



# JERICHO OPERATIONS MANUAL

(2021)



Safiya Bukhari (1950-2003) Herman Ferguson (1920-2014) Jalil Muntaqim (Released in 2020)  
(Co-Founders)

## Prelude



Safiya Bukhari (Black Panther Party/Black Liberation Army -  
“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 build 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!” ...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 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 ensure 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!

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Herman Ferguson - New Afrikan Liberation Front

“Jericho ’98 was the brainchild of Jalil Muntaqim, a political prisoner who was incarcerated for more than forty-nine years (released on parole in 2020). 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 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 blocks away from the parade route and no sales or collection of money would be allowed in Lafayette Park, where the rally was to take place. This meant that the flags, the souvenir newspaper, the Jericho T-shirts, and other items that were to be sold to defray our expenses could not be sold. The anticipated income from the event would not be forthcoming to finance the Legal Defense Fund or the other post-march expenses. Individual and group contributions have continued to come in and we will continue with our plans to build a nationwide Jericho movement.

Even though the establishment media did not 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."

## Jericho By-Laws

### Definitions 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 liberation 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.

### Political Prisoner

Anyone captured because 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.

### 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 acknowledges 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 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.

Jericho seeks recognition, support, and freedom for all political prisoners and prisoners of war despite the United States' refusal to admit that it holds in captivity political prisoners and 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

- To create and develop networks with other like-minded organizations and individuals around the call to free all political prisoners and prisoners of war.
- 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 by:
  - Speaking engagements
  - Public forums
  - Conferences
  - Edu-tainment
  - Town hall meetings
  - Lectures
  - Marches, demonstrations, and rallies
  - Community organizing and networking
  - Media and newsprint
- To raise money and resources to assist Political Prisoners and POWs attain legal, political, and logistical representation and support for Political Prisoners, and for their needs upon release.
- To organize a Medical Committee to monitor prisoner psychological, health, medical conditions, and treatment.

### Organizational Structure

#### Staff -

1. Chairperson: Spokesperson for organization and responsible for general oversight and direction of the organization to ensure that Jericho stays in tune with its mission, and goals and objectives. Chairperson must be person of color and former political prisoner.
2. Vice-Chairperson: Shares in responsibility with Chair in speaking for and representing the organization. Oversees Staff and Advisory Committee to ensure that their responsibilities are being carried out and that organizational procedure is adhered to when required. Must be a person of color.

3. Secretary: Keep accurate minutes of Monthly meetings; preserve minutes and organizational documents; send out national communications (cleared by Chair and/or Vice Chair) to Chapters and public.
4. Treasurer: Dispense of National funds needed once agreed upon by Chair/Vice-Chair and Staff; be prepared to give oral up-to-date financial reports during Monthly meetings; generate monthly financial reports; maintain accurate financial records; and collect and record dues from members.
5. Fund Raising: Responsible for launching and maintaining regular fund-raising campaigns on agreed upon organizational schedule.
6. Newsletter Editor: Responsible for producing and editing Dragon Fire Newsletter
7. Historian and Archivist: Responsible for documenting and archiving the history of the Jericho Movement, and developing a process and mechanism for doing so.
8. Grant Writer: Responsible for the continued search for suitable grants and for applying for them.

#### Advisory Committee –

Responsible for meeting regularly to review the processes and procedures of the organization to ensure best practices and develop a system of reporting back to the Staff and body when appropriate.

#### Jericho Chapters

A Jericho Chapter consists of three or more active members who agree and commit to the mission, goals, and operating procedures of Jericho; who has 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 these By-Laws and protocols.

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. Opportunities should be always created to build new membership.

Chapters have the autonomy to create and organize their own programs.

#### 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, and
- Pay annual dues.

##### Individual Member Duties:

- Understand and affirm Jericho's Mission, goals and position political prisoners and prisoners of war.

- Represent Jericho accordingly
- Pay annual dues to National Treasurer
- Participate in local and National events and activities
- 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.
- Dues Fiscal year: January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>
- Chapters are responsible for collecting membership dues each quarter.
- A standard collection and reporting form will be used for the keeping of accurate records.

### Staff Nomination and Election Procedures

- Terms: Staff member will hold a staff position for two years with a term starting January 1<sup>st</sup> and ending December 31<sup>st</sup> of every odd year.
- Ratification: Each steering committee member will be ratified bi-annually on or shortly after January 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Staff after Advisory Committee 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 Staff position, but they must go through the process each time.
- Nominations will be accepted by the Advisory Board from November 1<sup>st</sup> to November 15<sup>th</sup>. Advisory Committee will review nominations and present them to Jericho membership for voting.
- December 1<sup>st</sup>: election day
- December 7<sup>th</sup>: 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 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 and what they prefer 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 By-Laws.

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

x \_\_\_\_\_

Signature