

FIVE SNCC MEMBERS CHARGED WITH MURDER

In Texas, home of President Johnson and U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, five SNCC-affiliated black students at Texas Southern University have been charged with the murder of a white patrolman!

John Parker, 20
Trazawell Franklin, Jr., 20
Charles Freeman, 18
Floyd Nichols, 25
Douglas Wayne Waller, 21

The facts clearly indicate the guilt of the Houston police force and the innocence of the five youths:

On Tuesday, May 16, 1967, on the TSU campus, Houston police arrested Douglas Waller, a TSU student recently returned from service in Vietnam, when he refused to move on after being ordered to do so.

Minutes later, 500 police armed with rifles, machine guns, shotguns and dogs invaded the campus and surrounded two dormitories.

A few angry students responded to this blatant show of white armed force with firecrackers and pellets.

Police retaliated at once by emptying some 5,000 rounds of ammunition into the buildings, wounding several of the hundreds of students trapped inside.

Ordered to "go in there and clean out this mess," the 500 cops charged the dormitories, shooting wildly as they ran. They were in each other's way; young rookies who had never seen real danger panicked. One policeman shot another; one went berserk and was taken away in a state of shock.

During this massive assault, Patrolman Louis Kuba was killed.

Inside the dormitories police tore down doors, brutally beat students, wrecked everything in sight: University-owned furniture, students' radios and other property, even the sewing machine of a dormitory house mother, Mrs. Mattye Herbert, whom they also kicked and trampled.

Police herded all the dorm residents outside and forced them to lie face down on the cold, wet ground. Many were clad only in shorts. Then they arrested all 487 students and herded them into vans, beating and cursing them on the way to jail.

On June 3, 1967, a grand jury indicted five students for Kuba's murder, despite the fact that: (1) intensive search did not produce the murder weapon in the possession of any student; (2) Kuba was shot on the side of a building that had no windows or doors from which anyone could have fired.

The trial is scheduled for July 25. Houston's District Attorney will reportedly ask for the death penalty.

The arrest of these men, all of whom are militant and outspoken leaders in Houston, is clearly a racist attempt to intimidate other militants and silence the rage of the black community. It is also clearly an attempt to destroy the Friends of SNCC chapter at TSU, to which the five youths belonged.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Have your organization, church or social group reproduce this information and distribute it.
2. Inform President Johnson and Attorney General Clark in your own way that you are concerned about The TSU Five and the brutality in their home state.
3. Encourage black men not to fight in Vietnam when their struggle is in the United States.

THE TSU FIVE--THEY MUST NOT DIE!