

The Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship Presents

Dr. Stellan Vinthagen Book Launch

# A Theory of NONVIOLENT ACTION

## How Civil Resistance Works

“The four dimensions of nonviolent activism: A Theory of how civil resistance works”

It is a common misunderstanding that ‘nonviolence’ is either the same as religious pacifism or a value neutral protest technique. Professor Stellan Vinthagen will, based on an overview of new research and his own activist experiences, propose how nonviolent activism or civil resistance is something more than just protests and disobedience. Vinthagen will give theoretical perspectives as well as illustrating examples from different parts of the world that show how nonviolent activism hold a potential for human liberation, and is a form of struggle that can be creatively developed to fit different contexts and circumstances. However, nonviolent activism is not magic or pure, and its implementation involve many challenges.

Dr. Stellan Vinthagen is Professor of Sociology, a scholar-activist, and the Inaugural Endowed Chair in the Study of Nonviolent Direct Action and Civil Resistance at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where he directs the Resistance Studies Initiative ([umass.edu/resistancestudies](http://umass.edu/resistancestudies)). He is also Editor of the *Journal of Resistance Studies* (<http://resistance-journal.org>), Co-Leader of the Resistance Studies Group at University of Gothenburg, Sweden and co-founder of the international Resistance Studies Network ([www.resistancestudies.org](http://www.resistancestudies.org)), as well as a Council Member of War Resisters International, and academic advisor to the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict (ICNC). His research is focused on resistance, power, social movements, nonviolent action, conflict transformation and social change. He has since 1980 been an educator, organiser and activist in several countries, and has participated in more than 30 nonviolent civil disobedience actions, for which he has served a total of more than one year in prison. His latest book is *A Theory of Nonviolent Action - How Civil Resistance Works* (2015) <https://www.zedbooks.net/shop/book/a-theory-of-nonviolent-action/>



Stellan Vinthagen

Discussant:

**Nikolas Kosmatopoulos, PhD**

Assistant Professor of International Affairs and Anthropology



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