

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

My name is Mrs. Maggie Gordon. I'm from Holmes County, Mississippi. I was arrested on Tuesday and taken to the Fairgrounds. About 6:30 Wednesday morning the officer came over and said "Get up and get over there." I said "OK." So when I attempted to move, he said, "Let's drag her."

So I said, "Please dont. I don't have my underpants on." So it was four of them. They grabbed me, and just pulled my legs apart and they kicked me in the privates. And they pulled me from that side to the other side. And they were steadily kicking me with their feet in the privates. And I caught one of the policemen by the leg, and they had those things called billy clubs, and they were hitting me on my arms and hands to get me loose from him. He fell over and I reached to get the billy club and it was kicked away from me.

When I did manage to get up they had pulled and stretched me and tore my clothes off me. So when I managed to get up the one that had kicked me, I caught him on his shoulder and I hit him with my fist. And about 25 or more ganged up and pulled out their clubs and were standing around me. So excuse this expression--I said to all of them, I said, "I am not afraid of none of you motherfuckers." So then they ganged me and taken me out to the police car, and on the way out there one of these patrolmen hit me on the back end, juked me with the stick as we went to the car.

After we got to the car they handcuffed me and leaned me over and beat me all across the back end and back. So from there to the City Hall the one that had already kicked me in the privates, he asked me my name, and I refused to tell him my name. So he said "we assume you don't have no name." Then he says to me "do you know what you are?" I say what he said: "You are a stupid, nasty, stinking bitch." So I said to him, "You are a stupid, stinking, motherfucking bitch." So I hit him and he hit me back. Then the three of them ganged me then, twisting my wrist and my right arm behind me. They said, "Let's put her in solitary."

That's in a dark, small room. And on the way up to the room, they threw me down, stomped me all in my body and still were kicking me. They dragged me in this dark cell and I was in there for 12 hours without water or food or a place to go to the bathroom. Some of the people at the Fairground told my lawyer where I was and he called up to see about me and he came up, and that's why they got me out of this dark place.

And they also had other police to come in and said, "Maggie, we come to take you to have X-Rays so we're not the ones that hurt you. We're not going to hurt you." So they did. They were nice.

I talked to the FBI and gave them a statement on Thursday morning in jail. The FBI man didn't say too much. They taken pictures of my head bruises and I was already naked from tearing my clothes off and they took pictures of my back end where I had been beaten. I signed a statement and then I got out. The FBI didn't say anything to me about what they would do. There were just 2 FBI men.

I've been passing blood in my urine since I was beaten, but it's getting better. I got medicine for it from a Dr. Winter and another white doctor at the University Hospital.