



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

TWENTY WEST FORTIETH STREET • NEW YORK 18, N. Y. • BRyant 9-1400

July 31, 1962

**URGENT**

Dear Branch Officers:

NAACP Branches can do something about Albany, Georgia. Here's the story in brief:

The rights that are being fought for in Albany are (a) the right of peaceful assembly and protest, and (b) the right to petition the city government on the grievances of the Negro community.

The NAACP was included in the temporary restraining order obtained by Albany city officials, along with the Albany Movement and others. Mrs. Ruby Hurley, our Southeast regional secretary, was named in it. The right of the judge to issue any such order is being challenged by NAACP attorneys and, if argument before the District judge fails, a move for a stay will be made and an appeal taken.

The arrest of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and his associates is an attempt by the segregationists to suppress all protests and to keep conditions as they have been for a hundred years. Therefore, the issue is more than one between Dr. King or the NAACP on the one hand and the city of Albany, Georgia, on the other.

1. Wire your Congressman at the House Office Building, Washington, D. C., protesting what is happening in Albany, Georgia. Let him know how you feel about throwing people in jail who peacefully protest racial injustice.

2. Wire President John F. Kennedy at the White House, Washington, D. C., asking him to speak out against the Albany disgrace and to have the Department of Justice intervene.

3. Call or write your local and state leaders of both parties expressing your indignation and asking them to impress upon the national party leaders how Negro citizens feel about the Albany outrage.

4. Speed up voter registration campaigns. Roll up a heavy registration for the fall election. The best way to back up Dr. King is to notify the candidates and parties that we intend to act at the ballot box next November in favor of the friends of freedom, regardless of party.

If Negro voters in the North, East and West will act on non-Southern candidates who are ducking and dealing, the word will get through to the Dixie wing. Our Southern brothers do not yet have enough votes to hurt the Dixie wing, but we have enough outside the South to reach the pals of the Dixiecrats.

The question to candidates is a simple one: Are you and your party for American freedoms or are you for jailing men, women and children who seek to protest injustice?

Please advise us of your action.

Sincerely,

*Roy Wilkins*

Roy Wilkins  
Executive Secretary

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P.S. Remember, if your Branch does its job, no other organization will be necessary.