

NEWS RELEASE

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VOTER REGISTRATION LEADER IN SUMPTER COUNTY, GA.
LEFT HOMELESS AFTER HOME DESTROYED BY FIRE

SUMPTER COUNTY, GEORGIA, DECEMBER 7 -- An unidentified white man set fire yesterday to the home of Trim Porter, 57, a leader here in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's Southwest Georgia voter registration drive.

Porter, who has 14 children, reported the burning at a registration meeting last night in the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, where he is senior deacon.

He said that two of his children were home yesterday -- his wife was in the cotton fields -- when a white man in a blue car told them to "get out and go down the road." When Porter came home, he found the two children, 3 and 5, sitting in a ditch and his house on fire.

Porter said, "I don't have any insurance. It's been a bad year and I had to drop the policy." The house was completely demolished and all of the family's clothing and belongings completely destroyed.

Porter, a registered voter himself and a leader in the registration drive here, had allowed SNCC to hold meetings in his church after the Shady Grove Baptist Church -- the former meeting place -- was burned to the ground in August, 1962.