

TO: Friends of SNCC

February 26, 1965 5 pm

Jimmy Jackson, a 26 year old unemployed mason, DIED TODAY in a Selma hospital. Jimmy Jackson was involved in the movement in Perry County, Marion, Alabama. HE WAS KILLED BY STATE TROOPERS.

This is what happened:

On Thursday night, February 18, the people of Marion planned a march to the Courthouse. As they left the Zion Methodist Church (across the street from the courthouse) and began walking, troopers ordered them to disperse. Then people knelt to pray. About 300 to 350 people participated.

As people knelt state troopers went at them with billy clubs and beat people wildly. Many people were hospitalized. At least 20 people were treated in Selma hospitals. 10 men had busted scalps.

Several hours later Jimmy Jackson was in a cafe with others. State troopers barged into the cafe looking for someone who had allegedly thrown a coke bottle at the troopers during the courthouse brutality. Several troopers grabbed Jimmy and another shot him. One bullet went through his stomach and exited from his left side. After he was shot Jimmy ran out the door and down the street. The troopers followed, caught him, and beat him. No doctors in Marion would treat him so he was finally brought to Selma and treated at Good Samaritan Hospital. HE DIED TODAY FROM THE BULLET WOUND. HE WAS BRUTALLY SHOT BY STATE TROOPERS.

Jimmy was living with his mother, Mrs. Viola Jackson, in Marion. She is also unemployed and was beaten, too, that same evening her son was shot. His grandfather, 80, is also a participant in the movement and was beaten that fatal night. His sister, Jean, is 18 and in high school.

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At this moment we do not know when his funeral will be held. But we want to encourage all groups to hold some kind of a memorial or demonstration for Jimmy Jackson and to protest the brutal manner in which he was killed. If nothing else each of you should prepare a leaflet with the above information and distribute it as widely as possible to people in your community. WE MUST NOT LET AMERICA FORGET THAT RACIST CRIMINALS ARE STILL AT LARGE TODAY...In Mississippi, in Alabama...all over the land. Short of some sort of public rally, service, etc. you might call all the ministers in your town and ask them to set aside a few moments during their church service for discussing this brutal murder. At the same time the Justice Department of the United States Government must be continually pressured. A renewed effort must be made to make the public understand that there is no such thing as federal protection -- and to make the government understand that the public demands it. Clearly there are statutes under which the government can act. The question is, do they want to?

Again, this murder is not unconnected with the slayings of the summer. Nor is it the last. What will you do to help?

Freedom,

*Betty Gannan*