MEMO TO: CORE CHAPTERS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: CORE SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE
        2209 Dryades Street, New Orleans, Louisiana
RE: SOUTHERN RACIAL MURDERS
        April, 1965

Attached you will find a partial list of racial murders that have occurred in the South in the last two years. Though they are only a small sample of the violence that is traditional in the South towards Negroes and their white supporters, they are a shocking example of the lack of justice in the region. In not a single case has a defendant received punishment for one of these crimes, and in all but one case there has been no conviction. In all of these cases the identity of the killer was known, at least unofficially.

Some of these murders received little or no publicity on a national level. Most fade out of the minds of the public just as quickly as they fade from the front page of the papers and from the television screens.

We feel that very little has been done to attack the Southern system of leniency towards those who commit violent acts against Negroes and civil rights workers. Perhaps one of the causes is a lack of awareness the public has of the reality of the situation. The murders are too short-lived in the minds and hearts of the American people.

Therefore, CORE in the South is beginning a program to remind Americans of the deplorable state of Southern justice and to stir their consciences so that they will demand legislation to correct the situation. In view of recent developments in Alabama and Louisiana, we are demanding the following additions be made to the voting bill now pending in Congress to deal with violence in connection with racial and civil rights matters:

1. Legislation requiring enforcement of and protection for the exercise of all Constitutionally guaranteed rights by federal marshalls, FBI agents or other appropriate federal agents;

2. Legislation requiring the Justice Department to make on-the-spot arrests of violators of Title 18, Section 241-242 of the U.S. Code;

3. Legislation making crimes of violence, especially murders, in connection with civil rights and race, a major federal offense;

Because of the intimidation in many areas of the South of Negroes who attempt to register to vote, use certain public accommodations, and exercise their Constitutional rights, we believe the 1965 Civil Rights Act and the proposed voting bill, as presented, will have little effect without the above provisions.

To begin this program, we hope you will circulate the attached list as widely as possible in your area. We hope you will make copies of the list and submit it, along with your own demands for improved legislation, to all of your local newspapers, radio and TV stations, local officials, Senators and Congressmen. Demand that your Senators and Congressmen work for the inclusion of the above in new legislation,
PARTIAL LIST OF RACIAL MURDERS IN THE SOUTH IN THE LAST 2 YEARS

April, 1963 - William Moore, White, 30's
Gadston, Alabama
CORE worker, shot to death on Freedom Walk
Assailant arrested, NO CONVICTION

June, 1963 - Medgar Evers, Negro, 30's
Jackson, Mississippi
NAACP Field Secretary, shot to death at his home for civil rights activities
Assailant, Byron De La Beckwith, member of White Citizens Council, arrested, 2 trials, hung juries, NO CONVICTION

September, 1963 - Carol Robertson, Negro, 14
Cynthia Wesley, Negro, 14
Addie Mae Collins, Negro, 14
Denise McNair, Negro, 11
Killed in church bombing
No arrests, NO CONVICTION

September, 1963 - Virgil Ware, Negro, 13
Birmingham, Alabama
Shot to death by two teenage boys, white, while riding his bicycle
Assailants arrested, Suspended sentence

September, 1963 - James Robinson, Negro, 16
Birmingham, Alabama
Shot to death in the back by police officer in "self-defense"
No arrest, NO CONVICTION

September, 1963 - John Coley, Negro, 20
Birmingham, Alabama
veteran, shot to death by police
No arrest, NO CONVICTION

September, 1963 - young man, Negro
New Orleans, Louisiana
Shot to death by police officer
No arrest, NO CONVICTION

January, 1964 - Lewis Allen, Negro, 40's
Liberty, Mississippi
Shot to death at his home; had witnessed a white state representative kill a Negro in 1961; murder followed 2 years of constant harassment; victim had asked for federal protection, but was refused.
No arrests, NO CONVICTIONS

February, 1964 - 1 woman, 2 men, Negro
20's or 30's
Woodville, Mississippi
Shot to death in parked car
No arrest, NO CONVICTION

March, 1964 - Man, Negro, 40's
Natchez, Mississippi
Shot to death at night in car
No arrest, NO CONVICTION

June, 1964 - Michael Schwerner, white, 24
James Chaney, Negro, 21
Andrew Goodman, white, 20
Philadelphia, Mississippi
Beaten and shot to death for civil rights activities;
Several arrests, including law-enforcement officials; NO CONVICTIONS

July, 1964 - 2 men, Negroes, 19, 20
Southwest Mississippi
Half-bodies found in river during search for missing three (above)
Arrests, NO CONVICTIONS

July, 1964 - Lemuel Penn, Negro, 33
Athens, Georgia
Official in school system of Washington, D.C. Shot to death in his car from passing car when returning to Washington from training for army reserve in Georgia.
Klansmen arrested, NO CONVICTIONS
Summer, 1964 - man, Negro
New Orleans, Louisiana
Shot to death at bus stop from passing car
No arrest, NO CONVICTION

September, 1964 - Herbert Orsby, Negro, 14
Canton, Mississippi
Found drowned wearing CORE tee-shirt; last seen in pick-up truck with white men.
No arrest, NO CONVICTION

December, 1964 - Frank Morris, Negro, 52
Ferriday, Louisiana
Burned to death in his shop—covered with gasoline by white men, set afire, and forced to remain inside.
No arrest, NO CONVICTIONS

December, 1964 - Man and woman, Negro
New Orleans, Louisiana
Shot to death in motel
No arrest, NO CONVICTION

January, 1965 - Ollie B. Shelby, Negro, 18
Jackson, Mississippi
Badly beaten and shot to death by police officers in Hinds County Jail.
No arrests, NO CONVICTION

January, 1965 - Marshall Scott, Jr., Negro, 43
New Orleans, Louisiana
Put into solitary confinement in New Orleans jail with pneumonia; died without medical attention.
No arrests, NO CONVICTIONS

February, 1965 - Jimmy Lee Jackson, Negro
Marion, Alabama
Shot to death by state troopers during demonstration for voting rights.
No arrests, NO CONVICTIONS

February, 1965 - John Lee, Negro, 31
Goshen Springs, Mississippi
Found dead on country road with signs of beating—had attended civil rights meetings
No arrests, NO CONVICTIONS

February, 1965 - Donald Rasberry, Negro, 19
Okolona, Mississippi
Shot to death by his plantation boss.
NO CONVICTION

March, 1965 - Rev. James Reeb, white, 37
Selma, Alabama
Beaten to death after participating in March for voting rights
Four arrests, PENDING

March, 1965 - Viola Gregg Liuzzo, white, 38
Lowndesboro, Alabama
Shot to death from passing car while transporting demonstrators from march for voting rights.
Four whites arrested, PENDING