

NEWS RELEASE  
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE # 31

2nd GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI "FREEDOM DAY" SET

GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI - Voter registration workers have called for a second "Freedom Day" here April 9.

On Greenwood's first "Freedom Day", March 25, over 250 Negroes tried to register to vote.

"Police interference with voter registration workers has increased since then", Sam Block, a worker from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) said. Several workers have been arrested, and fourteen, jailed Tuesday, March 31, when they disobeyed police orders to limit their picketing to one side of the Leflore County Courthouse, are still in jail.

They have vowed to remain behind bars "until the United States Department of Justice acts to secure our release and to insure that further arrests and harrassments do not occur."

SNCC Chairman John Lewis has called upon the Department of Justice to arrest police officers who "intimidate, harrass and arrest Negroes who want to vote."

Lewis said the government had the power to make arrests when voter registration activity is tampered with under the United States Code.

SNCC has been conducting a voter registration drive here since August, 1962.

In 1960, only 472 Negroes were registered to vote in Leflore County, according to the United States Civil Rights Commission's report on Voting.

Ministers from the National Council of Churches are in Greenwood to help SNCC workers organize the community.

SNCC has initiated a "One Man - One Vote" campaign in this state and throughout the South calling for an end to literacy requirements as a bar to voting.