



STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING
COMMITTEE (SNCC)
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DONALD HARRIS

Donald Harris, the director of SNCC's Southwest Georgia project, got his first taste of jail in the summer of 1961 in Northern Rhodesia, where he was charged with being a spy for the United Federal Party in opposition to Prime Minister Kenneth Kaunda's United National Independence Party.

Two years later he was to be charged with insurrection in Americus, Ga.

Since joining SNCC in the summer of 1962, Harris has been jailed seven additional times: in Albany and Leesburg, Georgia; Greenwood, Mississippi and Aberdeen, Maryland.

Harris was held in jail for 68 days under the insurrection charge, growing from his participation in an anti-segregation demonstration in Americus in 1963, and was only freed when a federal court overturned the 1887 law.

Harris grew up in the Bronx, New York, and was graduated from the Fieldston School in 1958.

He attended Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, and received the A.B. degree in 1962, after majoring in Modern British Literature and physical education.

At Fieldston, he starred on the school's football, basketball, baseball and track teams, and played football and lacrosse at Rutgers.

He travelled throughout Africa and Europe during the summer of 1961, and worked with Operation Crossroads Africa in Northern Rhodesia. It was then he was arrested for being a spy, and was detained in an outdoor stockade before being released.

Harris helped set up the Harlem Educational Project for the Northern Student Movement (NSM) in the spring of 1962 - the first tutorial project undertaken by college students in the Northeast.

Since assuming the head of the Southwest Georgia project, Harris has expanded SNCC's work into 22 counties, comprising all of Georgia's 2nd congressional district.