Since the 1970’s, members of the Black Panther Party, the Black Liberation Army, the Weather Underground, and other radical groups, have been locked up in prisons and jails in the US.  While many of these men and women are eligible for parole, parole boards across the country have systematically denied these prisoners of conscience parole.  Many were the victims of COINTELPRO, a Federal Bureau of Investigation program designed to disrupt and destroy civil rights and human rights organizations and harass and incarcerate their members.

The National Coalition for Reconciliation and Justice (NCRJ) is formed to support the efforts to free US prisoners of conscience.  NCRJ is a project convened by the James Earl Chaney Foundation, and comprised of veterans of movements for social justice, including students and educators, labor and business, clergy and others concerned citizens for justice and equality. Our mission is to complete the unfinished work of the Civil Rights movement. We invite all people of conscience to join us in creating a United States of America where equal opportunity- both economic and educational- is available to all citizens, including those in our prisons. We seek justice and the release of political activists who were incarcerated during the struggles of the 1960's and 1970's. We believe it is time for these activists to be released back to their communities.

The holy trinity for discrimination in the United States has been the Criminal Justice System, the Educational System and the Economic System.  The National Coalition for Reconciliation and Justice believes that an open, national discussion on any angle of the holy trinity of discrimination will expose and allow for a national dialogue on racism and its continuation in the United States.

The objectives of the National Coalition for Reconciliation and Justice are to:

1) create an environment conducive to the development of a national dialogue on prisoners of conscience,

2) involve mainstream African American institutions in future discussions about US prisoners of conscience,

3) engage new people and bring new resources to the struggle to free prisoners of conscience,

4) work with other groups to create the framework and structure for a new, coordinated national effort to free US prisoners of conscience,

5) conduct TEACH-INS, across the country, to raise the nation's consciousness about US prisoners of conscience, and

6) create a curriculum for TEACH-INS in high schools, colleges, churches and other faith-based and community organizations.

Through local and national events starting in the summer of 2011 we will achieve our goals.

The Victory Is Ours!

Ben Chaney

President, James Earl Chaney Foundation

http://www.jecf.org/wordpress-site/