

From a letter from Harry Belafonte:

.....Conquering fear has been a major task of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee ever since it was born, six years ago. I am a long-time supporter of SNCC and know these young people well. They go into the most oppressed areas of the rural South where their first task is to overcome the fear in a community -- fear of racist terror, fear of all white people. They help register those who are willing to risk their lives and jobs for it. They help Negroes to organize politically so that they can participate in making the decisions which govern their daily lives -- the kinds of jobs they get, the quality of the schools their children attend. SNCC workers bring courage, concrete hope and a new dignity to thousands.

Now they are entering another summer of work. In spite of all the terror they will be joined this month by a Freedom Force of over 100 volunteers. And I fear for them.

There is hardly a SNCC veteran who does not bear the marks of battle -- who does not have scars on his head from a sheriff's billy club, burn marks on his legs from cattle-prods, the lash of the whip recorded on his back. Some have perished. These are the combat troops of democracy. They are brave and tough. But they need your help.

You can provide them with the daily needs of their work: The cars, the 2-way radios for safety, the supplies, daily subsistence. Please send a contribution today. Send not merely what you can spare but more, to sustain these remarkable young people in the vital job they are doing. Help win the war against fear.

Yours in Freedom,

Harry Belafonte

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