

THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

400 Washington Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104

J. Richard Cohen
Chief Executive Officer

334-956-8200
334-956-8481 - FAX
www.splcenter.org

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Carlton Peebles
Civil Rights Unit
Criminal Investigative Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D. C. 20535

Dear Mr. Peebles:

We understand that the FBI is reviewing unresolved civil rights murders and is gathering names of victims of what may have been racially motivated killings. *The New York Times* recently reported that your field offices have already compiled a list of 51 victims in 39 cases. We applaud your efforts.

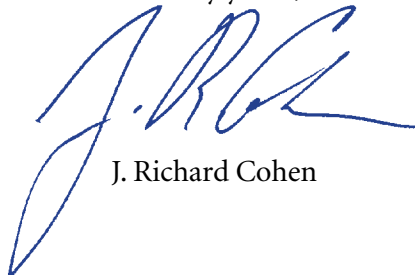
In the late 1980s, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) undertook research on racially motivated killings that occurred between 1954 and 1968, the era generally acknowledged as the modern-day Civil Rights Movement. The names of those who met certain criteria were to be inscribed upon a new Civil Rights Memorial. Designed by Maya Lin, the Memorial was dedicated by the SPLC in November 1989 here in Montgomery.

The stories of the 40 persons are told in *Free At Last*, published by the SPLC in concert with the Memorial dedication and updated in 2004. *Clarion-Ledger* writer Jerry Mitchell has said he used the publication as his “roadmap” as he embarked on his award-winning investigative reporting on unsolved cases. I’m enclosing a copy of *Free At Last* in case you are unfamiliar with the book.

While researching the deaths, we found dozens of additional victims of racial violence who could not be included on the Memorial because there simply was not enough known about the circumstances of their deaths. We suspect that some were killed by white supremacists to intimidate the black community or to thwart the Movement.

Enclosed is an alphabetical list of 74 of those identified victims with a brief description of what happened. We’re also enclosing a copy of our file on each of these individuals. Many contain FOIA requests we filed. We ask that the FBI use its considerable investigatory resources to uncover more information about these cases. Those responsible for these forgotten deaths — those who may still be alive today, like James Ford Seale, who was recently arrested for the murders of Henry Hezekiah Dee and Charles Eddie Moore — have gone unpunished too long.

Sincerely yours,



J. Richard Cohen

Copies to: James “Chip” Burrus
Chief/Criminal Investigative Division

Brett Hovington
Unit Chief/Community Relations