

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.

4/65

CORE Southern Regional Office/2209 Dryades Street/New Orleans, La. 70113

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~~ *Mississippi*  
Shot to death at his home; had wit-  
nessed a white state representative  
kill a Negro in 1961; murder followed  
2 years of constant harrassment; vic-  
tim 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

( C O N ' T )

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  
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