

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

20 WEST 40TH STREET NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

Please direct reply to:

WASHINGTON BUREAU NAACP
100 Massachusetts Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C.
Telephone National 5794

May 31, 1951

Mr. George Friedman
Chief of Civil Rights Section
and Criminal Division
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Friedman:

We have received from Mr. W. C. Patton, President of the Alabama State Conference of NAACP Branches, an urgent request that the Department of Justice investigate the shooting of Mrs. Willie Ruth Williams, a 17 year old expectant mother at Gadsden, Alabama. Mrs. Williams is colored.

According to Mr. Patton, Mrs. Williams was shot on April 28 by a white police officer, Floyd Vinyard, when he arrived at her home to quell a family disturbance. The shooting took place at 1532 Cansler Avenue, Gadsden, Alabama, the residence of Mr. Jim Holley, an uncle of Mrs. Williams.

Mr. Patton's letter does not indicate whether the victim of the shooting is still alive. However, he states that the following persons are witnesses:

Mr. Jiles Isom, 405 So. 16th Street, Gadsden, Ala.
Mr. Archie Foster, 1315 4th Avenue, Gadsden, Ala.

Mr. Patton indicates that it is the belief of the witnesses that the officer willfully shot Mrs. Williams.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence Mitchell

Clarence Mitchell
Director
Washington Bureau

CMM:mbh



Official Organ: The Crisis

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