

1965

The following statement was taken verbatim by ML in the Atlanta SNCC office:

My name is Mrs. Annie Mae King and I live in Sunflower County, Mississippi.

We were arrested about 12 noon Monday, and they put us in a paddy wagon. It was so hot in there--there were 20 of us in there and we couldn't get no air. When they carried us out to the barn they let us stay in the paddy wagon about thirty minutes before they let us out. When they taken us out they pushed us into the barn.

When we got inside the barn there were about 100 or more cops and patrolmen and they began to push us from one side to the other. They yelled, "Get back, nigger, get back." They pushed us all into each other. One of them pushed me across the back with one of the blackjacks and said, "Get on up there in the line. And they just beat up children, pushing them and hitting them in the head. (The children were 12 years and older.)

After they registered us in on Monday night, they carried in us in another stock barn. They made us sit down on the concrete floor about five to a row. They wouldn't let us sit against the wall, and we had to sit on the floor the whole time. About 10 that night they gave us some little, old, thin mattress.

At five in the morning they made us stand up and give up the mattresses. Every time some white girls would come in they would be dragged out if they would not walk. They knocked one white girl in the head.

It's a long story, but the saddest of all--it was a lady that weighed about 300 pounds (Mrs. Maggie Gordon), and we didn't have no kind of privacy because about 25 or 30 cops would be in there all through the night. And this lady had rinsed out her panties, and she was lying on a pallet. And they asked her to get up. And they shatched the tick out from under. And as she lied on the floor two cops taken her by her feet, and they drug her about 25 feet across the hall, and they kicked her all in her privates and beat her terrible.

And it was two young ladies there pregnant, and they beat one of them so she had a miscarriage.

I got out Thursday noon. It's a long story. I can't explain it all; I just say what I saw. During this time when they separated us and taken our name and separated the ladies from the men, they were very, very cruel. The food was very, very poor. We didn't get a shower until Wednesday night.

There's lots more.....