

NEWS RELEASE  
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RING OF KILLERS IN MISSISSIPPI

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, JULY 3 - The Civil Rights Commission was "urgently" requested to "hold a full scale hearing on civil rights in Mississippi immediately", in a telegram sent by SNCC, following the killing of three Negroes in the last six weeks in Mississippi. The telegram said the murder of Medgar Evers, Field Secretary of the NAACP "strongly supports the theory that a ring of killers operates out of Greenwood, with an official wink from the police and other law enforcement agencies.

Robert Moses, SNCC field worker in Mississippi said three Negroes have been killed by Mississippi police. Moses said Willie J. Lovett, 20, was shot by W.O. Moore, a deputy in Holmes County. In Panola County Foster Sanders was shot by Shorty Watts, a highway patrolman, and in Tallatchie, County Sheriff Dagan shot a Negro who was sitting in his car.

The telegram charged that the commission had an obligation "to expose the full range of Mississippi's contempt for the laws of the country." "You cannot", the telegram continued, "without selling out your responsibility to Congress, the President, and the country, delay a full scale hearing by the Commission any longer." Linking Mississippi's "contempt for the laws of the country", to the present congressional fight over President Kennedy's civil rights proposals, the telegram stated: "the country cannot demand the strong legislation needed from Congress because it does not understand and cannot connect these stray facts which drift through Mississippi's Cotton Curtain." The FBI and the Federal Judiciary were also cited in the telegram as being "unable to operate" and unable to respond, to the emergencies of our times with intelligent constructive judicial action", because of the actions of the local law enforcement agencies.

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