Who made the database?

Most of the cases at the time the database first went on-line (September 2011) were written by students at Swarthmore College, usually in the context of a research seminar taught in Peace and Conflict Studies by George Lakey. Most students wrote 10-12 cases but some wrote 24 or more (indicated by asterisks). Additionally, cases were contributed by students at Tufts University, supervised by peace and justice educator Dale Bryan, Georgetown University, http://scsonline.georgetown.edu/ [1], supervised by peace scholar Barbara Wien, Menno Simons College Winnipeg and Canadian Mennonite University, supervised by conflict resolution studies scholar Karen Ridd, and Kennesaw State University, supervised by Maia Hallward. A list of researchers’ names follows this section.

The name of the original researcher/writer is attached to each narrative. Because the database is a living resource, with continued updating of information, the researcher’s information and formulation may have been edited; if so, that is indicated.

Major work in editing and supporting the database was done by Lakey’s research assistants Markus Schlotterbeck, Max Rennebohm, Michael A. Hall, and Laura Rigell. They coached other researchers and helped prepare the database for publication; their thoughtful commitment and meticulous attention to detail were invaluable.

The web and database designer was Daniel Hunter, who brought to the task his considerable experience as a nonviolent strategist and coach along with his computer programming skills. Leslie Leach supports the website for Swarthmore’s Information Technology Services.

We wish to thank Gene Sharp for his feedback, and for laying the foundation of a scholarly field on which this database is built. Swarthmore’s research librarians in social sciences, Melanie Maksin and Sarah Elichko, helped us find sources, as did the curator of the Swarthmore College Peace Collection, Wendy Chmielewski, and her staff. The chair of Swarthmore’s Peace and Conflict Studies Department, Lee Smithey, gave ongoing support, as well as the director of Swarthmore’s writing program, Jill Gladstein, and the student writing coaches that worked with our students. Other faculty members gave encouragement and advice including Cynthia Halpern, Stephen Maurer, and Sarah Willie-LeBreton.

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George Lakey envisioned and manages the Global Nonviolent Action Database Project. His first arrest was for a civil rights sit-in and he has devoted his life to activism in a variety of movements: labor, peace, gay liberation, the men’s anti-sexist movement, and eco-justice. He co-founded Movement for a New Society and Training for Change, leading over 1500 social change workshops on five continents. A Quaker, he taught at Haverford College and the University of Pennsylvania, and has published eight books including Facilitating Group Learning, 2010, Jossey-Bass, Publishers. In 2010 the Peace and Justice Studies Association named him “Peace Educator of the Year.” He has also received the U.S. National Giraffe Award for “sticking his neck out for the public good.”

- George Lakey 18/08/2011
RESEARCHERS/WRITERS OF THE CASES

(All researchers from Swarthmore College unless otherwise noted)

Samia Abbass
Evan Abrams (Georgetown University)
Julio Angel Alicea*
ShaKea Alston
Celine Anderson
Meiri Anto
Kate Aronoff
Nida A. Atshan
Meghan T. Auker-Becker
Lydia Bailey
Chris Baker Evans
Ashley Banks
Michael Barkman (Menno Simons College)
Courtney Bear (Menno Simons)
Samantha Bennett
Derrek Bentley (Menno Simons)
Benjamin Bernard-Herman
Shandra Bernath-Plaisted
Arielle Bernhardt
Alison Besecker (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Elliana Bisgaard-Church
Janine Bjarnson (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Alexander Blocker
Pauline Blount
Angie Boehm (Menno Simons)
Quincy Brandt (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Tyler Buehler (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Irina Bukharin
Ashleigh Bunting (Menno Simons)
Matthew Burns (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Anjali Cadambi
Chelsey Caldwell (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Christopher Capron
Lindsay Carpenter (Tufts University)
Natalia Choi
Dylan Cohen (Menno Simons)
Justin Collicutt (Menno Simons)
Lamin Colly (Menno Simons)
Rebecca Marie Contreras
Elowyn Corby
Andrés Cordero
Patrick Curren (Georgetown University)
Geraldine Damsel contributed to case on People Power II (Menno Simons)
Daniel De Caria (Menno Simons)
Andrea Delisle (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Dinah DeWald
Nicholas Dirago (Georgetown University)
Lindsay Dolan
Brigitte Dorge (Menno Simons)
Caroline Dreyfuss
Vanessa Driedger (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Brett Ducharme (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Rachel Dunsmore (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Tyler Dusanek (Menno Simons)
Alexis Dziedziech
Aileen Eisenberg
Olivia Ensign
Iris Fang
Manuel Figueredo (Georgetown University)
Lewis Fitzgerald-Holland
Felicity Forbister (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Thomas Fortuna
Karla Froese (Canadian Mennonite University)
Alexander Frye
Gabriel Gabriel (Canadian Mennonite University)
David Gethings (Kennesaw State University)
Jasper Goldberg
Sarah Gonzalez
Benjamin W. Goossen
Beatriz Grace Baker
Rebecca Griest
Rebekah Grisim (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Patricia Gutiérrez
Colleen Hailley (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Fatimah Hameed
Soul Han
Alia Harb (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Matthew Carl Heck
Alyssa Hiebert (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Dylan Hillerbrand
Daniel R. Hirschel-Burns
Timothy Hirschel-Burns
Sachie Hopkins-Hayakawa
Darrah Horobetz (Menno Simons)
Jamie Irwin
Erica Janko
Hannah Jones*
Meghan Kelly
Kira Kern
Jeewon Kim
Jessica Piec (Menno Simons)
John Pontillo
Adriana Popa
Amanda Pratt (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Ploy Promrat
Yein Pyo
Tarit Rao-Chakravorti
Jasmine Rashid
Elizabeth Reilly (Bryn Mawr College)
Asha Miriam Stobbe Reimer (Menno Simons)
Nolan Reimer (Menno Simons)
Max Rennebohm*
Nikki Richards
Karen Ridd (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Laura Rigell
Angeline Rivard (Menno Simons)
Amy Robertson (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Jasmin Rodriguez-Schroeder
Melissa Romanow (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Alison Roseberry-Polier
Alexa Theresa Ross
Elena Ruyter
Peter Saunders (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Leah Grady Sayvetz (Bryn Mawr College)
Thomas Scharff (Georgetown University)
Clare Schellenberg (Canadian Mennonite University)
Nathalie Schils (Tufts University)
Markus Schlotterbeck
Kelly Schoolmeester
Danny Schwartz (Georgetown University)
Jessica Seigel
Yulia Senina (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Morial Shah (Georgetown University)
Samantha Shain (Haverford College)
Michelle Shepherd (Menno Simons)
Madison Shoraka
Carl Sigmond (Haverford College)
Margaret Slusher (Kennesaw State University)
Shayla Smith
Carmen Smith-Estrada
Andrew Steele
Hadley Stein (Georgetown University)
Walker Stole
Jan Stander (Menno Simons)
Kevin Strand
Hayley Summers (Canadian Mennonite University)
Barry Tabacznik (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Aden Tedla*
Matthew Turner
Jennifer Trinh
Melissa Urban (Menno Simons)
Ron Vadvnais (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Nicole Lisa Vanchieri
Ruth Vanstone (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Brendan T. Wakeman (Menno Simons)
Alexa Wallin (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Maurice Weeks
Mackenzie Welch
Jonathan White
Justin Woodruff (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Anne Wyman (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)
Yin Xiao
Sunny Yang
Dong Shin You
Ryan Zacharias (Menno Simons College Winnipeg)

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