NEWS RELEASE STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE 6 RAYMOND STREET, NW ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314

SNCC WORKER FACES GEORGIA MURDER CHARGE

AMERICUS, GEORGIA - A civil rights worker faces a murder charge here
November 30.

24-year-old Donald Harris of New York City will face charges of "assault with intent to murder" an Americus policeman. Harris and four others were jailed here August 8, 1963 and held for 87 days without bail under an 1871 Georgia "insurrection" law. The five were freed when a three-judge federal panel ruled the law unconstitutional.

After their release, Americus officials continued to press other charges against them. White SNCC worker Ralph Allen, 23, of Melrose, Massachusetts, was tried December 11, 1963 on the "assault" charge but his conviction and two-year jail term were overturned by the Georgia Supreme Court which ruled that even white defendants are entitled to a trial by a jury from which Negroes have not been excluded.

Officials in nearby Albany have also charged Harris with "insurrection" even though the law has been ruled illegal twice. He has not been arrested on that charge, however, but may face arrest when he returns here November 30 for his trial.

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ALABAMA JUDGE DENIES CONSOLIDATION MOVE ON JUSTICE DEPT., SNCC SUITS

MOBILE, ALABAMA - A federal judge denied November 19 a Justice Department motion to consolidate suits filed against Selma, Alabama and Dallas County officials by Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) Chairman John Lewis and 46 local Negroes and by the Justice Department itself.

United States District Judge Daniel H. Thomas turned down the request to consolidate the Lewis suit, filed July 11 and the Justice Department suit, filed September 9.

A SNCC voting drive has been in process here for two years. Both suits were aimed at halting harrassment from local police officers.

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SNCC HAS TWO NEW BOOKS ON RIGHTS

ATLANTA, GEORGIA - The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee has available two new books on the civil rights movement. They are "THE MOVEMENT, a picture book with text by authoress Lorraine Hansberry and "SNCC - THE NEW ABOLITIONIST" by Dr. Howard Zinn.

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