

ON THE LONG ROAD TO FREEDOM

JUNE 3, 1963. WINONA, MISSISSIPPI.

Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer of Ruleville, Miss., now Congressional candidate from the 2nd District and a SNCC Field Secretary, was returning by bus from a voter registration workshop in South Carolina. When she and other workers got off at a rest stop in Winona, they were arrested. In jail, Mrs. Hamer was forced to lie down on a bunk and was beaten with a blackjack by one man until he was exhausted; a second then took over and a third beat her on the head. She could hear the screams of a fellow SNCC worker, Annelle Ponder, who was being beaten in another cell, and in the night she listened to the screams of yet another, Lawrence Guyot.

JULY 8, 1963. ALBANY, GEORGIA.

Rev. Samuel Benjamin Wells led a delegation to City Hall to protest the non-recognition of Negro grievances and to speak with the officials responsible. A police captain arrested Wells, who went limp. Between then and the time he found himself in a cell, Rev. Wells was lifted by the genitals and thereby injured, dropped intentionally on the pavement, dropped twice more, thrown on the floor, thrown into the cell and kicked in the head.

JULY 15, 1963. EAST GADSDEN, ALABAMA.

A car containing three SNCC workers and a CORE Field Secretary was stopped by police and detained on the grounds that none of them had an Alabama driver's license. While being taken to jail, SNCC worker Landy McNair was repeatedly beaten and jabbed with an electric prod. At one point, the police officer handed him an unloaded gun (which McNair did not take) saying, "I want an excuse so I can kill this damn nigger right here."

DECEMBER 8, 1963. DAWSON, GEORGIA.

Mrs. Carolyn Daniels, the first resident to open her home to SNCC workers, was wounded by gun fire. While at the hospital awaiting treatment, her house was destroyed by a bomb. Mrs. Daniels had been setting up citizenship schools and getting Negroes to apply for the registration test.

JANUARY 31, 1964. LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI

Louis Allen, a 44-year old Negro, was shotgunned to death. Allen had been a witness to the fatal shooting of a Liberty farmer active in a SNCC vote drive. But the accused murderer -- a white member of the State Legislature at the time -- was acquitted almost immediately by a coroner's jury. Allen, who had lied to the jury out of fear for his life, later admitted this to SNCC workers and offered to tell the truth if protection could be given him. He never got the chance.

On February 15, an elderly Negro undertaker and his assistant were whipped by the Ku Klux Klan in Natchez, Miss. . . . Clifford Walker, 34, was found shotgunned to death near Woodville, Miss. . . . three Negroes with bullet holes in their bodies were found stuffed into a car in Wilkerson County, Miss. . . . a 14-year old Negro girl was shot at by teen-aged whites in Natchez, Miss.

THESE ARE ONLY A FEW OF COUNTLESS "INCIDENTS". HOW LONG MUST THE LIST BE?