

# centerforconstitutionalrights

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## **Practical Thoughts For People Considering Non-Violent Civil Disobedience with New Sanctuary Movement**

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### **Do:**

- \* Have a picture ID if you want to get out of jail within a reasonable time;
- \* Have a person who will act as your "support." This person should have your basic information of name, date of birth, address, phone number, and who to contact if there is an emergency. They should make sure that the legal collective knows you have been arrested and will work with them;
- \* Write the phone number of the legal collective on your arm so you can call if you are arrested (212-614-6439 or 212-614-6470);
- \* Tell the legal collective your basic information so they know you may be arrested;
- \* Expect to be in jail for several hours or maybe longer;
- \* Expect to have to return to court for hearings and trial;
- \* Read the legal briefing for people considering non-violent civil disobedience
- \* Go through a non-violence civil disobedience workshop;
- \* Understand that non-violence means treating everyone with the same respect we each want even while you are being arrested and held in jail;
- \* Make sure someone has a camera to document what happens.

### **Don't:**

- \* Don't get into a physical or verbal confrontation with law enforcement during arrest or in jail, that could lead to additional charges;
- \* Don't talk, except to give your name and address, unless you want to give up your constitutional right to remain silent and your right to say nothing until you have spoken with an attorney. You can say "I am going to remain silent; I would like to see a lawyer."
- \* Don't get arrested if you are already wanted for outstanding criminal charges, or you will not be getting out of jail with everyone else;
- \* Don't carry anything that can be considered a weapon;
- \* Don't carry prescription medications on you unless you have the prescription with the medicine;
- \* Don't carry any illegal substances;
- \* Don't get arrested if you are not a citizen unless you know and accept the possible immigration consequences;
- \* Don't carry large amounts of money;
- \* Don't leave anyone behind.

*Martin Luther King, Jr.* wrote that the philosophy and practice of nonviolence has six basic elements. First, nonviolence is resistance to evil and oppression. It is a human way to fight. Second, it does not seek to defeat or humiliate the opponent, but to win his/ her friendship and understanding. Third, the nonviolent method is an attack on the forces of evil rather than against persons doing the evil. It seeks to defeat the evil and not the persons doing the evil and injustice. Fourth, it is the willingness to accept suffering without retaliation. Fifth, a nonviolent resister avoids both external physical and internal spiritual violence- not only refuses to shoot, but also to hate, an opponent. The ethic of real love is at the center of nonviolence. Sixth, the believer in nonviolence has a deep faith in the future and the forces in the universe are seen to be on the side of justice.

