

Report Concerning the Louis Allen Case  
by Robert Moses: Mississippi Project  
Director for the Student Nonviolent  
Coordinating Committee

Daniel Jones is the sheriff of Amite County -- symbol of the law in Mississippi according to the white people, symbol of terror and injustice according to the Negroes.

Lewis Allen was born and raised in "Liberty", the county seat, married, raised his family, farmed and worked the timber in the sloping pine forests for a living.

He had no trouble with the white people in Liberty until Herbert Lee was murdered on September 30, 1961. He saw Hurst shoot Lee at the cotton gin in Liberty early in the morning on September 30th. Daniel Jones was a deputy sheriff then and when he and the others told Allen to testify that Hurst whot Lee in self defense, Allen rebelled. It was a small rebellion -- he told the lie they coerced him for at the "coronor's jury" and later at the "grand jury", but he never accepted in his mind and spirit that he could tell a lie against Lee, once he was dead. He wasn't deep in civil rights at that time; he hadn't attended the voting meetings, or tried to register. It just went against his grain. So he told what he saw that morning to the civil rights workers, the Department of Justice and the F.B.I.

Account Concerning Arrest and Beating  
of Louis Allen in July 1962 -- Taken  
Down from Mrs. Louis Allen by Bob Moses

Daniel Jones came up into the yard and Henry (Allen's son) went to the door. He told Henry he wanted to see Louis. He told Louis he was going to arrest him -- for "interfering" with the law. Louis asked him could he get out on bond. Daniel Jones told him he couldn't. The head sheriff called over the radio hook-up and asked where was Jones. He told him he was at Louis' house. The sheriff asked if he had arrested Louis. He told him yes. Louis asked Daniel Jones could he get his hat. Daniel Jones didn't give an answer. Henry was standing by the door. Louis looked around and told Henry to bring him his hat and Daniel Jones hit Louis with his flashlight while the side of his face was turned to him and he broke his jaw -- then they carried him on to jail. I (Mrs. Allen) ran out behind them. Henry was driving. I was going after Tommy (another son). Daniel Jones was coming from the jailhouse and I saw him and stopped and asked him if Louis was in jail. He cursed us and told us yes, that's where he was going to stay and asked us where were we going. We told him we were goint to Tommy's. He cursed and told us to get Tommy and get on across the damn river - if we didn't

some of the rest of us would be up there (in jail) too. We got Tommy and came back to the house.

Account Related to Bob Moses  
by Tommy Louis Allen

I went to see E.L. Caston the next morning. I asked him what did they have daddy in jail about. He told me and Henry to get on away from there - if we don't we'll be up there too. I went down to Lawyer Joe Garden and asked him to call the sheriff and find out the charges. He called out. They still didn't tell him but told him they would have his trial next day at 11:00. I went to town about time for the trial and they turned him out. Louis told us that they had broken his jaw bone. He had asked them for a doctor, but they wouldn't get him one. Went to see Dr. Jennie Field in Centerville -- white doctor.

Account Concerning Arrest of Louis  
Allen on Charges of Having a Concealed  
Weapon and Passing a Bad Check --  
Related to Bob Moses by Tommy Allen

We were coming up from work about 7:00. The sheriff was at the Hawkins Service Station and Daddy called into the station and told them to put 10 gallons of gas into the truck. After that the sheriff told Daddy to get out, he had a warrant for his arrest. Daddy got out. Daniel Jones searched Daddy and the truck. Found a weapon in the glove compartment -- that's where he kept it all the time for protection, so he wasn't trying to conceal it. Dancil Jones told Daddy to come on and go with him. They took him to jail and told me to bring the truck on to the house. I brought the truck on to the house. I thought they were going to charge him a little fine for not having a tail light on the trailer and then maybe he'd come on back to the house. The next morning I went up there and talked to Daddy from outside the jail. He told me they hadn't thold him what they had him in jail for. I went back to see the sheriff. The sheriff said they were going to have a preliminary hearing that morning about 10:00 and we would find out then what he was in jail for. I waited around town for the hearing. They wouldn't let me or my brothers Henry or Jerry Norwood into the hearing. They didn't say anything but to get on back -- and they shut the door. (E.O. Caston was the sheriff then.) They were taking him back to jail and he told me they had him for "concealed weapon."

Account Related to  
Bob Moses by Mrs. Allen

Concerning incident August, 1963

In August the baby and I were playing and I hit my head. I went to the doctor.

When the sheriff saw me he said, "Get yourself together. I want to ask you some questions. The doctor was telling me that Louis did that." (struck Mrs. Allen) The sheriff then asked to talk to Henry in private.

(This was one of the "domestic problems, including reported violence" which the sheriff told the press might be a factor in the case after Allen's murder.)

Account Related to  
Bob Moses by Mrs. Allen

Concerning Allen's murder,  
January 31, 1964

Louis had been crying all day Friday (the day of the murder). He had worked for Mr. Jerry Spillman for seven years and went to him to get a recommendation for a job. Mr. Spillman said he might be helping a communist or anything so wouldn't recommend him. That worried Louis a lot.

Account Related to  
Bob Moses by Tommy Allen

Concerning Allen's murder,  
January 31, 1964

I helped Louis get out some logs Friday (the day of the murder). He was supposed to have left Saturday for Milwaukee. He had talked to one of the white lawyers, Floyd Wayne Stratton, who said he didn't think he could help him -- they were going to give him from three to five years (on a bad check charge). He was coming from Mr. Loyd King's before he got shot. He went up there to get a recommendation for driving a bulldozer for use in Milwaukee construction work. That night he was shot.