

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 FIFTH AVENUE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FEBRUARY 22, 1968

H. Rap Brown, Chairman of SNCC, is refusing to eat to protest his illegal arrest and detention by the Federal Government through its agents in the State of Louisiana. Mr. Brown was arrested on the alleged charge that he had violated the travel ban that had been imposed upon him by Federal Courts in Louisiana and Virginia. (See insert on background.) This unconstitutional travel ban provided, however, that Mr. Brown was free to travel to consult with his attorneys, which is what he was doing this past weekend when he went to California to consult with Attorney William Kunstler, who is preparing a brief to present to the Supreme Court on February 26 appealing the travel ban.

Once more we see an example of honky justice violating the human rights of a black person in America. But we all know about honky justice, particularly when it is applied to SNCC and other black militant organizations.

Rap was confined under maximum security to the Parish Prison in New Orleans on Wednesday, February 21st for "violating" the travel ban, and a new charge of intimidating an FBI agent. (Now any black person knows that if the FBI will not be intimidated by the American people into telling the truth about the assassination of John F. Kennedy, it sure can't be intimidated by one man, even if that man is H. Rap Brown.) During the recess of Wednesday's hearing, Rap called one of the Negro FBI agents a "Tom" and continued to express the hope that the agent's children would grow up to be better men than their father. The agent became visibly angry and later told the white judge that Rap had threatened his life and the lives of his children. The results were the charge of threatening a Federal agent, and Rap's being bound over to the grand jury for a hearing on the charge under a \$50,000 bond. This plus the \$50,000 bond imposed for the alleged travel ban violation brings the total ransom to \$100,000.

At this writing, Rap Brown was enroute to Richmond, Virginia for a hearing on the charge that he also violated the travel ban imposed by the state of Vir-

ginia. That hearing is scheduled to take place on Friday, February 23rd at 1 p.m. in the Post Office Building.

Simultaneous to Mr. Brown's detainment, the state of Louisiana issued a warrant for the arrest of SNCC's Cleve Sellers, now in the South Carolina State Penitentiary under \$20,000 bond following his arrest during the Orangeburg Massacre. The Federal Government, through the state of Louisiana, wants Sellers extradited to stand trial on a charge of carrying concealed weapons, something that they claim he did when he was in the state more than a year ago. It is interesting to note that this charge was dropped by the state so that charges could be filed against Sellers when he refused to be inducted into the army. It should also be pointed out that both Brown and Sellers are being threatened with long jail sentences on charges concerning the possession of weapons, while in direct contradiction weapons training is being given to whites by the police in such cities as Kansas City, Mo. and Dearborn, Mich.

We are calling upon all individuals and organizations that are concerned with bringing about fundamental social change in this country to DO THE FOLLOWING:

- 1.) Send telegrams to Attorney General Ramsey Clark; Justice Department; Washington, D.C. Demand the immediate release of Brown and Sellers. (While we are not under any illusion that these telegrams are ever read, they at least serve notice on "the man" that we are watching his every move.)
- 2.) Send telegrams to Rap at Parish Prison, New Orleans, Louisiana. Let Brother Brown know that he does not fight alone.
- 3.) Funds are needed for the H. Rap Brown Bail Fund. Send contributions to SNCC- Suite 803; 100 Fifth Avenue; New York, N.Y .

The atmosphere that is being generated in New Orleans around Rap is one of a lynching and observers there state that there is no doubt that Rap's life is in danger. We are sure that the atmosphere in Richmond will be no different. Rather than waiting to die like an animal at the hands of his oppressors, Mr. Brown is refusing to eat, feeling that if he must die, it will be in the act of refusing to cooperate with and fighting against the oppression that continually chokes off the lives of his people. But it must not be forgotten who is to blame if H. Rap Brown's hunger strike leads to his death.

H. RAP BROWN MUST BE SET FREE ! If he is not, we will hold every honky in America responsible and blacks will start collecting all the dues that white America owes.