

VIOLENCE IS NOT THE WAY . . . Atlanta Branch NAACP

The events occurring in our city a few nights ago when a few people interfered with an officer of the law in the routine execution of his duty has caused some alarm and deep concern on our part as citizens in this community who take seriously our responsibility as citizens. No one can honestly deny the facts of history -- facts which show that Negro people have been and still are victims of injustices and wrongs. We are just as determined as any to work continuously and with vigor to eliminate any and all injustice in this city. We do not believe, however, that one wrong can be made right by committing another wrong. The way of violence no matter by whom perpetuated is wrong and it creates more problems than it solves. Worst of all, violence always victimizes the innocent children. This course is not wise and should not be followed by any people. There is a way to protest. The frame work is set out in our Constitution. All people should work to see:

1. That it is preserved and honored.
2. That all who live under it, live by it.

Violence or inciting to riot does neither of these. As citizens who live here and who are determined to make Atlanta a more just city we pledge our support of law and order. We call for wisdom and calmness on the part of all . . . the police and the people alike. Level heads, pure hearts when joined in a common purpose, remove fear and release untapped energies for good. Atlanta, though imperfect, is too good to

be destroyed by rashness no matter from what quarter. Those who are engaged in the struggle for human injustice anywhere in this nation must have friends. No man, no nation, no group of people can go it alone. Cooperation is the way to achieve righteous goals.