

Massive 'Witness Against Executions' To Be Held On Easter In Atlanta

GREENSBORO — A massive mobilization of 4,000 to 5,000 opponents to capital punishment will converge in Atlanta, Ga. Easter weekend for what has been called a "Witness Against Executions". Sponsored by the Southern Coalition of Jails and Prisons, the "Witness" will include speeches by well-known freedom fighters, workshops, musical entertainers and a

march to the state capital. Making the announcement for the Coalition of Jails and Prisons was statewide organizer Allan McGregor who said that more than 200 North Carolinians are expected to attend the April 8-10 "Witness." He said that transportation and housing were being provided for needy persons desiring to attend. Questioned why the mobi-

lization of death penalty opponents to Atlanta, McGregor said that "Georgia looks like the next place to have executions and it is important for us who oppose it to give the people of the state the feeling that they are not alone." The exact number of persons waiting to be executed in Georgia is not known. Central records are not kept by the state but are kept by county subdivisions.

When the Supreme Court knocked down the mandatory death penalty in North Carolina as unconstitutional because it did not give discretion to judges and juries in its application, the capital punishment statute in Georgia was upheld. Legal maneuvers running out, executions are to begin there soon. Needless to say the majority of those to be executed are black and all working class.

Friday evening, April 18th there will be an informal gathering to assign housing and prepare banners at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, where the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. pastored before his assassination. Beginning Saturday, April 9 at noon and ending at 4 p.m. a march from Auburn Avenue and Jackson Street to the Capital will conclude in several speeches. Among the speakers are included Georgian State Senator Julian Bond; Associate Editor of the New York Times, Tom Wicker; Civil Rights Attorney, Jerry Paul, the Director of the Southern Coalition of Jails and Prisons, Rev. Joseph Ingle; and Dorothy Day representing the Catholic Workers Party. Live held "to call witness against entertainment will also be state-imposed death."

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Saturday evening work-shops will be held on the legal system and how to organize opposition to the death day event. Twenty-three organizations are cooperating with the Southern Coalition of Jails and Prisons to sponsor the three day event.

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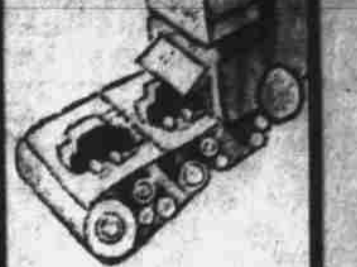


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