

SW Ga

NEWS RELEASE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
AUGUST, 1963

SNCC HEAD PROTESTS BRUTALITY IN AMERICUS  
ASKS JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ACTION

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, August 14 -- The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee sent a telegram today to the Justice Department protesting police brutality and the use of exorbitant bonds against demonstrators in Americus, Georgia, Friday, August 9.

The protest, sent to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy by SNCC chairman John Lewis, cited the use of billy clubs and electric prod poles on juveniles and older men. It also stated that four of the demonstrators required stitches to close their wounds.

The demonstrators were protesting the arrest of three SNCC staff members who were beaten and then held on 43 thousand dollars bail each.

The telegram asked, "Will the Justice Department act to free the jailed demonstrators and see that those who substitute savage bestiality for human decency are punished?"

More than 175 Negroes, most of them teen-agers, left a local church to march to the police station. The police intercepted their walk as they crossed a field in a double line and the City Marshall and Chief Chambliss of the city police asked them for a parade permit. Before the demonstrators could respond police officers began clubbing them and using the electric prod poles. Several demonstrators have severe burn marks on their bodies from the battery-operated poles.

Many of the demonstrators are still being held in the city jail. The male juveniles are being detained in an abandoned building.