

*How long people
jail in Americas*

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Sunter County Movement
Post Office Box 91
Americus, Georgia

Dear Friend,

We, the members of the Sunter County Movement of Americus, Georgia are a new organization, formed to break down the segregation barriers in this County. Barriers, in this case as in many others, are unequal job opportunities, unequal police protection, segregated public facilities, lunch counters, theaters, and taxi-cabs.

Those of us who have marched to protest this evil system of segregation have been brutalized by the police, our bodies have been beaten and burned, fire hoses have been used on us, and guns fired at us. We have gone to jail along with our children, and many of us remain in jail because we want our freedom.

As a result of these arrests and brutalities we are in dire need of funds to aid in posting bonds, paying attorney fees, doctor bills, and court costs. An ordinance has just been passed requiring each person arrested to pay a fee of \$25.50 plus \$2.00 per day for each day that they are forced to remain in jail.

Any contributions that may be forthcoming would be greatly appreciated. All checks should be made payable to the Sunter County Movement and addressed to P. O. Box 91, Americus, Ga.

We are herewith enclosing, for your edification, a resume of events of police brutality and arrests here in the past week.

We shall not turn back!

Very truly yours,

John L. Barnum, Jr.
Treasurer

After the mass meeting on Thursday night, August 8, 1963, a group of about 150 people, most of them teenagers, walked out of Friendship Baptist Church and up to the next corner on Cotton Avenue where they were singing freedom songs. The area in which they walked was in the Negro section of town. Carloads of police, troopers, and anyone else who was around to get deputized and carry a club arrived. Donald Harris, field secretary for the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was placed under arrest, beaten in the street, and dragged into a squad car. Miss Sallie May Durham, a local girl, was also taken off with him - she was punched several times by law enforcement officers. They then arrested John Perdew and Ralph W. Allen, two white SNCC field secretaries, and Thomas McDaniel, a local Negro youth. These three were also badly beaten, Allen required three stitches to close a wound above his eye. The police then fired shots over the crowd and used firehoses and clubs to disperse them.

Harris, Allen, and Perdew were charged with attempting to incite insurrection, a capitol felony, carrying the death penalty. The last time anyone was tried for insurrection in Georgia was in the 1930's when it was used against a member of the Communist Party. They are also charged with inciting to riot, unlawful assembly, obstruction of lawful arrest, and assault and battery. Miss Durham and Thomas McDaniels are charged with inciting to riot, unlawful assembly, and assault and battery.

On Friday, August 9, at about 10:30 P.M. a group of about 175 Negroes left Allen Chappel A.M.E. Church to walk up to the police station where they intended to pray and protest the arrests and brutal beatings of last night. They left the church and walked about four blocks in orderly columns of two's, not blocking the sidewalk. They were protesting the system and policy of segregation in America which is aided by the police authority, and the brutality imposed by the city police, the Sheriff's office, firemen, deputized white citizens, the State Patrol and the "Blue Angels" (a special unit of the State Patrol, reputed to be very effective with billy clubs). The officers were armed with guns, two foot clubs, cattle prodders (hot sticks) and black-jacks. Officers came down into a field where the group had walked. When they got there the City Marshall and Police Chief Chambliss asked them if they had a permit to parade, and told them to disperse, but before any response could be given the officers started bludgeoning groups of boys and girls with clubs, and

electric cattle prodders (these prodders are battery operated and give a severe shock, also leave burn marks on the flesh; many of the arrestees bodies are covered with these burns. Those arrested in this group include:

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| John "Bunky" Barnum | Jimmie Carter | Milton Wilkerson |
| Marvin L. Brown | William Fuller | Terrell Butts |
| William Bowens | Alvin Tommie | Edmond Thomas |
| Collins McGee, Jr. | Olden Smith, Jr. | John Jordan |
| Eugene Smith | Emanuel McClendon | John E. Moran |
| Lonnie Wright | Willie Clemons | Edward Thomas |

All of the above are teen-agers, except Mr. McClendon who is 67 years old. Those arrestees established as juveniles are:

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|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Thomas Douglas (16) | Willie Boynton (15) | David Bell (15) |
| Jessee Williams (16) | James Brown (16) | Robert Barber (14) |
| Johnny Boynton (16) | Johnny Simmons (15) | Alvin Bowen (15) |
| | Alex Brown (14) | |

The females arrested are:

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|--------------------|-----------------------|
| G. Dudley (20) | Lois Baker (18) |
| Carol Bonner (14) | Thelma Young (17) |
| Annie Pless (17) | Geraldine Battle (17) |
| Sabina Smith (17) | May Wilson (18) |
| Goldie Harris (19) | Rosie Lee Rushin (17) |

Some of the more shocking cases of police brutality, and those whose scars and stitches can attest to their treatment at the hands of the police are:

Milton Wilkerson (19) who was beaten by city police officers with the large, two foot clubs. Over twenty stitches were required to close the various wounds in his head. A 67 year old man, Mr. Emanuel McClendon was also beaten over the head with clubs, leaving wounds requiring three stitches. Thomas Douglas, age 16, had six stitches taken in his head from club wounds. He also has electric prodder burn scars on his arms and back. Collin McGee was struck in the nose and face with clubs causing profuse bleeding. Johnny Boynton, age 16, was clubbed in the head by city police and required four stitches for his wounds. Most of the kids were beaten with clubs and jabbed with the electric prodders as they were herded into the police wagon.

Many people who had not taken any part in the demonstration were rounded up by the police, mistreated, and jailed. Rudolph Brown who was walking along a main street after the demonstrations was arrested and clubbed. Bobby Simms was sitting on the doorstep of of his home at 520 N. Lee, when the police came up and arrested him - he had not demonstrated. Gene Mann and James Williams were walking on Lee Street after the arrests of the main group, when they were grabbed by the State Patrol. Williams protested that he had not done anything and the troopers started to beat him with clubs. Williams, the father of two little children, is now in

the hospital with a broken leg.

Robert Barber, one of the juveniles, was in jail when a city patrolman came in to question him about another youth. When he denied knowing where the other youth was, the officer struck him in the head with a club.

The juveniles, Robert Barber, David Bell and Alvin Bowen were all jabbed with cattle prodders; Alex Brown, Johnny Simmons, Robert Barber and Alvin Bowen were also hit with the big clubs.

Of the females, Miss Dudley was burned with the cattle prodder on her back, also ~~beaten on the head and shoulders with clubs~~. Miss Baker was hit with clubs, along with Miss Young whose blouse was covered with blood. Miss Fless and Battle were also hit on the head and back with clubs, and burned with the electric prodders. Miss Rosie Rushin was beaten in the stomach with a two foot club, repeatedly asked for a doctor, but this was denied her.

The conditions in what serves for a jail are unbelievable. The male juveniles are sleeping on the floor in a dirty old building that has been abandoned for over a year, it formerly housed a newspaper; there are no working toilet facilities or showers. The toilet upstairs was stuffed and overflowing onto the floor. The children have been receiving four hamburgers daily, nothing else. The girls are locked in a room with no windows and no ventilation; the odor is unbearable.

On Sunday a group of about 25 people knelt in prayer in front of the police station and were promptly arrested. The City is filled with the State Patrol and "Blue Angels".

Archie B. Porter, Jr., (18) a mentally retarded youth who was walking along E. Lester St on his way home Sunday night was shot at, stopped and beaten by about 17 police officers. He was then arrested. When his mother, Mrs. Maybelle Porter, heard of his arrest, she went down to the police station to inquire about his condition and she was also arrested.

At night the police went to a local drive-in and harrassed Negro citizens there. The crowd got very disturbed and the police began shooting into the crowd, narrowly missing many people. Fortunately no one was reported to have been hit.

On Monday the police arrested Sammie Joe Haynes on the street. He is 13 but looks much younger. They kicked and beat him unmercifully as he had been in prior demonstrations. He is now being held in the County jail for the juvenile authorities.

When Attorneys C. B. King of Albany and D. L. Hollowell of Atlanta came into the Sheriff's office of the County Jail to see their clients there was an old man with a cane and the sheriff's young boy. The old man, who is reported to be a deputy, kept making menacing gestures toward Attorney Hollowell and the boy told Attorney Hollowell to get out of the office. When he said he was co-counsel for Harris and the others who were being held he was told, "I don't give a damn if you're the president, get out". The sheriff then came out and told Dennis Roberts, Attorney King's law clerk to get out, "We don't want any spies around here".

Trials that had been scheduled for Monday in Recorders Court for the 19 people who were arrested for loitering on July 19, were cancelled. The Judge refused to hold court claiming that the demonstrations were intimidating his court, although no demonstrations were in progress at that time. Trials are scheduled for September 3 as the Judge is going on vacation - so these children must sit in jail for 45 days before trial.