

# THE STORY OF DESSIE WOODS



National Committee  
to Defend Dessie Woods  
P.O. Box 92084  
Morris Brown Station  
Atlanta, Ga. 30314

A CLOSE-UP LOOK AT JUSTICE  
IN THE "NEW SOUTH"

## *Preface to Second Edition*

Since the first printing of this pamphlet, in March 1977, there has been an untiring and relentless defense effort to "Free Dessie Woods." There have also been drastic changes in Dessie's legal status, as well as in the National Consciousness that supports her defense committee and release.

On September 4, 1977, 500 people from throughout the U.S. gathered in Atlanta, Georgia, to demonstrate and protest against the incarceration of Dessie Woods. Then on September 14th, some 200 people rallied in the California San Francisco Bay Area, in support of the September 4th Action.

However, we must begin to intensify our defense efforts. On November 1, 1977, the State Supreme Court of Georgia affirmed the February 1976 Woods conviction, thus keeping in line with "NEW SOUTH" justice.

Now, more so than ever, your active participation and material support is needed. The movement to free Dessie Woods "grows" because it is just. **UNITE WITH AND SUPPORT THE MOVEMENT TO FREE DESSIE WOODS!**

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Picture on opposite page: Dessie Woods

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## THE STORY OF DESSIE WOODS

June 17, 1975, is the most important date in the life of Dessie Woods. On that date she almost lost her life. She may still lose her life, or a very good portion of it if we are not successful in getting this pamphlet to you, and after doing so, get you to act.

Dessie Woods is presently serving 10- and 12-year sentences concurrently after being charged, tried and convicted for defending herself from a rape attempt by a white man on that terrible June 17 night.

## HERSTORY

When Dessie Woods agreed to accompany her friend Cheryl Todd to Georgia's infamous Reidsville prison to see Todd's brother, she had no idea of what was in store for them. She simply knew they had to get to the prison as quickly as possible to see Todd's brother who had been complaining desperately of an illness that was not getting attention from prison officials. And when you're poor and temporarily unemployed, "as quickly as possible" sometimes means hitchhiking, which is exactly what the two women did.

Their journey began on June 14, 1975. It began despite the intense heat and the medicine for blood pressure Todd had taken earlier, the combination of which resulted in Todd's fainting just as they reached the prison. Troopers from the Georgia State Patrol office, directly across the street from the prison, must have been watching the two women, because immediately after the black women fainted, they approached the women, accused Todd of public drunkenness, and assaulted them when they protested the false accusation.

It took the women three days to get out of jail after money was wired to them from Atlanta. And it was their attempt to get out of the area as soon as possible that brought them into contact with Ronnie Horne, a white insurance salesman from Rentz, Georgia, who was to die a violent death while attempting to maintain southern "Good-Old-Boy" tradition.

The women had been hitchhiking for nearly ten hours trying to get back to Atlanta. It was 9 p.m. when Horne pulled up in his white car with the long antenna and offered Woods and Todd a ride.

The car had a citizens' band radio and there was a holstered gun on the front seat. It looked like an unmarked police car. The two black women were glad to get the ride, and from a friendly detective at that! They got in the car.

Horne was solicitous, and the women began to tell him their story: how they had been arrested, beaten, and jailed in Reidsville. They could not know that Horne was a rapist. They could not know—as their defense committee was to learn later—that Horne had a reputation in the black quarters of Rentz, as a white man who would take screaming women against their will and rape them with impunity.

They were only glad to be off their feet; glad to hear the humming of the highway beneath the wheels of the powerful white car as it took them farther and farther from the terror of Reidsville and closer to the safety of Atlanta, and for Dessie, to the comfort of her two children.

Horne got on his car radio and began to describe the women's situation to another man on the other end, arranging to meet him at a nearby restaurant for further discussion. It was while they were at the restaurant that the two women began to understand that something was wrong.

The man Horne met with at the restaurant was to be later identified as Royce Yawn, a business associate of Horne's.

Almost immediately Yawn and Horne began to argue when Yawn insisted on taking Todd with him.

The two women, uneasy but desperate to get back to Atlanta, left the restaurant with Horne, only to discover he was not heading toward Atlanta. Demanding he stop the car, the two women got out and walked back to the restaurant they had just left.

Not to be outdone, Horne followed the women back to the restaurant, where, when his attempts to convince them he would take them straight to Atlanta failed, he resorted to threats to "arrest" them if they did not leave with him "immediately."

Almost as soon as they got in the car, Horne began to threaten the already intimidated African women with sexual abuse. Dessie Woods, at a 1976 Atlanta rally held in support of her and Cheryl Todd, described this scene: "He [Horne] began to threaten us. He told us he was going to 'F-k' both of us."

The threats were too much for Todd, who began to scream hysterically, and as soon as Horne pulled his car into a deserted area, jumped out and began to run.

An enraged Horne grabbed his gun from the car seat in an apparent attempt to shoot Todd, and it was at this point that Dessie Woods made the snap decision to FIGHT FOR HER LIFE AND TODD'S LIFE that resulted in the state of Georgia's attempting to take their lives away.

Dessie Woods explained: "Some women have told me I should have just let him do what he wanted to do. But he could have done what he wanted and still killed both of us."

When Horne grabbed his gun, Dessie Woods, sitting in the back seat, grabbed Horne, and they fought for the weapon. Horne lost and Dessie Woods shot him twice in the head. She then pushed herself out of the car to go find her friend Cheryl Todd.

The prosecuting attorney at her trial was to make much of Dessie Woods' calm during this period. In order to calm the hysterical Todd, Woods led her to the dead Horne's car and said: "Look at him, Misty [Todd's nickname]: he's dead, he won't mess with us no more!" Then Woods took the dead man's money from his wallet so they could PAY for transportation back to Atlanta and away from this odyssey of bloodshed and terror that began as a mercy mission to a prison.

The two women were arrested the next day and charged with murder and armed robbery. They were placed in the Wheeler County Jail and given court-appointed attorneys. The trial date was set for September 2, and Todd's family, by now aware of her situation, hired an attorney for her. Woods was still stuck with a court-appointed attorney until much later when the defense committee was able to get a young black Atlanta attorney to represent her.

On September 2, 1975, the date their trial was scheduled to begin, several defense motions were filed for Woods and Todd. One of these was a motion to quash the indictment because of the illegality of the Grand Jury that issued it.

The defense motion challenged the under-representation of blacks, women, and persons between the ages of 18 and 30. The motion was granted after questioning of the jury commissioners revealed UNDISGUISED ANTI-BLACK SENTIMENTS which once stated, made it virtually impossible to cover up the real intent of the trial—to railroad the two black women into prison and possibly the electric chair.

Here are some examples of the dialogue between defense attorney Millard Farmer and one of the jury commissioners:

ATT. MILLARD FARMER: "Have you ever had any Blacks in your home socially?"

JURY COMMISSIONER: "I don't know what you mean by socially, but there's a colored person that comes to my home every day."

ATT. FARMER: "Who is this person?"

JURY COMMISSIONER: "My maid."

ATT. FARMER: "Does she eat at the same table with you?"

JURY COMMISSIONER: "She eats there when I finish."

ATT. FARMER: "Are there as many upright and intelligent Blacks percentage wise living in this community as whites?"

JURY COMMISSIONER: "No."

ATT. FARMER: "Why weren't there more Blacks on your jury list?"

JURY COMMISSIONER: "Because there aren't enough colored people that have enough sense to serve on a Grand Jury."

The motion to quash the indictment was granted, pending re-indictment with a "fair" Grand Jury. Woods and Todd were allowed freedom on bond to await re-indictment upon the convening of a new Grand Jury.

In the meantime, the family of the dead Ronnie Horne, not accustomed to what appeared to be a successful challenge of the old, traditional way by the defense team, decided to assist in guaranteeing that the two black women be convicted.

THEY HIRED A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR TO ASSIST THE STATE IN ITS EFFORTS TO KILL DESSIE WOODS AND CHERYL TODD. THE MAN THEY HIRED WAS WASH LEE, A LOCAL WELL-KNOWN STATE LEGISLATOR.

## HAWKINSVILLE AND THE TRIAL

The defense also won another motion for a change of venue from rural Alamo, in Wheeler County in southeast Georgia, which has a population of approximately 900 people. However, they were to have a lesson in Southern justice if they thought the change in site for the trial was to actually be a real victory.

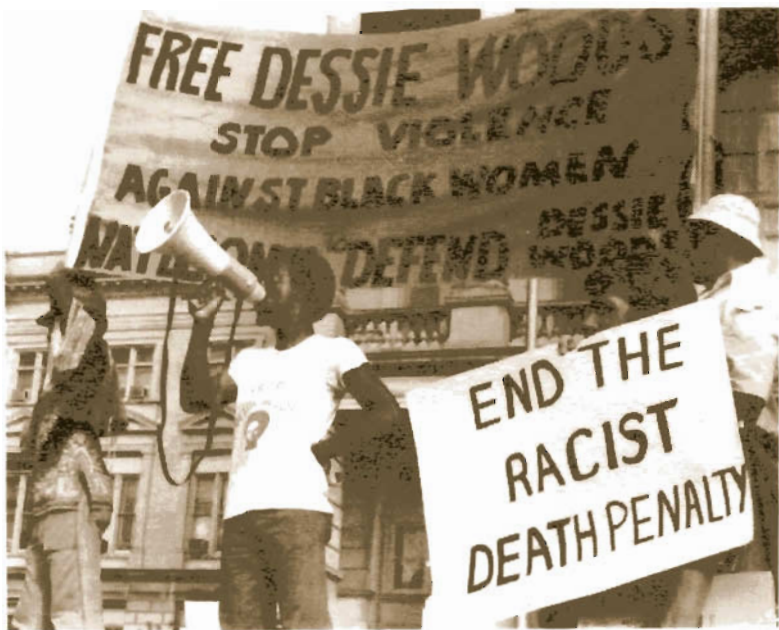
The trial was moved from Wheeler County to Hawkinsville in Pulaski County. Pulaski is the namesake of the Tennessee county where the Ku Klux Klan was founded shortly after the Civil War. The county would live up to its name in the trial of Dessie Woods and Cheryl Todd.

Hawkinsville itself is a rural town of a little over 3,000 people in south central Georgia. Its economic base consists of cotton, peanuts, and cheese, the first two requiring large numbers of cheap laborers for profits.

Brutal repression and intimidation are a way of life for the black population whose existence is tied to the plantation system which still prevails in Hawkinsville. Black people in Hawkinsville still slave on plantations FOR 16 OR MORE HOURS A DAY FOR AS LITTLE AS \$10.00 A WEEK PLUS ROOM AND BOARD.

Local black residents told members of the defense committee who had come to Hawkinsville to organize support for the women, of instances where white plantation owners actually beat their black laborers for the slightest breach of plantation tradition. One plantation owner reportedly has his own private jail on his property where he judges, sentences, and jails black laborers according to his personal law.

One local black woman who did dare to work with the defense committee told of how her grandmother refused to



Dessie Woods supporters at a recent demonstration in Atlanta against the death penalty.

come to town until after the two women were tried, for fear of white reprisals.

While most of the fear and terror in Hawkinsville had their basis in traditional black-white relations, much of it was also deliberately fanned by the local white power structure in relationship to the trial of Dessie Woods and Cheryl Todd. They needed an unchanged intimidated black population upon whom the profitability of the plantation system depends, and they needed the conviction of Woods and Todd lest other African men and women become encouraged to shoot white rapists and otherwise disturb the traditional political relations.

An atmosphere of intimidation and impending disaster was created by a bombardment of false rumors that thousands of militant black demonstrators would descend on Hawkinsville from Atlanta and wreck the city. Then to give credence to the rumors, scores of county and state troopers were sent into Hawkinsville to beef up the local police department. And, as if this were not enough, on January 9, 1976, ten days before the trial was scheduled to begin, presiding Judge O'Connor issued a court order to ensure an "orderly and fair

trial without disruption or UNDUE PUBLICITY" (emphasis added), which:

PROHIBITED "all parties, counsel, witnesses, officials and others concerned and interested in this case . . . from making any extra judicial statements relating to the case for dissemination by any means of public communications without prior consent in writing."

PROHIBITED "photographs, television pictures, recordings or interviews . . . of or by any person participating in the trial of this case in the courthouse area to include the Pulaski Courthouse building, the courthouse steps, the courthouse square or on any public street or walk adjoining the courthouse square, nor may any such be made of a person within said confines by another person outside of said confines . . ."

PROHIBITED newsmen from any equipment other than "pencil (pen) and paper for taking notes."

RESTRICTED entrance of spectators and newsmen to North side of courthouse.

PROHIBITED more than 25 persons in anti-room (sic) to await available seats in courtroom, all other persons have to leave, taking themselves beyond the area proscribed for photographs, television pictures, etc.

O'Connor's order also prohibited spectators or newsmen from entering, leaving or standing in the courtroom "except during recesses or when excused by the Judge."

Rule 10 of the order was especially odious, reading:

*"Demonstration by any person or group of persons are specifically prohibited in the courthouse areas as defined in rule 2 (cited above). Demonstrations include walking or riding by one or more for the purpose of drawing public attention to such person or group. Also, the displaying of signs, placards or other items containing pictures, drawings, words or the like, and the handing out of any type of literature or material in said area is prohibited. No person shall be permitted to loiter in said area. If requested or desired by anyone, the sheriff shall provide an area elsewhere for demonstrations."*

O'Connor's order was a clear indicator of local establishment consensus on democratic rights. In addition to placing severe restrictions on the constitutional rights of everyone associated with the trial, it also served to contribute to the general sense of foreboding and impending assault upon the town.

Not the least portentous aspect of the order was Rule 12, which read: "No weapons of any type shall be allowed in the courthouse area and persons desiring to enter the courtroom may in the discretion of a bailiff or upon instructions from the court be searched for weapons. This rule does not apply to bailiffs."

Indeed, it did not apply to bailiffs, nor to the scores of other law officials who had descended upon Hawkinsville, as armed bailiffs "guarded" the courtroom inside, armed state troopers "guarded" the courthouse inside, and an assortment of sheriff's deputies, local cops, and state troopers "guarded" the courthouse and the city outside.

None of the residents of the city, white or black, had to be told why Hawkinsville had become an armed garrison. It was clear: Dessie Woods and Cheryl Todd had dangerous, militant, black friends whose impending presence posed a threat to the well-being of the city. For local blacks it was also supposed to be a clear warning of the power of the state when it comes to protecting southern white supremacy.

In a town of 3,000 in a rural Southern plantation county, where the smallest, least important bit of scandal or gossip spreads like a prairie fire, the question of a fair trial or impartial jury was out of the question.

But the state was still not taking any chances. Woods' defense attorney, Randy Bacote, who had only recently come into the case, was refused a continuance to give him time to study the case. The defense was able to get the rule restricting demonstrations rescinded, but the Judge refused to dismiss the eight armed troopers from the courtroom.

With the demonstration order rescinded, however, the workers in the defense committee were able to organize several demonstrations at the trial which began on January 19, 1976. The local white establishment was also to discover that the spirit of all the African people in Hawkinsville had not been conquered.

Local blacks descended upon the courthouse by the dozens. They set up a local defense committee for the two women and even began to join the picket demonstrations around the courthouse. Their enthusiasm must have given the white establishment cause for alarm. Two blacks who demonstrated their support were immediately fired from their jobs.

Black high school students who joined demonstrations in support of the two women were threatened with arrest and suspension from school. Three of them were actually suspended when an assistant teacher who is the wife of the sheriff came to the demonstration to get names of the students present.

But despite these demonstrations of courageous resistance, which lasted throughout the trial, the fear in Hawkinsville was there and very real. It was most apparent during jury selection, when life-long resident, middle-aged blacks, some teachers, who had never before even been called up for jury duty, did their best to stay off the jury.

Many obviously intelligent, and in some instances, well-educated blacks resorted to the stereotypical eye-rolling, doubletalk blacks have often employed in the brutal South to avoid saying or doing anything which would offend white masters who held the cruel power of life and death over them. But while fear obviously had the blacks attempting to stay off the jury, ideology apparently motivated the whites, who appeared eager to serve.

If the outcome of any trial was ever pre-determined, it was the trial of Dessie Woods and Cheryl Todd. They were guilty even before the trial began.

In the first place, despite all the talk about a "New South" that accompanied Jimmy Carter's election as president, and the hullabaloo concerning "human rights" in other countries, much of the southern United States is still a dreadful and terrifying place for Africans to live.

Even today the median income of blacks in the South is only 56 percent of what it is for whites; more than 50 percent of southern rural black families are living below the official poverty line. Moreover, the attitudes of most whites in the South has not changed toward African people. An indication of this is the fact that one out of every ten white southern students attends one of the 3,500 private academies in the South which were established to evade going to school with blacks.

In the second place, there is a very insidious racist attitude in this country regarding women who are not white, an attitude, when once expressed, attributes wild and fantastic sexual behavior and desires to them. This attitude was one which had to be overcome in the case of Joan Little despite the overwhelming evidence that she had been assaulted.

Yvonne Wanrow, a Native woman in Washington state, who presently faces charges of murder after killing a white man who molested her child, connected her case to those of Little and Inez Garcia, a recently freed Puerto Rican/Cuban woman who was tried for killing a man who helped another man rape her, this way: "... Because we're all classified as minority groups by white supremacists and all our cases involve sexual advances by white men."

The trial began with the denial of most of the 20 or more pre-trial defense motions, including one by Bacote to suppress certain so-called evidence which was only presented by the state on the day of the trial. Indeed, most defense motions were denied and throughout the trial spectators



Yvonne Wanrow and her children.

began to anticipate the "objection overruled" uttered by the judge after each instance of impropriety by the prosecution.

No evidence was ever brought to the courtroom to disprove Woods' contention of how Horne died. On one occasion Yawn testified in an attempt to disprove the women's contention that he and the deceased rapist had been drinking heavily. However, his testimony was soon refuted by Frank Phillips, owner of Frank's Country Kitchen, the restaurant where Horne took Woods and Tood to meet Yawn.

Indeed, the state's case was so shabby that after several hours of deliberation, the jury of six black women, one black

<sup>1</sup> Inez's case, however, did not involve sexual advances by a white man.

male, and five white females, returned to the courtroom and stated they were hopelessly hung, it was virtually impossible to reach a verdict, and no more time for deliberation would be of any help. This was Saturday, January 31. However, O'Connor demanded that the jury return and reach a verdict. He then recessed the court until the following Monday morning.

On Monday, February 2, the jury returned "compromise" guilty verdicts for the two African women.

Todd was convicted of theft by taking, and Dessie Woods, the real culprit in the state's view, was convicted of armed robbery and manslaughter rather than the first degree murder charge she was indicted for.

From the beginning it was obvious that Woods was the state's main target. It was Woods who actually resisted the rape attempt. Much of the prosecutor's case would be based on the testimony that Woods calmly pacified the hysterical Todd after the shooting, and was clear-headed enough to think of getting money from Horne's wallet for transportation to Atlanta.

Woods was also a Muslim, which made it easier to evoke religious prejudice and imply political motives for Horne's death. Even so, a jury under the gun of O'Connor's order had to bring in a compromise contradictory verdict. Manslaughter does not imply intent, but if Horne's death was the result of politics or even a robbery attempt, a first degree verdict would be necessary under the law. The compromise verdict is evidence of the jury's belief in Woods's innocence and the pressure to convict her of something.

Woods' case was the more difficult of the two women from the beginning. Because of this Todd has been able to get the voluntary assistance of liberal white organizations and attorneys who immediately moved to sever the two women's cases. Their relatively successful strategy would be to present Todd as a person who just unfortunately happened to be around as the drama ending Horne's life unfolded.

After the women were found guilty in the crowded, tense courtroom, O'Connor, obviously intimidated by the interest local blacks were showing in the outcome of the case, delayed sentencing for ten days. This case was obviously not going to be as simple for O'Connor as an earlier one in neighboring Lumber City where he freed two white policemen who castrated and murdered an African man.

Upon hearing the guilty verdict one black man who was a spectator stood and attempted to protest, explaining, "I want to say something! I want to say something!" He was immediately surrounded by armed troopers and pushed back into his seat.

Dessie Woods, with tears streaming down her face, walked over to the jury and addressed the black jurors, stating, "I have been in a lot of cities, big and small, but you are the dumbest niggers I have ever seen. You let those devils brainwash you to kill your own sister!"

It is no wonder the state picked Woods as their main target. Through her carriage during the trial, she personally smashed any preconceived notions of the predetermined passivity of women and the inherent servility of African people. Hers was a defiant example too dangerous to go unpunished.

And so, on February 2, Judge O'Connor sentenced Cheryl S. Todd to five years in prison with 3½ years of the sentence to be served on probation. O'Connor allowed Todd to remain free on bond pending her appeal.

Dessie Woods was sentenced to a 10-year sentence for voluntary manslaughter and a 12-year sentence for armed robbery, with the sentences running concurrently. Motions to grant appeal bond for Woods were accompanied by hundreds of signatures on petitions expressing support for Woods, as well as a signed affidavit from Leroy Stynchcomb, Sheriff of Fulton County (Atlanta), stating his belief that Woods' release would present no threat to the community.

Nevertheless, O'Connor still denied bond, stating his belief that Woods was a "threat to the community."

At this time, Dessie Woods is serving the sentence imposed on her at the Georgia Women's Institute of Corrections at Hardwick, Georgia. Letters received from her indicate that she has been forcibly drugged and beaten since her incarceration. She has also, on occasion, been stripped nude and thrown into a punishment cell in isolation from other prisoners.

However, the struggle for her freedom goes on. Presently, there are people in Massachusetts, Maine, New York, Illinois, California, Kentucky, Arkansas, Florida, Tennessee, Louisiana and Georgia who are working for her release.

We have been involved in letter-writing campaigns and demonstrations. We have set up booths on college campuses,

appeared on radio and television programs, and are involved in an intensive petition drive.

On September 4, 1977, some 500 people from virtually all areas of the country came together in Atlanta, Georgia, to militantly demand the freedom of Dessie Woods. This action, along with the September 14 California Bay action, demonstrate the growing support for Dessie Woods. More demonstrations and rallies are planned.



Militant marchers arrive at Georgia State Capitol building on September 4, 1977.

It is clear to those of us in the National Committee to Defend Dessie Woods that her freedom can and must be won. But for her freedom to become a reality, we must get your help!

**Together WE CAN FREE DESSIE WOODS AND STRIKE A GIANT BLOW FOR HUMANITY.**

# WOODS      LOSES GEORGIA      APPEAL

by National Committee to Defend Dessie Woods

ATLANTA — Here in James Carter's home state, the Supreme Court of Georgia on November 1, in a unanimous decision, upheld the February 2, 1976, conviction of Dessie Woods.

Woods was sentenced to 22 years imprisonment for successfully defending herself and a companion, Cheryl Todd, from a rape attack by an armed white rapist. Never in Georgia's history has a white man been convicted for raping a black woman.

Defense attorneys for the African woman listed a total of 20 errors by the trial court. But, in keeping with traditional southern justice, the court pretends that not a single error out of the 20 has merit.

The court, for the most part, did not even attempt to deal with a number of the listed errors. Defense attorneys for Woods, in filing a "motion for rehearing," charge "that the court has both overlooked material facts in the record and has misconstrued controlling authorities, the effect of which has been an erroneous judgment."

However, we in the National Committee understand that the errors listed by the defense attorneys are too obvious to "overlook," especially by trained professional supreme court justices. The court's affirmation of the conviction, written by Justice Undercoffer, in failing to elaborate on its upholding of a number of errors, clearly illustrates that there are other forces at play, and that "law" is, for sure, not the issue in the case of Dessie Woods.

For instance, counsel for Woods charged the trial court erred in not correctly charging the jury to the law of self-defense. In its elaboration of error, counsel cited the cases of Joan Little, Yvonne Wanrow, and Inez Garcia, all of whom were acquitted on charges similar to Woods. Counsel also, within context of same error, detailed historical relationship between black women and North American men; and the role this society has relegated to women in general.

The colonial court, acting along the same lines as the South African court that acquitted the murderers of Steve Biko, only reply to this obvious error was, "We find no error in the trial court's charge on the law of self-defense."

This refusal to elaborate on this and other obvious trial court errors is what "justice" has always meant for African people, whether in the "old South" or the "new South," and as a matter of fact, the entire U.S.!

Presently a "motion for rehearing" has been filed in State Supreme Court. The motion is detailing the supreme court's errors and is asking for a rehearing of the case. However, since all of the "justices" concurred with affirmation, and since Georgia is well known for its anti-black, anti-woman policies, the court probably will not hear the case again.

The next step in the legal process is the U.S. Supreme Court. We of the National Committee reiterate that there will be no peace, until Dessie is free. We are determined, and we will "Free Dessie Woods."

We are now in the process of convening a February 4 national meeting here in Atlanta. This meeting will attempt to solidify and regionalize all the existing Dessie Woods Defense Committees and all other progressive forces that recognize the need to struggle for the freedom of Dessie Woods.

It is also designed to map out the necessary tactics and strategy that will result in the freedom of Dessie Woods.

The Atlanta office is located at 94 Griffin St. N.W. Financial assistance is still needed.

Together we can free Dessie Woods, Smash Colonial Violence Against Black Women, and Strike a Giant Blow for Humanity.

FORWARD TO ATLANTA ON FEBRUARY 4TH.

# MARCH ON JULY 4th

A call for a July 4th march on Plains, Georgia, hometown of plantation owner U.S. President James Earl Carter, was made in San Francisco on April 21 by Omowale Kefing, chairman of the National Committee to Defend Dessie Woods. The National Committee has planned the march and rally to disclose the colonial contradictions various subject people are confronted with within current borders while the U.S. hypocritically celebrates independence.

An excerpt from the call reads:

THE STRUGGLE TO FREE DESSIE WOODS is growing. Many forces in the African Independence Movement, in the movements of other colonized people, and progressive North Americans have come out in support of Dessie. The North American ruling class state is doing everything in its power to break Dessie Woods and destroy the example she has set for women and colonized and subject peoples. Their attempts to crush Dessie Woods and the movement to free her is an attempt to crush the entire black liberation and progressive movements in this country.

The latest attempt, which clearly exposes the colonial situation that African people are in within the current U.S. borders, came on May 4, 1978, when city officials of Plains, Georgia, denied the National Committee to Defend Dessie Woods a march permit and a rally site for the upcoming Free Dessie Woods event.

Hiba She She, speaking at a press conference in San Francisco sponsored by the Bay Area Burning Spear Support Committee to expose the denial of the permit, best summarized the upcoming July 4th Mobilization to Plains:

"The refusal by the local arm of the state of Georgia to deny a permit to the National Committee to Defend Dessie Woods will not stop African people and supporters of Dessie Woods from marching into Plains, Georgia, on July 4th. Instead, we will be there hundreds strong, demanding an end to standing armies in our communities, demanding an end to the torture and brutalization of black prisoners. We demand jobs, housing and education, but most importantly, we understand this government cannot deliver most of these things; we demand independence in our lifetime. Free Dessie Woods and Smash Colonial Violence."

The July 4th Movement to Free Dessie Woods is a coalition organized and led by the National Committee to Defend Dessie Woods. We are planning a march and rally in San Francisco on July 4th in solidarity with the national mobilization in Plains, Georgia, on the same day demanding "Smash Colonial Violence" and "Free Dessie Woods."

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Here are some things you can do to help win the freedom of Dessie Woods.

1. **WRITE** a check or money order as soon as possible and send it to the National Committee to Defense Dessie Woods.
2. **SEND** letters or telegrams today to Georgia Governor George Busbee, and President Jimmy Carter, demanding the immediate release of Dessie Woods.
3. **SEND** a letter or telegram to the Warden of G.W.I.C. demanding that he take full responsibility for the safety of Dessie Woods.
4. **WRITE** Dessie Woods (A78927) telling her of your support, which will also put prison officials on notice that thousands of people throughout the world are aware of her plight. Write her at the Georgia Women's Institute of Corrections, Hardwick, Georgia 30134.
5. **WRITE** letters to your local newspaper telling them of the Woods case.
6. **BUY** "Free Dessie Woods" poster and T-shirts from the National Committee to help raise money.
7. **SEND** stamps and money orders to Dessie Woods.
8. **FORM** a local Committee to Defend Dessie Woods where you are.
9. **HOLD** forums, meetings, etc., to tell others of Dessie Woods' case, and invite a representative from the National Committee to come and speak to your group.
10. **WRITE** for petitions, other materials and information to the National Committee to Defend Dessie Woods, P.O. Box 92084, Morris Brown Station, Atlanta, Georgia 30314.

Together we can free Dessie Woods and strike a giant blow for humanity.

Send to: National Committee to Defend Dessie Woods, P.O. Box 92084, Morris Brown Station,  
Atlanta, Georgia 30314.

- ( ) Here's my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Please place me on your mailing list.  
( ) Please send \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt(s) and/or \_\_\_\_\_ poster(s). I have enclosed \$3.00 and \$4.50 per  
T-shirt. Size(s) \_\_\_\_\_.  
( ) Please send \_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) of this pamphlet.  
( ) I would like to set up a Committee to Free Dessie Woods. Please let me know what I have to do.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

For a continuous update on the struggle to FREE DESSIE WOODS, subscribe to the Burning Spear  
newspaper, published by the African People's Socialist Party.

Send to: The Burning Spear, P.O. Box 12792, St. Petersburg, Fla. 33733

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed \$1 for 3 months trial subscription.

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed \$5 for 1 year regular subscription.

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed \$3 for 1 year student subscription.