee: **Howard Clark**, **Boro Kitanoski**, **Dominique Saillard**, **Hilal Demir** (since October 2008), **Majken Sørensen** (until July 2008), **Pelao Carvallo** (since October 2008), **Sergeiy Sandler**