

March 14, 1968

Dear Friends,

The Johnson Administration has opened up a new front in its program of meeting domestic and world problems with force and violence by declaring war on its critics at home. We have seen evidence of this in the indictments of the Boston Five, the Oakland Seven, and all the punitive measures taken against draft resisters all over the country.

The brunt of these attacks, however, have been against the organizers and spokesmen for Black liberation. Huey Newton and Bobby Seale in California, Cleveland Sellers and the students killed and wounded in the Orangeburg Massacre in South Carolina, LeRoi Jones and Herman Ferguson on the east coast and many others. Most importantly, SNCC Chairman H. Rap Brown, as the symbol of black militancy, has been singled out for the most blatant forms of repression and intimidation, and has been denied the elementary and basic rights guaranteed by the constitution.


As part of the attempt to counter the government's repressive policies, the enclosed Statement on H. Rap Brown was drawn up by Tom Gardner (SSOC), Laurence Guyot (MFDP), Myles Horton (Highland Center), Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (SCLC), Floyd B. McKissick (CORE) and Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth (SCEF). The statement was made public, together with the additional signatures enclosed, at a press conference held today in New York City.

The statement, together with all the signatures, will be presented by an appropriate delegation to Attorney General Ramsey Clark within the week.

The list of signatories, gathered in a matter of days, indicates the depth of outrage throughout America at the kind of tactics being used to silence H. Rap Brown and others. But more profound action and support is called for if these attempts at repression are to be defeated. You can begin by collecting additional signatures to these statements and sending them, or phoning them if possible, to the National Mobilization Committee (tel. 212-964-6436).

We also suggest that meetings, rallies, and demonstrations be held at federal buildings and other appropriate locations to protest these tactics of repression. On March 20, SNCC has called for an International Day of Support for H. Rap Brown and Black Liberation. It is expected that many communities in this country and around the world will respond.

Yours for peace and freedom,


Prof. Robert Greenblatt
National Coordinator
National Mobilization Committee