The Methods of Nonviolent Protest and Persuasion

Formal Statements
1. Public speeches
2. Letters of opposition or support
3. Declarations by organizations and institutions
4. Signed public statements
5. Declarations of indignation and intention
6. Group or mass petitions

Communications with a Wider Audience
7. Slogans, caricatures, and symbols
8. Banners, posters, and displayed communications
9. Leaflets, pamphlets, and books
10. Newspapers and journals
11. Records, radio, and television
12. Street corner and cartholing

Group Representations
13. Petitions
14. Mock awards
15. Mock trials

Symbolic Public Acts
16. Displays of flags and symbolic colors
17. Wearing of symbols
18. Prayer and worship
19. Delivering symbolic objects
20. Processions
21. Destruction of own property
22. Symbolic light
23. Displays of portraits
24. Paint as protest
25. New signs and names
26. Symbolic sounds
27. Symbolic reenactments
28. Rude gestures

Pressures on Individuals
29. "Haunting" officials
30. Sleeping outside offices
31. False accusations
32. Vigil

Drama and Music
33. Humorous skits and parodies
34. Performances of plays and music
35. Singing

Processions
36. Marches
37. Parades

Religious Processions
38. Processions

Honoring the Dead
40. Political mourning
41. Mock funerals

Public Assemblies
42. Assemblies of protest or support
43. Meetings of protest
44. Teach-ins

Withdrawal and Renunciation
45. Walk-outs
46. Silence
47. Renouncing honor
48. Turning one's back

The Methods of Social Noncooperation

Ostracism of Persons
51. Social boycott
52. Selective boycott
53. Imitation nonaction
54. Excommunication
55. Interdict

Noncooperation with Social Events, Customs, and Institutions
56. Suspension of social and sports activities
57. Boycott of public affairs
58. Sanctuary
59. Collective dissent
60. Withdrawal from social institutions

Withdrawal from the Social System
61. Stay-at-home
62. Total personal noncooperation
63. "Flight" of workers
64. Vitamin boycott
65. Refusal to rent
66. National consumers' boycott
67. International consumers' boycott

Action by Workers and Producers
68. Workmen's boycott
69. Producers' boycott

Action by Middlemen
70. Suppliers' and handlers' boycott

Action by Owners and Management
71. Traders' boycott
72. Refusal to let or sell property
73. Lockout
74. Refusal of industrial assistance
75. Refusal of government's money

Action by Holders of Financial Resources
76. Withdrawal of bank deposits
77. Refusal to pay debts or interest
78. Severance of funds and credit
79. Revenue refusal
80. Refusal of a government's money

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The Methods of Economic Noncooperation: The Strike

Symbolic Strikes
88. Quickie walkout

Agricultural Strikes
89. Peasant strike
90. Farm Workers' strike
Strikes by Special Groups
101. Refusal of impressed labor
102. Prisoners’ strike
103. Craft strike
104. Professional strike

Ordinary Industrial Strikes
105. Establishment strike
106. Industry strike
107. Sympathetic strike

Restricted Strikes
108. Detailed Strike
109. Bumper strike
110. Slowdown strike
111. Working-to-rule strike
112. Reporting “sick” (sick-in)
113. Strike by resignation
114. Limited strike
115. Selective strike

Multi-Industry Strikes
116. Generalized strike
117. General strike

Combination of Strikes and Economic Closures
118. Hartal
119. Economic shutdown

The Methods of Political Noncooperation

Rejection of Authority
120. Withholding or withdrawal of allegiance
121. Refusal of public support
122. Literature and speeches advocating resistance

Citizens’ Noncooperation with Government
123. Boycott of legislative bodies
124. Boycott of elections
125. Boycott of government employment and positions
126. Boycott of government departments, agencies, and other bodies
127. Withdrawing from government-sustained institutions
128. Boycott of government-supported organizations
129. Refusal of assistance to enforcement agents
130. Removal of own signs and placards
131. Refusal to accept appointed officials
132. Refusal to dissolve existing institutions

Citizens’ Alternatives to Obedience
133. Reluctant and slow compliance
134. Nonobedience in absence of direct supervision
135. Popular nonobedience
136. Disguised disobedience
137. Refusal of an assembly or meeting to disperse
138. Civil disobedience
139. Noncooperation with conscription and deportation
140. Hiding, escape, and false identities
141. Civil disobedience of “illegitimate” laws

Action by Government Personnel
142. Selective refusal of assistance by government aides
143. Blocking of lines of command and information
144. Stalling and obstruction
145. General administrative noncooperation
146. Judicial noncooperation
147. Deliberate inefficiency and selective noncooperation by enforcement agents
148. Mutiny

Domestic Governmental Action
149. Quasi-legal arrests and delays
150. Noncooperation by constituent governmental units

International Governmental Action
151. Changes in diplomatic and other representatives
152. Delay and cancellation of diplomatic events
153. Withholding of diplomatic recognition
154. Severance of diplomatic relations
155. Withdrawal from international organizations
156. Refusal of membership in international bodies
157. Expulsion from international organizations

The Methods of Nonviolent Intervention

Psychological Intervention
158. Self-exposure to the elements
159. The fast
   a. Fast of moral pressure
   b. Hunger strike
160. Reverse trial
161. Nonviolent harassment

Physical Intervention
162. Strikers
163. Strikes
164. Rides-in
165. Work-in
166. Mill-in
167. Pray-in
168. Nonviolent raids
169. Nonviolent air raids
170. Nonviolent invasion
171. Nonviolent interjection
172. Nonviolent obstruction
173. Nonviolent occupation

Social Intervention
174. Establishing new social patterns
175. Overloading of facilities
176. Stall-in
177. Speak-in
178. Guerrilla theater
179. Alternative social institutions
180. Alternative communication system

Economic Intervention
181. Reverse strike
182. Stay-in strike
183. Nonviolent land seizure
184. Defiance of blockades
185. Politically Motivated Counterfeiting
186. Preclusive Purchasing
187. Seizure of assets
188. Dumping
189. Selective patronage
190. Alternative markets
191. Alternative transportation systems
192. Alternative economic institutions

Political Intervention
193. Overloading of administrative systems
194. Disclosing identities of secret agents
195. Seeking imprisonment
196. Civil disobedience of “neutral” laws
197. Work-on without collaboration
198. Dual sovereignty and parallel government

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Far too often people struggling for democratic rights and justice are not aware of the full range of methods of nonviolent action. Wise strategy, attention to the dynamics of nonviolent struggle, and careful selection of methods can increase a group’s chances of success.