NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COordinating Committee
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Staff Director
United States Commission on Civil Rights
Washington, D.C.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Urgently request that the United States Commission on Civil Rights
hold a full scale hearing on civil rights in Mississippi immediately.
It is now apparent that the Department of Justice lacks the necessary
manpower and legal equipment and support from the Judiciary to fulfill
its obligations to the State of Mississippi and the country in the
minimum area of voter registration. You cannot, without selling out
your responsibility to Congress, the President, and the country, del
a full scale hearing by the Commission any longer. The fact that the
murder of Medgar Evers comes from Greenwood is not insignificant by
any means. It strongly supports the theory that a ring of killers
operates out of Greenwood with an official wink from the police and
other law enforcement agencies in Mississippi. Apparently the Depart-
ment of Justice and the FBI are unable to operate in any manner with
these people. The fact that three Negroes have been killed in the
past six weeks by officers of the law in Tallahatchie, Holmes, and Panola
Counties, is also not insignificant. The Department of Justice has
voting suits in all three counties and it is the unattached Negroes
that the law officers are most likely to take vengeance on.

The Department of Justice has an inescapable obligation to guarantee
voter registration rights to Negroes in Mississippi and the South. Yet
it admits its inability to provide protection for applicants for regis-
tration and for voter registration workers, to say nothing of the
ordinary citizen who is an innocent victim. In this case, the Commis-
ion has inescapable obligation to expose the full range of Missis-
ippi's contempt for the laws of the country. The country cannot demand
the strong legislation needed from Congress because it does not under-
stand and cannot connect these stray facts which drift through Missis-
ippi's Cotton Curtain. Only a hearing of the full Commission can
command the authority to present these facts to the country. The
argument that such a hearing would seriously impede the suits filed by
the Justice Department in Mississippi can itself no longer be seri-
ously considered. The Federal Judiciary in Mississippi has demon-
strated it is by no means able to respond to these suits and to the emerg-
ence of our times with intelligent constructive judicial action.

Robert Moses

Director Mississippi Voter Registration Project
Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

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