

A black and white photograph of a hand pointing downwards, positioned in the upper right quadrant of the page. The hand is dark and appears to be pointing towards the text below.

**WE
CHARGE**

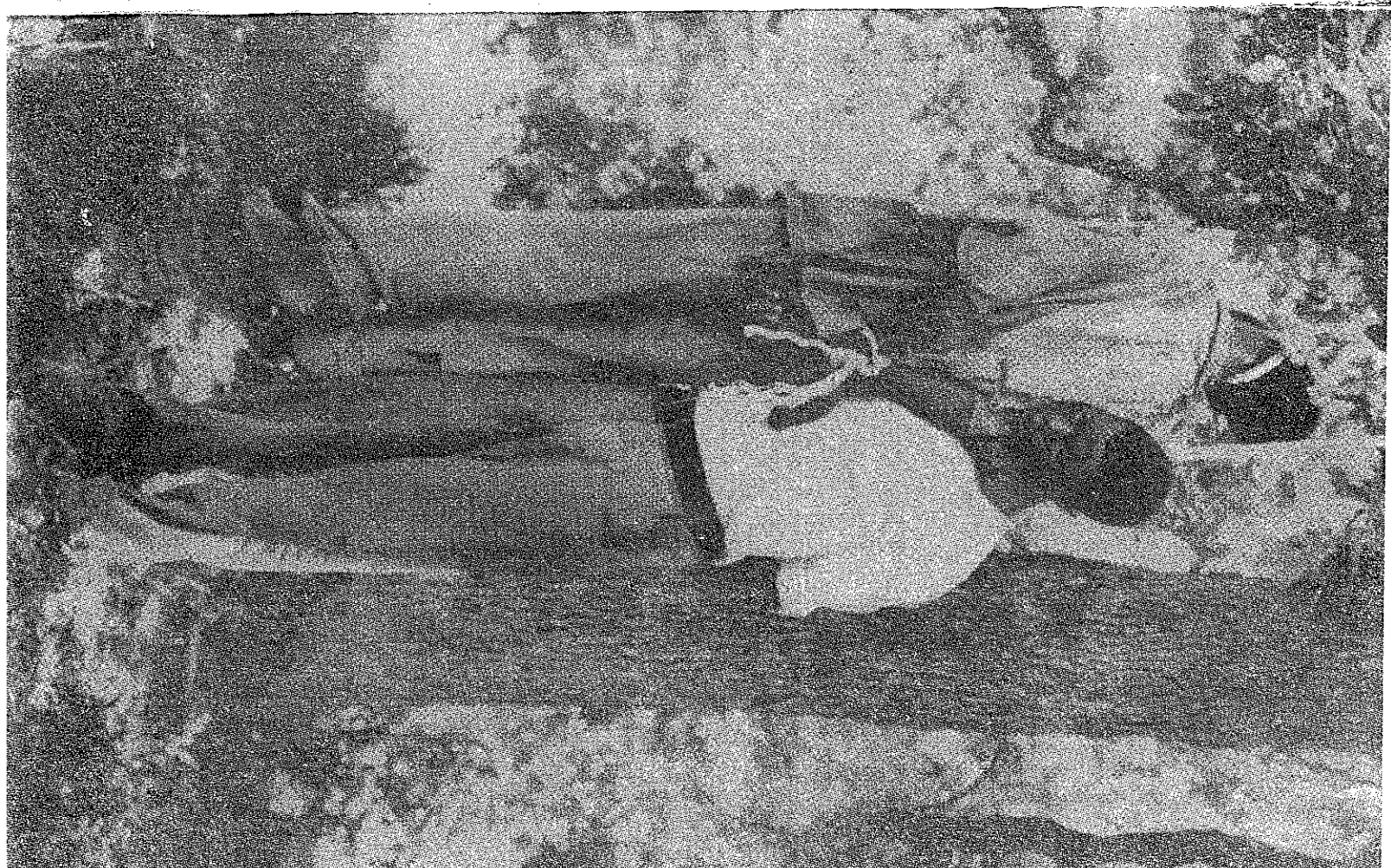
GENOCIDE

**THE CRIME OF GOVERNMENT
AGAINST THE NEGRO PEOPLE**

A PETITION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

MARC GOLDING

We Charge Genocide



W E C H A R G E
Genocide

THE HISTORIC PETITION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
FOR RELIEF FROM A CRIME OF
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
AGAINST THE NEGRO PEOPLE

Civil Rights Congress

New York: 1951

THE FACE OF GENOCIDE. These two young Negro men, Dooley 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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Edited by: WILLIAM L. PATTERSON; *Staff:* RICHARD O. BOYER, HOWARD FAST, YVONNE GREGORY, DR. OAKLEY JOHNSON, JOHN HUDSON JONES, RUTH A. JONES, LEON JOSEPHSON, STEVEN KENNEDY and ELIZABETH LAWSON.

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205

ARTICLE II, CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF GENOCIDE:

Adopted December 9, 1948

"In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

ARTICLE III:

"The following acts shall be punishable:

- (a) Genocide;
- (b) Conspiracy to commit genocide;
- (c) Direct and public incitement to commit genocide;
- (d) Attempt to commit genocide;
- (e) Complicity in genocide."

Contents

The Petitioners

<i>Introduction</i>		XI
<i>New Acts of Genocide</i>		XIV
Part I	THE OPENING STATEMENT	2
Part II	THE LAW AND THE INDICTMENT	29
Part III	THE EVIDENCE	55
Part IV	SUMMARY AND PRAYER	193
Part V	APPENDIX	200

Alzira Albaugh, <i>New Mexico</i>	Howard East, <i>New York</i>
Mike Babinechok, <i>Ohio</i>	Winifred Feise, <i>Louisiana</i>
Charlotta A. Bass, <i>California</i>	James Ford, <i>New York</i>
Isadore Begun, <i>New York</i>	Josephine Grayson, <i>Virginia</i>
Richard O. Boyer, <i>New York</i>	Abner Green, <i>New York</i>
Maurice Braverman, <i>Maryland</i>	Yvonne Gregory, <i>New York</i>
Louis E. Burnham, <i>New York</i>	Aubrey Grossman, <i>New York</i>
Harold Christoffel, <i>Wisconsin</i>	William Harrison, <i>Massachusetts</i>
Charles Collins, <i>New York</i>	Harry Haywood, <i>New York</i>
Ralph Cooper, <i>New Jersey</i>	James R. Herman, <i>Louisiana</i>
Dr. Matthew Crawford, <i>California</i>	Rev. Charles A. Hill, <i>Michigan</i>
George Crockett Jr., <i>Michigan</i>	William Hood, <i>Michigan</i>
Wendell Phillips Dabney, <i>Ohio</i>	W. Alphaeus Hunton, <i>New York</i>
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Benjamin J. Davis Jr., <i>New York</i>	Arnold Johnson, <i>Pennsylvania</i>
Carmen Davis, <i>Tennessee</i>	Dr. Oakley C. Johnson, <i>Louisiana</i>
Lester Davis, <i>Illinois</i>	Claudia Jones, <i>New York</i>
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Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois, <i>New York</i>	Rev. Obadiah Jones, <i>Missouri</i>
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Collis English, <i>New Jersey</i>	Mary Kalb, <i>Virginia</i>
	Maude White Katz, <i>New York</i>

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 Rev. Eliot White, *New York*
 Horace Wilson, *New Jersey*
 Elsie Zazivny, *Ohio*

Introduction

OUR or 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

INTRODUCTION

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.

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 hoodligans 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 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

INTRODUCTION

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

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.

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 RALPHIGH 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

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 SHERNERD and wounded WALTER LEE IRVIN, 23-year-old Negro prisoners, whom he was driving to a retrial 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 Lancelos 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 Lancelos has been taken by the Dept. of Justice or the State of Louisiana.

Instead, following Mitchell's murder, Opelousas police terrorized the Negro community with a "manhunt" for five Negroes who allegedly "attacked" a night-club employe who held a "non-salaried sheriff's commission."

WILLIAM HARVEY, a Negro seaman aboard the U.S. freighter Flying Trader, was shot and killed by the ship's captain, Franklin Weaver, who was notorious for his racism. The seaman was in shock and pleading for mercy when he was shot to death. Weaver was exonerated by a government commission on the ship's return to the United States.

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 Gytewai following an automobile traffic incident. Gytewai fired four shots at Washam and left his body huddled against a building where it was found the next morning.