

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
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Atlanta 14, Georgia  
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SW Ga

Lena Turner, being duly sworn deposes and says:

I Lena Turner, am willing to testify in court that I saw the police of Americus, Ga., bring into the jail the beaten bodies of Milton Wilkerson, James Williams and Mr McClendon, who is 67 years old. I could clearly see that they had been beaten and told the FBI investigators that during the week of Aug. 12.

After they came in I saw Milton with blood all over his shirt. I said to Milton, "What happened?" And he said, "It was rough, it was rough." He turned his head and I could see blood all running down his face. By this time they brought James Williams in, and he was crying and moaning and the others who had been arrested crowded around him. Someone hollered out, "His leg is broken, call the cops!" The cops had gone out the back into the hall leading to the white cell. Then they stood aside and I could see him lying down on the floor. He was stretched out on the floor and I could see blood on his pants and his head was rolling from side to side. I could tell he was in pain. I was in my cell. They kept yelling and yelling that James' leg was broken and finally the cops came back with more prisoners. They were told again that his leg was broken. So they said, "Okay, all you guys who are hurt bad enough--let's go." The prisoners said, "We can't carry him, his leg is broken." Everybody crowded around him again and then moved through the back door and someone must have picked him up and carried him out.

When they came back Milton Wilkerson had his head bandaged. Mr. McClendon had a bandage on the top of his head and others had bandages on their heads and arms. You could see cuts on their arms. They were open wounds, not exactly bleeding, just that somehow the skin had been opened. It was awful. I had never seen anything like it before. The cuts looked like what you see when you go to the movies see wierd tales.

About thirty minutes before the arrests I had seen the policemen come in, go to their lockers, get their equipment. They got their hats, the kind they use to play football, the billy sticks and a box with wires and something on the front of it. One of the officers said, "You want to use that tear gas?" But I don't know whether they ever got it.

The following week of Aug. 12 I was upstairs in the courthouse cleaning the floors. Lorine Sanders and I were singing freedom songs as we mopped the floors and the men who later turned out to be the FBI men went into the courtroom. We went into courtroom and Lorine asked one of the two men for a match. He introduced himself as an FBI man by showing us his credentials. He asked us why we were there. He asked us if we were among those arrested Friday, Aug. 9. I told him that we weren't among them, but that we surely know about it. He said he already knew about it. That was the reason he was there, he said.

I then volunteered to tell him about the fact that several people had been beaten, that James Williams had his leg broken by the police and about the others, too, although I didn't actually mention their names. I did tell him that many had required stitches and gone to the

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hospital. I explained to him that there was a man 67 years old, Mr. McClendon, still in the city hall and that he had been beaten.

In a few minutes I saw him talk with McClenden and I saw him talk with three or four cops.

Sworn to before me this 10th day of September, 1963.

sig.: Lois Barnum Holley  
Notary Public Ga. State  
at large. My commission  
expires Aug. 29, 1967

sig.: Lena Turner