

INTERNATIONAL CENTER ON NONVIOLENT CONFLICT

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EIGHT SIGNS TO IDENTIFY NONVIOLENT CONFLICT

There are signs, often well before a strategic nonviolent movement has hit the headlines, to spot its early stages, growth and cumulative impact.

1. **Diversity** – A wide range of ordinary citizens, for example, urban and rural, young and old, men and women, working and middle classes, civil society, participate in nonviolent actions.
2. **Unity** - Different parts of society that did not previously cooperate – such as political opposition parties, students, civil society, and unions – begin to come together.
3. **Visible movement/name** – A new entity with a recognized name emerges to represent the nonviolent struggle.
4. **Vision for change** – The objectives of the nonviolent movement are clearly articulated, appeal to a broad base of the population, and provide a picture of what life will be like after success.
5. **Tactical variety** – A variety of actions or tactics are used. There are 198 nonviolent actions summarized by Dr. Gene Sharp, Resident Scholar of the Albert Einstein Institute at Harvard University.
6. **Geographical dispersion** – Nonviolent actions occur in many parts or all across the country or territory.
7. **Tactical sequencing** – Nonviolent actions occur systematically, are coordinated and reinforcing of one another, and progress from low risk to high risk over time.
8. **Opponent/regime crackdown** – The adversary cracks down on the nonviolent movement. Rather than being a sign of failure, crackdowns can indicate that the movement is having success and becoming a threat to the opponent's power and control.