

# Introduction

OUT OF the inhuman black ghettos of American cities, out of the cotton plantations of the South, comes this record of mass slayings on the basis of race, of lives deliberately warped and distorted by the willful creation of conditions making for premature death, poverty and disease. It is a record that calls aloud for condemnation, for an end to these terrible injustices that constitute a daily and ever-increasing violation of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

It is sometimes incorrectly thought that genocide means the complete and definitive destruction of a race or people. The Genocide Convention, however, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 9, 1948, defines genocide as any killings on the basis of race, or, in its specific words, as "killing members of the group." Any intent to destroy, *in whole or in part*, a national, racial, ethnic or religious group is genocide, according to the Convention. Thus, the Convention states, "causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group" is genocide as well as "killing members of the group."

We maintain, therefore, that the oppressed Negro citizens of the United States, segregated, discriminated against and long the target of violence, suffer from genocide as the result of the consistent, conscious, unified policies of every branch of government.

The Civil Rights Congress has prepared and submits this petition to the General Assembly of the United Nations on behalf of the Negro people in the interest of peace and democracy, charging the Government of the United States of America with violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

We believe that in issuing this document we are discharging an historic responsibility to the American people, as well as rendering a service of inestimable value to progressive mankind. We speak of the American people because millions of white Americans in the ranks of labor and the middle class, and particularly those who live in the southern

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states and are often contemptuously called poor whites, are themselves suffering to an ever-greater degree from the consequences of the Jim Crow segregation policy of government in its relations with Negro citizens. We speak of progressive mankind because a policy of discrimination at home must inevitably create racist commodities for export abroad—must inevitably tend toward war.

We have not dealt here with the cruel and inhuman policy of this government toward the people of Puerto Rico. Impoverished and reduced to a semi-literate state through the wanton exploitation and oppression by gigantic American concerns, through the merciless frame-up and imprisonment of hundred of its sons and daughter, this colony of the rulers of the United States reveals in all its stark nakedness the moral bankruptcy of this government and those who control its home and foreign policies.

History has shown that the racist theory of government of the U.S.A. is not the private affair of Americans, but the concern of mankind everywhere.

It is our hope, and we fervently believe that it was the hope and aspiration of every black American whose voice was silenced forever through premature death at the hands of racist-minded hooligans or Klan terrorists, that the truth recorded here will be made known to the world; that it will speak with a tongue of fire loosing an unquenchable moral crusade, the universal response to which will sound the death knell of all racist theories.

We have scrupulously kept within the purview of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide which is held to embrace those "acts committed with intent to destroy in whole or in part a national, ethnical, racial or religious group as such."

We particularly pray for the most careful reading of this material by those who have always regarded genocide as a term to be used only where the acts of terror evinced an intent to destroy a whole nation. We further submit that this Convention on Genocide is, by virtue of our avowed acceptance of the Covenant of the United Nations, an inseparable part of the law of the United States of America.

According to international law, and according to our own law, the Genocide Convention, as well as the provisions of the United Nations Charter, supersedes, negates and displaces all discriminatory racist law on the books of the United States and the several states.

The Hitler crimes, of awful magnitude, beginning as they did against the heroic Jewish people, finally drenched the world in blood, and left a record of maimed and tortured bodies and devastated areas such as mankind had never seen before. Justice Robert H. Jackson, who now sits upon the United States Supreme Court bench, described this holocaust

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to the world in the powerful language with which he opened the Nuremberg trials of the Nazi leaders. Every word he voiced against the monstrous Nazi beast applies with equal weight, we believe, to those who are guilty of the crimes herein set forth.

Here we present the documented crimes of federal, state and municipal governments in the United States of America, the dominant nation in the United Nations, against 15,000,000 of its own nationals—the Negro people of the United States. These crimes are of the gravest concern to mankind. The General Assembly of the United Nations, by reason of the United Nations Charter and the Genocide Convention, itself is invested with power to receive this indictment and act on it.

The proof of this fact is its action upon the similar complaint of the Government of India against South Africa.

We call upon the United Nations to act and to call the Government of the United States to account.

We believe that the test of the basic goals of a foreign policy is inherent in the manner in which a government treats its own nationals and is not to be found in the lofty platitudes that pervade so many treaties or constitutions. The essence lies not in the form, but rather, in the substance.

The Civil Rights Congress is a defender of constitutional liberties, human rights, and of peace. It is the implacable enemy of every creed, philosophy, social system or way of life that denies democratic rights or one iota of human dignity to any human being because of color, creed, nationality or political belief.

We ask all men and women of good will to unite to realize the objectives set forth in the summary and prayer concluding this petition. We believe that this program can go far toward ending the threat of a third world war. We believe it can contribute to the establishment of a people's democracy on a universal scale.

But may we add as a final note that the Negro people desire equality of opportunity in this land where their contributions to the economic, political and social developments have been of splendid proportions, and in quality second to none. They will accept nothing less, and continued efforts to force them into the category of second-class citizens through force and violence, through segregation, racist law and an institutionalized oppression, can only end in disaster for those responsible.

Respectfully submitted by the Civil Rights Congress as a service to the peoples of the world, and particularly to the lovers of peace and democracy in the United States of America.

—WILLIAM L. PATTERSON  
*National Executive Secretary*  
*Civil Rights Congress*

## New Acts of Genocide

SINCE the preparation of the first edition of this petition in October, 1951, the following new acts of genocide against the Negro people have been reported:

A Florida Sheriff, Willis V. McCall, killed SAMUEL SHEPHERD and wounded WALTER LEE IRVIN, 23-year-old Negro prisoners whom he was driving to a re-trial which would have proven conclusively their innocence of a false "rape" charge. Neither federal government nor Florida officials have acted to punish Sheriff McCall for this cold-blooded murder.

Deputy Sheriff Lanclos of *Opelousas, Louisiana*, killed JOHN LESTER MITCHELL, a 33-year-old Negro who had filed suit in a federal court seeking the right of Negroes in St. Landry Parish (county) to vote. No action to punish Lanclos has been taken by the Dept. of Justice or the State of Louisiana.

WILLIAM HARVEY, a Negro seaman aboard the U.S. freighter Flying Trader, was shot and killed by the ship's captain, Franklin Weaver, a notorious racist. The seaman was in shock and pleading for mercy when he was shot to death.

MACK INGRAM, 44-year-old Negro share-cropper of *Yanceyville, North Carolina*, was indicted on a second charge of intent to commit assault for looking at a 17-year-old white girl from a distance of 75 feet. He had previously been convicted of assault "with intent to commit rape" because of the same accusation.

In *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*, forty police officers killed an unarmed 21-year-old Negro youth, JOSEPH AUSTIN CONWAY, allegedly being sought for questioning in a robbery. He died in a hail of police bullets while seeking to draw fire away from his family and neighbors.

In *Highland Park, Michigan*, an 18-year-old Negro youth, WILLIAM WASHAM, was shot and killed by Patrolman Paul Gytevai following an automobile traffic incident. Gytevai fired four shots at Washam and left his body huddled against a building where it was found the next morning.

For the third time in 1951, CARVER VILLAGE, a Negro housing development in *Miami, Florida*, was dynamited by racist terrorists. The Miami Hebrew School and Congregation was bombed at the same time. No effort by the FBI or Florida police to apprehend and jail the terrorists has been made.

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A United States Circuit Court of Appeals refused to review the cases of four *North Carolina* Negroes facing death in the state's gas chamber on trumped-up charges. The DANIELS Cousins were refused a review of their murder frame-up because their attorney was a day late in filing his appeal. The other two victims, CLYDE BROWN, 20 and RALEIGH SPELLER, face death for "rape." White men in North Carolina convicted of that crime are never given the death penalty.

A federal grand jury in *Beaumont, Texas*, acquitted four Orange, Texas policemen who beat to death LEVI DORSEY, a Negro they were holding in jail on charges of robbery.

Fifteen Negroes died in a train collision near *Woodstock, Alabama*, because state and railway officials compelled them to sit in a segregated car, a converted baggage car, in the forward part of the train. Two small Negro children were among the dead.

Since the second edition of this book went to press in November, 1951, the following acts of genocide by government against the Negro people, in violation of the UN Convention on Genocide, have been reported. (The following is a partial list.)

On Christmas Night, in Mims, Florida, Harry T. Moore, Florida head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was murdered by racist terrorists who bombed his home. His wife, Mrs. Harriett Moore, was also killed as a result of injuries sustained in the bombing. The attack on the Moore home followed a series of thirteen bombings of Jewish synagogues, a Negro housing project and Catholic Churches which began in June in Florida. Neither the murderers nor the dynamiters have been found or punished by government authorities.

In Paris, France, the U.S. State Department attempted to withdraw William L. Patterson's passport. Mr. Patterson, National Executive Secretary of the Civil Rights Congress and editor of this petition, was seeking a hearing before the UN Commission on Human Rights. The State Department's action was an open attempt to perpetuate anti-Negro genocide in the United States.

Gov. James F. Byrnes of South Carolina, former Secretary of State of the United States, called on the State Legislature to abandon the public school system because the U.S. Supreme Court may uphold the right of Negro students to so-called "equal" yet segregated school facilities.

Gov. Herman Talmadge of Georgia publicly urged a boycott by racists throughout the South of several national television programs because Negro and white performers had appeared together or because Negroes and whites conversed with each other on these programs.

In New York City, eighteen families living in Stuyvesant Town, owned by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. and built under an agreement with the City of New York for tax exemption, were served eviction notices. Each of the families had been active in a committee which fought for the right of Negroes to live in the housing project. City and state courts, as well as the U.S. Supreme Court, had upheld the right to evict these families. Only last-minute mass action by thousands of Negro and white trade unionists and other progressive citizens averted the mass eviction.

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In California, a national group known as "America Plus, Inc." was organized to amend the state constitution to allow anti-Negro discrimination and destroy the 14th Amendment to the federal constitution. State Senator Jack B. Tenney, notorious for his inquisitorial "Un-American" investigations in California, is chairman of "America Plus, Inc."

The Bonner Amendment was passed in Alabama to further deny and limit voting privileges of Negroes and poor whites. Among its provisions is that each prospective voter must take an "anti-Communist" oath.

Two Negro Air Force officers in Anchorage, Alaska, Capt. Silas Jenkins and Lt. Wilbur A. Dixon, who criticized their commanding officer, Lt. Col. Prentiss C. Jones, for anti-Negro discrimination, were recommended for discharge from the Army.

The Negro Community of Altamonte Spring, Florida, was ruled "out of town," to prevent Negroes there from voting and from receiving fire, sanitary and public health services. 210 whites and 205 Negroes had been registered to vote, too close for comfort to the town's racist white officials.

In Summerton, South Carolina, Rev. J. A. Delaine, who challenged the segregated school system of South Carolina in a court suit, had his house burned to the ground; was fired as a school teacher; was forced to leave his town and church; had his life threatened; was subjected to several law-suits tying up all his property and money; saw his relatives and friends who joined him in the court suit lose their jobs.

The body of Pfc. Thomas C. Reed, killed at the age of 19 in Korea, was refused burial for five weeks in a Phoenix, Arizona, cemetery because Reed was a Negro.

A white youth in Richmond, Virginia, who raped a 13-year-old Negro girl was freed by an all-white jury on December 20, 1951.

In Simpson county, Mississippi, James Brent Durr, poor Negro tenant farmer, was sentenced to die in the state's portable electric chair. Durr was convicted of "murder" by an all-white jury for his self-defense slaying of a local constable. The constable had fired shots at him, his pregnant wife, and his young son. Mrs. Durr, who has since given birth to a second child, is scheduled to go on trial for "murder" during the March term of the Simpson county circuit court.

Since the publication of the third edition of this book, the following glaring acts of genocide—again, a partial list—occurred in various sections of the United States:

WALTER LEE IRVIN, the Negro youth who survived the shooting in Florida by Sheriff McCall, was sentenced to death on a false charge of "raping" a white woman. He was tried by a white judge and an all-white jury. Testimony of two white defense witnesses which conclusively proved Irvin's innocence was completely ignored.

The heroic Negro mother, Mrs. ROSA LEE INGRAM, and her sons, WALLACE and SAMMIE LEE, now in their fifth year of imprisonment, were refused parole by the State of Georgia. They are under life imprisonment for defending her honor against the assault of a white farmer in 1947.



**THE FACE OF GENOCIDE.** These two young Negro men, Doolcy Morton and Bert Moore, were murdered in a brutal double lynching at Columbus, Mississippi. Such horrifying violence is only one of the many crimes against the Negro people of the United States which together form the major crime of genocide.

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WILLIAM L. PATTERSON's passport was illegally confiscated by agents of the U.S. Government on his return to New York because he filed this petition with the United Nations General Assembly in Paris.

Following the U.S. Supreme Court's refusal to review the case, the State of Louisiana moved to execute PAUL WASHINGTON and OCIE JUGGER, innocent Negro victims of a typical rape frame-up. No white man convicted of rape is ever given the death penalty in Louisiana (See Appendix, Document B).

In Cairo, Illinois, where a group of Negro parents sought to enroll their children in so-called "white" schools, the home of DR. URBANE BASS, NAACP leader, was bombed. A shot-gun blast was fired into the home of DR. J. C. WALLACE, another Negro leader. In addition, several crosses were burned by terrorists in and near the Negro ghetto in Cairo. Four of the terrorists were arrested, but charges against them were later dropped.

The U.S. Supreme Court again upheld segregation of Negro school children by refusing to intervene and reverse a lower court decision in the case brought by a group of Negro parents of Clarendon County against the State of South Carolina.

During National Brotherhood Week, in the State of Mississippi, ROBERT COBB, 32-year-old Negro of Columbus and TOBE FAULKNER, 60-year-old Negro tenant farmer of Lawrence, were murdered by terrorist mobs of 400 and 1,000 respectively. The *Jackson Advocate*, leading Mississippi Negro weekly, asserted that the killing of Faulkner "is almost sure to be recorded in the annual report of Tuskegee Institute" as a lynching.

RUFUS JOHNSON, a Negro veteran of World War II, was beaten to death in a jail cell by Bainbridge, Georgia police, his widow revealed. Johnson, a member of A.F.L. Butchers' Local 422, was "beaten almost to a pulp" around his neck and head, according to the undertaker.

Near Oxford, North Carolina, the home of SANFORD HOLDING, 55-year-old Negro farmer, which he built on "white" land, was bombed. . . . In Dallas, Texas, the third racist bombing in a month took place in that city in mid-January.

ARTHUR HOLLAND, 26-year-old Negro taxicab driver of Winter Garden, Florida was beaten on the night of January 5th by three carloads of white terrorists, shot in the head, and blackjacked "as a lesson to all Negroes."

WILLIAM MOORE, 27-year-old Negro prisoner, died in a hospital at Kingston, North Carolina of bullet wounds—the fourth Negro prisoner to be shot by police officers in three days in that state. No charges were filed against the deputy sheriff or the guards, who killed one other Negro prisoner and wounded two others.

Attorneys for the NAACP charged that two Negro soldiers, former SERGEANT ROBERT BURNS and former PRIVATE HERMAN DENNIS, who are awaiting execution for alleged rape of a white woman on Guam Island in 1949, were beaten unmercifully to force them to confess their "crime." . . . CPL. JOHN BIGGER, 24-year-old Negro soldier now under life imprisonment, was revealed to be the victim of an anti-Negro murder frame-up by U.S. Army officers in Korea.

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Six-foot flaming crosses were burned at Harvard University outside the rooms of nine Negro students. No arrests were made by town authorities.

A death threat from the Ku Klux Klan forced C. L. GLYMPH, Negro grocer of Gaffney, South Carolina—in 1947 the scene of the lynching of WILLIE EARLE—to withdraw from the Democratic Party primary elections for the town council.

Charles Klein, Georgia leader of the Ku Klux Klan, charged with bombing the home of MR. and MRS. GLENN BROOKS, a Negro couple who had moved into a so-called “white” neighborhood, was freed, even though fellow Klansmen admitted plotting the bombing with him.

In Richmond, California, a terrorist cross was burned in front of the new home of WILBUR GRAY, Negro war veteran, because he moved into a “white” neighborhood. A mob of 150 white racists threw rocks at Gray and jeered his progressive white defenders, Negro and white members of the C.R.C. and the NAACP. No arrests of any racists were made.

Newton Hanes, wealthy white farmer of New Bern, North Carolina, was freed by an all-white jury in what the *Afro-American*, leading Negro weekly, called “the cold-blooded murder” of his Negro tenant farmer, ISHMAEL SIMMONS. . . . During the same week in North Carolina, three of six white paratroopers who brutally raped the young Negro mother, MRS. LULA ARTES, were given light 18-24 month jail sentences, while the other three were never even brought to trial.

Negro families in Eugene, Oregon, according to Edwin C. Berry of the Oregon Urban League, were forced by city officials to move into a “swamp-land without sanitary facilities of any kind” after being evicted from homes near a new bridge development.

An all-white jury in Jackson, Mississippi, on March 6th, freed five police officers who flogged MURRY GRAY, 25-year-old Negro youth, they handcuffed to a pine tree. In Columbus, South Carolina, a jailer accused of torturing Negro and white prisoners was only fined \$100 and complimented by Judge George Timmerman for “maintaining the best jail in the state.”

Police Chief Ervin Konovsky, responsible for the world-notorious Cicero, Illinois pogrom against the newly-bought home of a Negro family, was acquitted of some of the charges against him at the direction of Judge Frank Leonard of the Cook County Criminal Court.

BENJAMIN SHIPMAN, JR., was declared by East Orange, New Jersey police to have “committed suicide” in jail—the third Negro in a period of a few months to be announced a “suicide” by a police department notorious for its anti-Negro brutality.