

WHO WE ARE





Prelude by Safiya Bukhari 1950-2003

Sisters, Brothers, Comrades:

Organizing and building support for our political prisoners, prisoners of war/captured combatants is and should be a monumental part of our struggle. There should be no problem with understanding how intricate this work is to building a movement designed to win and not just exist. The lack of understanding of the relationship of the captured combatants incarcerated inside the prisons of the United States to

the overall struggle for freedom and independence is a major part of the setback to our struggle and a large part of that is due to the lack of an organizing strategy around our political prisoners and prisoners of war.

This organizing manual seeks to help level the playing field and clear out the debris, to make the work around political prisoners and prisoners of war crystal clear. We are involved in a struggle for freedom, independence and self-determination,

our political prisoners and prisoners of war came/come out of that struggle.

We have been caught up in a less than stellar amount of activity around building support for political prisoners, perhaps because of the less than stellar state of our movement itself. Either way, this manual serves to clear up the murky waters and point us in the direction to go.

When I was in the Black Panther Party, we used to say “Educate, Organize, Educate, Organize, Agitate, Liberate!” or something along those lines. But, the idea was clear, whatever we were attempting to do it began with education and it ended with liberation, or more precisely — educate to liberate! This manual helps us to educate the community and organize them in order to liberate our political prisoners and prisoners of war.

Jericho is a movement — A movement with a defined goal of getting recognition that political prisoners exist inside the prisons of the United States, despite the government’s denial; and winning amnesty and freedom for these political prisoners. While we are working to win amnesty and freedom for these political prisoners, we are demanding adequate medical care for them and developing a legal defense fund to insure legal representation as they need it for all sorts of developing issues. This manual will help you in organizing around these issues wherever you are and help us to build the Jericho Movement!

JERICHO '98



Jericho '98 was the brainchild of Jalil Muntaqim, a political prisoner who has now been incarcerated for more than forty years. Jalil borrowed the idea from the Provisional Government of New Afrika’s Jericho March that it had sponsored for about ten years, with the last march held in Washington, D.C. in front of the white house in 1993. Jalil’s contribution was to envision a nationwide Jericho March expanded to call for recognition and amnesty for ALL political prisoners that would be co-sponsored by the Provisional Government of the Republic of New Afrika

(PGRNA) and the New Afrikan Liberation Front (NALF). Safiya Bukhari and I visited with Jalil in prison to work out the strategy for this undertaking, and shortly after that visit the call went out across the country announcing Jericho '98 and asking for support. The response was impressive.

The work that was done by the coalition group that was put together in Washington, D.C. spearheaded by elements from the New Afrikan Liberation Front and Provisional Government of New Afrika deserves a strong vote of thanks. When the call went out for volunteers to join the Jericho Logistics Committee in D.C., the response was amazing. The core element of this coalition stayed together and they ran the full marathon. This group pledged to stay together for the second phase of Jericho.

It was clear from the inception that this March on Washington would not find favor with the United States government and that we could expect to have every conceivable roadblock put in our path. This became readily apparent when we sat down with the Washington, D.C. authorities months before the march to apply for permits. More than a half dozen meetings were held with them, and at each meeting new obstacles were raised as they tried one tactic after another to whittle down the anticipated size of our crowd to such petty items as where vendors could operate from and what they could and could not sell.

The struggle over vending rights continued to the day of the march, and we learned on that morning that the vendors would have to set-up their stands from the parade route and no sales or collection of be allowed in Lafayette Park, where the rally was. This meant that the flags, the souvenir newspaper, shirts and other items that were to be sold to expenses could not be sold. The anticipated the event would not be forthcoming to finance the Fund or the other post-march expenses. Individual contributions have continued to come in and we will continue with our plans to build a nationwide Jericho movement.



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Despite the fact that the establishment media didn't give Jericho any coverage, we struck a heavy blow at the main pedestal of America's post-cold war foreign policy. That policy is predicated on the hypocritical lies that the United States is a true democracy with the human rights of all her citizens guaranteed and there are no political prisoners in her jails. This allows the United States to point to other countries like Libya, Iraq, Cuba, China, etc., and accuse them of unacceptable human rights records. Jericho exposed to the world these vicious lies. We punched cracks in the wall of silence the us government has built



around the existence of political prisoners and prisoners of war who provide concrete evidence that a deadly struggle is going on inside the USA aimed at destroying this racist, capitalist, white supremacist system which denies her people the right to self-determination or the right to change this system by any means necessary. Jericho will continue to grow and we will bring down the walls that hide the infamy of the USA. This manual is a small step in that direction. Use it as another weapon against our enemy. **Herman Ferguson, New Afrikan Liberation Front**

Definition of Political Prisoner

How political prisoners are defined is based upon not just the objective reality of the conditions to which they either responded to or were victimized by; but also, upon the subjective interpretation of those doing the defining. For example, political prisoners from the domestic national liberations movements of the sixties and seventies are viewed by the State and power structure as no more than common criminals. The movements themselves, as well as and many conscious people and organizations, recognize them as political prisoners.

The Jericho definition of Political Prisoners is anyone captured as a result of their involvement in the domestic national liberation struggles of this country, and those incarcerated because of their actions against capitalist structures as members of social and progressive organizations.

Jericho has as its goal recognition and amnesty for those political prisoners incarcerated because of their participation in national liberation struggles. Jericho's full resources, including legal and financial

supports, go toward meeting that goal. However, Jericho also publicly recognizes and supports PPs from other causes – national and international.

Definitions of POWs

Those combatants who have been captured while engaging in armed struggle in support of national liberation, or against American imperialism or against white supremacy are regarded as prisoners of war (POW or POWs).

Jericho recognizes that based on the definitions of Political Prisoner and POW there are individuals who, based upon their actions and deeds, have become political prisoners or POWs during their incarceration.

Jericho does acknowledge the Geneva Convention's definition of POWs because of its international acceptance and application. Jericho also recognizes and relies on the Geneva Convention's application as it could and should relate to those political prisoners and POWs in the United States as defined by Jericho.

Geneva Convention

Definition of POW

A prisoner of war (POW) is a soldier, sailor, airman, or marine who is imprisoned by an enemy power during or immediately after an armed conflict.

The laws apply from the moment a prisoner is captured until he is released or repatriated. One of the main provisions of the convention makes it illegal to torture prisoners, and states that a prisoner can only be required to give his name, date of birth, rank and service number (if applicable).

Article 4 of the Third Geneva Convention protects captured military personnel, some guerrilla fighters and certain civilians.

MISSION STATEMENT

Jericho is a political and social movement

that seeks to gain recognition, support, and freedom for all political prisoners and prisoners of war in the United States who have principally struggled, whether or not in armed conflict, against oppression, exploitation, class bigotry, and racism.

This work on the part of Jericho applies as

well to political prisoners and prisoners of war, who struggle to secure freedom, justice, and self-determination for New Africans (African slaves and their descendants), for Native Americans, for Hispanics, for Puerto Ricans, for Hawaiians, for oppressed people in general, or for the amnesty and liberation of the politically oppressed or persecuted.

In all this work, Jericho seeks recognition, support, and freedom for all of these political prisoners and prisoners of war despite the United States' refusal to admit that it holds in captivity pp's & pow's who became captives as a result of domestic political conflict within or against the United States.

The role and influence of each political prisoner in Jericho is vitally important and necessary. Jericho gives priority to all political prisoners, always leaving an open door welcoming their input, suggestions, recommendations, criticisms, and advice.

Goals

- To build a national campaign, with substantial international support, that will compel the United States government to admit the existence of its political prisoners and prisoners of war, and grant them amnesty;
- By granting amnesty to our political prisoners and prisoners of war, compel the United States government to recognize and admit to the legitimacy of the struggles for liberation and independence waged by national independence movements and organizations of the sixties and seventies.

Objectives

1. To create and develop a united front with other like minded organizations and individuals around the issue of amnesty for all political prisoners and prisoners of war.
2. To educate communities across the United States as to who are these political prisoners and their life stories of involvement and contribution to the struggles for liberation and independence through the use of:
 - Speaking Engagements
 - Public forums
 - Conferences
 - Entertainment
 - Town hall meetings
 - Marches, demonstrations, and rallies
 - Media and newsprint
3. To organize local and regional Jericho organizing committees across the United States to facilitate and accomplish the goals and objectives.
4. To raise money and resources for a National Legal Defense Fund to attain legal representation.
5. To organize a Medical Committee to monitor prisoner psychological, health, medical conditions, and treatment.

Organizational Structure

STEERING COMMITTEE: The new Steering Committee (SC) will consist of a representative from each of the 6 Regions. A Region may have an additional representative if it has over 3 Chapters and another representative if it has over 6 Chapters, and so on.

Jericho Regions

1. Northwest Region
2. Western Region
3. Southwest Region
4. Midwest Region
5. Northeast Region
6. Southeast Region

What Constitutes a Jericho Chapter

A Jericho Chapter consists of 3 or more people who agree and commit to the mission, goals, and operating procedures of Jericho; who have clear roles of responsibilities; who pay the designated quarterly dues; who file a quarterly progress report; who conduct a Jericho event at least every quarter; who actively participate in national Jericho activities and events; and who adhere to and follow all instructions and organizational protocols defined in Jericho Manual.

A Jericho Affiliation consists of no more than two Jericho members in an area. In this case, member responsibilities still apply.

If there's not already a local group working specifically on political prisoner rights, we encourage you to start a Jericho chapter. Starting a new group can be a fun and challenging exercise. Jericho Chapters have the unique position of being connected to international campaigns, while also maintaining the ability to work on local issues.

If you choose to use the Jericho name, you must agree with the basic mission, goals, and operating procedures of Jericho, as described in this Manual. We are committed to building a grassroots resistance to the governmental war that criminalizes people who want to be free, and in order to do that we need basic unity and a solid communication system.

Each Chapter must be approved and recognized by National Jericho before it is identified as such.

To become a Jericho Chapter

your group must:

1. Include at least 3 or more members.
2. Have a name, telephone number and email address to be placed on Jericho website and be willing to act as a networking hub with local activists working on political prisoner issues
3. Spearhead local organizing for national and international days of action.
4. Organize a community action program on the issue of PPs and support at least once a quarter.
5. Help identify constituents for meetings with elected officials.
6. Identify people in your community most impacted by this white supremacist, murderous empire (USA)
7. File quarterly progress report with National Jericho which would include community alerts, updates, and organizational progress and problems
8. Obtain and send copies of signatories for the Jericho database, including any current petitions.
9. Initiate an ongoing group that meets regularly and does the political action side of political prisoner and prison industrial complex issues
10. Share e-mail and mailing lists with Jericho for alerts and updates
11. Besides these requirements, Jericho chapters are independent for campaign activities.

Suggestions for Chapters

Chapters should prioritize a balance of old and new members who are actively involved in the life of the chapter. Members should be familiar with organizational history. Opportunity should be always made to solidify new member connection to the Organization.

Chapters should prioritize members' ability

and willingness to communicate to the group. Members should be accountable to the group.

Chapters should prioritize members who consistently follow-through on tasks, meeting attendance, etc.

Chapters should prioritize members who are most harmed by the Prison Industrial Complex, (former prisoners, family members of prisoners, immigrant detainees, people of color, transgenders, etc).

The National Jericho Staff

Will Consist of Five Members:

1. Chairperson: To regulate and coordinate Steering Committee (SC) functions; to oversee general SC operations; chair SC meetings (including establishing time and setting agenda); ensure that Jericho stays in tune with its mission, and goals and objectives; and serve as National Spokesperson.
2. Co-Chairperson: Responsible for overseeing SC members and Chapter Heads to ensure that their responsibilities are being carried out and that organizational procedure is adhered to when required.
3. Secretary: Keep accurate minutes of SC meetings; preserve minutes and organizational documents; and send out SC communications (cleared by Chairperson) to Chapters.
4. Treasurer: Dispense of National funds needed once agreed upon by SC; be prepared to give oral up-to-date financial reports during SC meetings generate monthly financial report to SC and Chapters; maintain accurate financial records; and collect and record dues from Chapters.
5. National Youth Coordinator: Develop and propagate a national strategy for involving youth (teens and young adults) into the Jericho Movement and organization; and develop strategy to include responsible and politically aware and socially conscious youth into Jericho

leadership/SC/Chapter head positions of responsibility. (This position should be held by a young adult).

Duties and Responsibilities

Chapter Duties:

- Follow protocol and conduct regular recommended activities and events
- Have a representative on all monthly conference calls
- Provide quarterly Chapter Reports, including financial statement, to National Secretary
- Collect dues from Chapter members and send 60% to National Treasurer every quarter

Affiliate/Individual Member Duties:

- Understand and affirm Jericho's Mission, goals and position political prisoners and prisoners of war.
- Represent Jericho accordingly
- Pay full amount of dues directly to the National Treasurer (no 60%/40%)
- Participate in local and National events and activities when possible

Willful non-compliance with Duties and Responsibilities may warrant suspension upon appropriate investigation by Steering Committee or separate body designated by Steering Committee.

Dues

- Dues for each Jericho member are \$5 a month; or \$15 per quarter; or \$60 a year from July 1st of one year to June 30th of the next.
- Chapters are responsible for collecting membership dues each quarter.
- 60% of all dues collected will be sent to the National Treasurer; and the remaining 40% is used by the local Chapter in whatever way is collectively agreed upon.
- A standard collection and reporting form will be used for the keeping of accurate records.

Nomination and Election Procedures

- Terms: a steering committee member will hold a staff position or sit on the steering committee for two years with a term starting January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2014.
- Ratification: Each steering committee member will be ratified bi-annually on or shortly after January 1st on the non-election year. Such ratification will serve to ensure each member has organizational satisfaction, as well as to serve as an evaluation of work. If a member is not ratified, then that person stands to be removed from the steering committee after investigation of the reasons why and whether the dissatisfaction can be addressed and resolved.
- There will be no limit on the number of times a person can be nominated and elected for steering committee, but they must go through the process each time.
- Nominations will be accepted by the present/ standing steering committee from November 1st to November 15th. Standing SC will review nominations and present them to Jericho membership for voting.
- December 1st : election day
- December 7th : election results

Qualifications for Staff Nominees:

- Each nominee must sign an Agreement Statement indicating that they understand and support the mission, goals and objectives of Jericho. They will work in accordance with its procedures, and they will honestly, sincerely and earnestly work in the interest of our political prisoners and prisoners of war.

- Each nominee must submit a 250-500 word essay explaining their vision and ideas for Jericho, some of their accomplishments or experiences in the struggle, and how they see themselves functioning in the position for which they were nominated.
- Each nominee must submit their:
 1. Full name, aliases, and what they preferred to be called
 2. Date of Birth
 3. Place of Birth
 4. Present address, phone number, and e-mail
 5. Emergency contacts
 6. Each nominee must have at least 3 endorsements from Jericho members or known personalities in the struggle

AGREEMENT STATEMENT

I, _____, agree with the Mission, Goals, and Objectives of the Jericho Movement and organization as stated in the Jericho Manual.

I, _____, pledge to work honestly, sincerely, and earnestly in the best interest of Jericho and in accord with its guidelines and principles.

x _____

Signature

Some Practical Suggestions for the Jericho Movement Organizer

Each location should primarily focus on the political prisoners and prisoners of war in their regions, states and localities. This will ensure that support work for all political prisoners and prisoners of war can be practically achieved and that each political prisoner and prisoner of war will receive the maximum amount of attention, and none will be overlooked.

Not only will this serve immeasurably in strengthening the national coordination of support efforts, but it will permit a more intensive and focused campaign on the local level with respect to all of the political prisoners and prisoners of war in the particular regions, states and localities. It will also immeasurably boost the morale of the political prisoners and prisoners of war and provide more regular interaction and coordination with them.

Recommended Regional Programs:

- Regular political prisoner visiting programs
- Presentations on democracy and dissent in universities, high schools, middle schools, cable television shows, and radio, featuring particularly the political prisoners and prisoners of war within those regions, states and localities
- Letter writing campaigns to political prisoners and prisoners of war within the particular regions, states and localities
- Letter writing campaigns to the particular prison authorities within the regions, states and localities in which the political prisoners and prisoners of war are being held