

NEW YORK OFFICE  
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
100 Fifth Avenue, Suite 803  
New York, New York 10011 YUkon 9-1313

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARCH 11, 1968

Since February 21, 1968, National Chairman H. Rap Brown has been imprisoned in Louisiana. During that whole time, nearly three weeks, he has kept his resolution to fast for freedom. He has refused to eat all solid foods, although he is now drinking water. He is in good spirits, but has lost about 25 pounds and is in a seriously weakened condition physically.

LEGAL STATUS:

February 20, 1968

Arrest in New York City on charge of violation of bond and travel restriction following trip to California to consult lawyers, during which Rap made two speeches.

Wednesday, February 21, 1968

Trial in New Orleans, Louisiana before Judge Lansing Mitchell, for the East District of Louisiana, New Orleans Division, raised bond from \$15,000 to \$50,000 and ordered a forfeiture of \$5,000 on the original bail. He also imposed an additional bond of \$50,000 for alleged intimidation of a Federal witness. (A Negro F.B.I. agent claimed that Rap had threatened him and his children. Rap, in fact, had called him an uncle tom and said that he hoped that his children would grow up to be better men than he.)

Friday, February 23, 1968

Trial in Richmond, Virginia. Rap was charged with violation of travel restriction and was ordered to pay the U. S. Treasury \$10,000 bond which was declared forfeited. He was taken back to the Orleans Parish Prison, but was transferred to Baton Rouge after militant youths threatened to hold massive demonstrations, disrupting Mardi Gras--the city's chief money-making event.

Sunday, February 25, 1968

Six foot crosses were burned in front of the West Baton Rouge Parish Jail and on the lawn of Mr. Brown's lawyer in Baton Rouge.

Tuesday, February 27, 1968

Brief filed in the U. S. Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of Virginia and Louisiana travel bans.

Wednesday, February 28, 1968

Rap was transferred back to the New Orleans Parish Prison, a segregated state prison, and was placed in scull on Death Row. Judge Frankel of the New York Criminal Court ordered the District Attorney to draw up requisition papers ordering the appearance of Mr. Brown before him on Wednesday, March 20 at 10 A.

Thursday, March 7, 1968

The Fifth Circuit Court, sitting in emergency session ordered the \$50,000 bond reduced back to the original \$15,000, holding that Judge Lansing's action in raising the bail was unwarranted. In regular session, the Fifth Circuit Court will consider the validity of the forfeiture of \$5,000 for bond violation.