

INTRODUCTION

Jericho is a political organization with chapters and members throughout the United States (U.S.) that directly sponsors and represents roughly 60 political prisoners whose names and addresses can be found on its website www.thejerichomovement.com.

From its inception in 1998, the Jericho Movement's primary intent and focus has been to free all political prisoners and P.O.W.'s from the nationalist movements of the 1960/70s who courageously fought against white supremacy, police repression and violence, and who struggled to build new societies based on self-determination, freedom, justice, and peace. These women and men represented organizations such as the Black Panther Party, Black Liberation Army, American Indian Movement, White Anti-Imperialist/Weather Underground, Puerto Rican Nationalists, Republic of New Afrika, and more. These women and men were also prime targets of the FBI's illegal Counterintelligence Program (COINTELPRO). One of the main objectives of COINTELPRO was to undermine and destroy all credible black leadership and to ensure that no "black messiah" arose from among the people to lead them to freedom. Thus, many movement leaders have remained in prison now for over 40 years.

The overall objective of Jericho is to:

- Develop an effective process and campaign to educate and organize national and internal support around the issue of freeing political prisoners;
- Present the goal of freeing political prisoners before the federal government and before the state governments wherein political prisoners are held; and
- To demand the amnesty and release of political prisoners.

Jericho believes that it is imperative that people and organizations involved in human rights advocacy, community development, and organizing against mass incarcerations and continued political and racial repression understand the need to support all campaigns to free political prisoners. The point is that, if those remaining captives who stood up and sacrificed, organized actions, and fought against racism, exploitation, and the repression of people of colour and

poor communities across the U.S. are not supported, the door remains wide open for present and future soldiers/activists/revolutionaries/educators to be politically persecuted and incarcerated with impunity without expectation of any support. The State and status quo would have the green light to continue repressing, exploiting, and committing injustices unabated.

CORE INITIATIVES

1. National Assata Shakur Liberation Day

This initiative was started by Jericho in 2013 to establish November 2nd of every year as National Assata Shakur Liberation Day throughout the United States. This initiative was developed in response to the FBI's designation of Sister Assata as a terrorist, the State of New Jersey's decision to increase the bounty on her from \$1 million to \$2 million, and the United States' total disrespect and disregard for Cuba's sovereign international right to have granted her political asylum. Communities and organizations across the United States are asked to hold annual events celebrating Sister Assata's liberation from prison on 2 November 1979, and to educate and organize communities around the issue of political prisoners, mass incarceration, the prison industrial complex, torture and solitary confinement, racial profiling, and the like. In time, National Assata Shakur Liberation Day will be a well-established holiday throughout the U.S.

2. The National Coalition for a Truth & Reconciliation Commission (NCTRC) to Free U.S. Held Political Prisoners and P.O.W.'s

The objective of this initiative is to generate national and international support in calling for equitable and unbiased investigations into the infractions and violations of the U.S. Constitution and the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights perpetrated by official organs of the U.S. Government – particularly the FBI's COINTELPRO and other similar programs – in perpetrating discrimination, racism, exploitation, and crimes against humanity against people of colour, and in particular, people of African descent.

The NCTRC will seek to persuade and pressure the United States Government to respect and acknowledge the need for similar processes here in America in order to address the years of Jim Crow segregation and brutality – akin to the South African Apartheid Era – as essential to

acknowledging and reconciling that page in history in a peaceful, dignified manner. Reconciling that page in history would necessarily entail freeing all of the COINTELPRO era political prisoners.

3. Political Letter Writing

This initiative entails writing very strategic letters to government officials and to the United Nations requesting their support in acknowledging the fact that there are political prisoners being held in the United States and to compel the powers that be to grant them complete amnesty.

4. International Support

This initiative entails soliciting international support primarily through involvement with the United States Human Rights Network (USHRN) and its committees/task forces. These committees collaborate and network with committed activists from organizations and communities across the U.S., and investigate and prepare shadow reports targeting the many various human rights violations committed by the U.S. Government. Participants have the opportunity to represent and present their issues and to network for international support in Geneva. The U.S. Government recognizes USHRN and its attempts to cite human rights violations. Jericho's involvement in USHRN ensures that the issue of domestic political prisoners and the U.S. human rights violations surrounding them is represented. These violations include the failure of the U.S. Justice System to recognize the legitimacy of the Civil Rights and Nationalist struggles of the 1960s and 1970s, the role of the FBI's COINTELPRO, as well as long term confinement, isolation, and medical neglect, all of which are considered torture by the United Nations, and according to human morality and logic.

All of these core initiatives reflect Jericho's mission to free all political prisoners. Jericho's activities involve support from and collaboration with sister organizations and individuals, which, in turn, work towards establishing a national movement to defend against all forms of human rights violations and abuses.

Jericho's representation of political prisoners is genuine. It maintains direct communications and relationships with political prisoners on an ongoing basis through personal or legal visitation and letter writing. These political prisoners are directly involved in the movement's planning, idea sharing, and self-criticisms.

Jericho has a Medical Department that addresses the increasing medical needs of political prisoners and collaborates with other organizations and communities to pressure prison authorities to tend to prisoners' health concerns. With the support of its doctors and staff, the Medical Department has established a process of direct communication with prison medical staff in order to address any given prisoner's medical needs, and to provide outside opinions, advice, recommendations, and pressure when and where needed.

Jericho recognizes that, post-11 September 2001, there are dozens of Muslims charged and convicted under false, ridiculous and nebulous accusations of conspiracy, rendering material support to one of the many countries and movements on the U.S. terrorist list, or allegedly plotting some action contrived by government agents, paid informants, or provocateurs.

Let it be known:

- That as a matter of principle, and in accordance with the United Nation's Declaration of Human Rights, Jericho supports all people and nations that stand for true justice, fairness, freedom, and the right to live in peace and opposes all forms of imperialism and foreign aggression;
- That Jericho recognizes that many of the hundreds of post-11 September 2001 Muslim cases, known and unknown, are, in fact, political cases, and that many of the Muslims involved are political prisoners and victims of now legalized COINTELPRO-style practices;
- That Jericho joins with all human rights organizations, activists, and attorneys working on these cases in demanding their immediate release and vindication; and
- That as Jericho develops its organizational capacity, it will render more specific and decisive support to those political cases it determines fall within the scope of its mission, goals and objectives.

Jericho openly invites freedom-loving persons to join. Jericho also openly invites and encourages public involvement in any and all of its initiatives. Jericho has non-profit status through its financial sponsor, IFCO/Pastors for Peace – the Interreligious Foundation For Community Organization. Thus, for tax deductible donations, create subject line: "Jericho/IFCO" and send to:

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In struggle,
Jihad Abdulmumit
Chair, National Jericho
Political Prisoners!

CONTACT INFORMATION

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