

NEWS RELEASE

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SNCC FIELD SECRETARIES ARRESTED AT ALBANY CITY HALL
SNCC WOMAN WORKER MOLESTED IN JAIL

ALBANY, GEORGIA, MAY 21²⁴ ** Three field secretaries of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee were arrested last nite, while they were praying for some 70-odd demonstrators who have been arrested in the past week.

Faith Holsaert, 20, and Don Harris, 22, both field secretaries who have been working in Terrell and Lee counties on voter registration; and Louise Carter, assistant secretary of the Albany movement, were arrested in front of the City Hall during this prayer vigil.

Charles Sherrod, director of the SNCC's Southwest Georgia project, reported yesterday that he had received a written statement from Faith Holsaert, a 20 year old white woman from Brooklyn, that she had been molested in the Albany City jail on May 21st.

Miss Holsaert said that police threatened to strip her, asked if her sister, who has also worked for SNCC in Albany--- was "as well built as I was, " and "would I give him some sugar if he came into my cell". Her statement continues "There were ten officers in the office with me. One of them ran his hand over my breast". Miss Holsaert was a student at Barnard College in New York City when she came to Southwest Georgia to work on SNCC's voter registration program. She was the first white woman to work in Terrell county when she began in February, 1963.

All but two of the eight SNCC field secretaries in the South est Georgia area are in City Jail, and are committed to remain until the charges are dropped.

With so many of the leaders in jail, Rev. Wells has assumed the role of leadership.

The SNCC workers are jailed 6-10 in one cell and without mattresses. In one case there are 12 Negro ladies in one cell. 16-20 of the people are fasting.