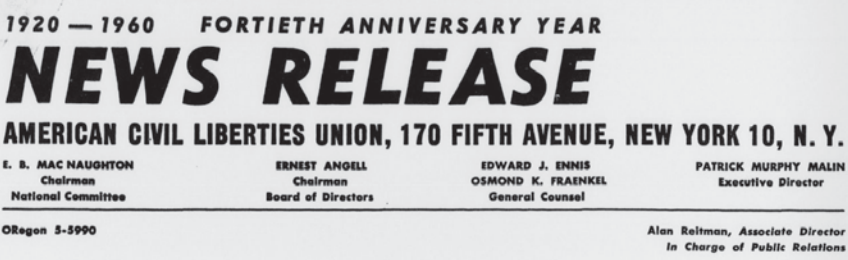


THE LONG MARCH TOWARD EQUALITY:

THE 1960s AND THE DISMANTLING OF SEGREGATION

American Civil Liberties Union Papers, 1912-1990 and American Civil Liberties Union Papers, Part II: Southern Regional Office

These unique collections provide an in-depth look at the civil rights movement in the 1960s. *Part II: Southern Regional Office* is comprised of never-before-digitized materials documenting the ACLU's legal battle to enforce the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in thirteen southern states. The first part of the series, *American Civil Liberties Union Papers, 1912-1990*, offers a broader view of events from the perspective of the ACLU's national office. Together, they form an indispensable resource for understanding the complete history of the civil rights movement. An abundance of primary source documents are only a click away, providing users unparalleled access to the progress and turmoil of this momentous decade.



1960

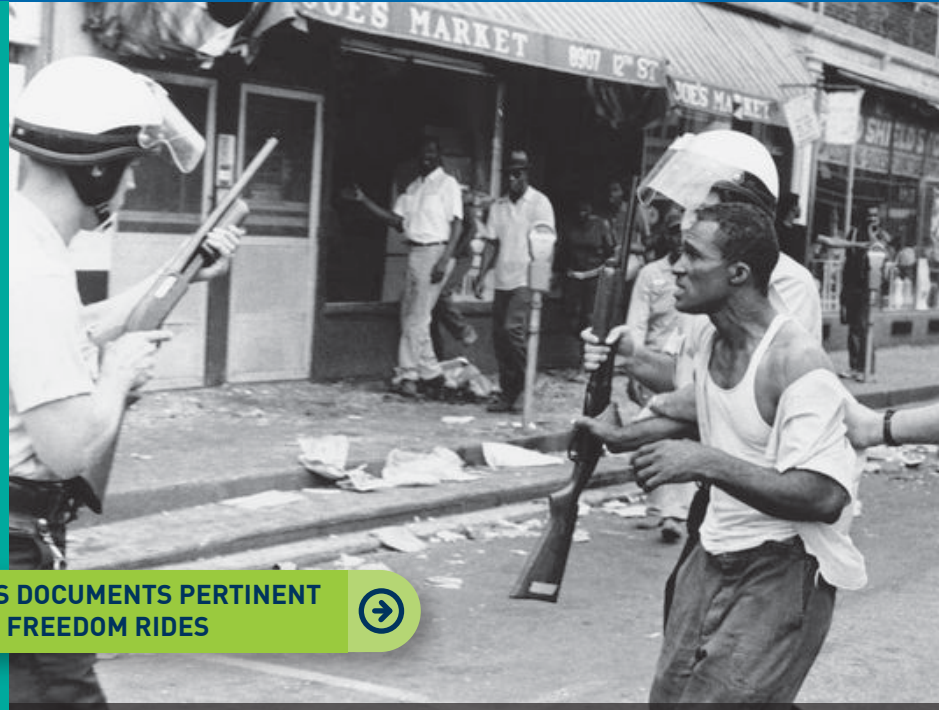
Black college students organize sit-ins at a lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina in response to black patrons not being served.

[VIEW THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT IN THE ARCHIVE](#)

1961

Student volunteers take part in the first Freedom Rides. They are bused from Washington, D.C. into southern states to investigate if new laws prohibiting segregation are obeyed.

[ACCESS DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE FREEDOM RIDES](#)



"Freedom Riders Arrested in Birmingham." U.S. City Bureaus Image Collection, Primary Source Media, 1961. Associated Press Collections Online

1962

President Kennedy orders federal troops to the University of Mississippi to quell riots and enable James Meredith, the school's first black student, to attend.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT JAMES MEREDITH'S HISTORIC JOURNEY](#)

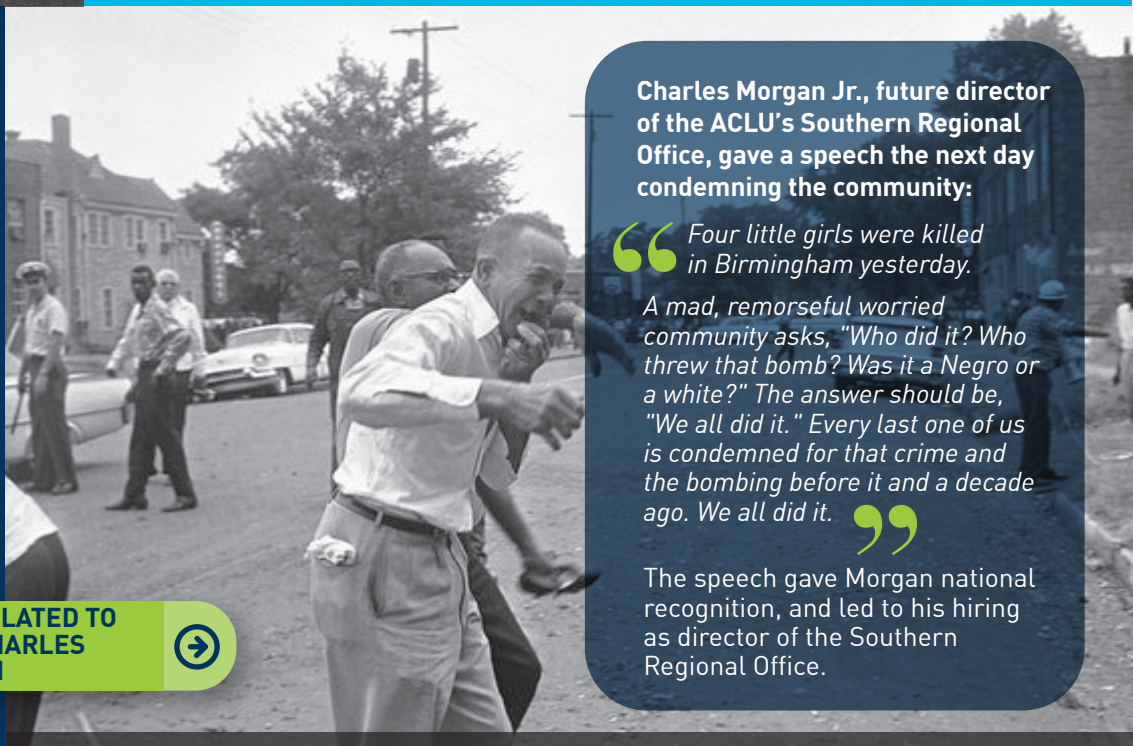


"James Meredith Resting During Mississippi March." U.S. City Bureaus Image Collection, Primary Source Media, 1967. Associated Press Collections Online

1963

Four young black girls are killed by a bomb placed at a church in Birmingham, Alabama by members of the Ku Klux Klan.

[READ DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE BOMBING AND CHARLES MORGAN JR'S SPEECH](#)



"Grieving Relative of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church Bombing Victim." U.S. City Bureaus Image Collection, Primary Source Media, 1963. Associated Press Collections Online

Charles Morgan Jr., future director of the ACLU's Southern Regional Office, gave a speech the next day condemning the community:

“Four little girls were killed in Birmingham yesterday. A mad, remorseful worried community asks, ‘Who did it? Who threw that bomb? Was it a Negro or a white?’ The answer should be, ‘We all did it.’ Every last one of us is condemned for that crime and the bombing before it and a decade ago. We all did it.”

The speech gave Morgan national recognition, and led to his hiring as director of the Southern Regional Office.



1965

Congress passes the Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibiting racial discrimination and ordering the integration of public schools.

ACLU's Southern Regional Office opens

Voting Rights Act passes

[LEARN ABOUT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ACLU'S SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE](#)

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS LEGISLATION](#)

[ACCESS THE PRIMARY SOURCE DOCUMENTS](#)

[GET A MORE IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THIS HISTORIC LEGISLATION](#)

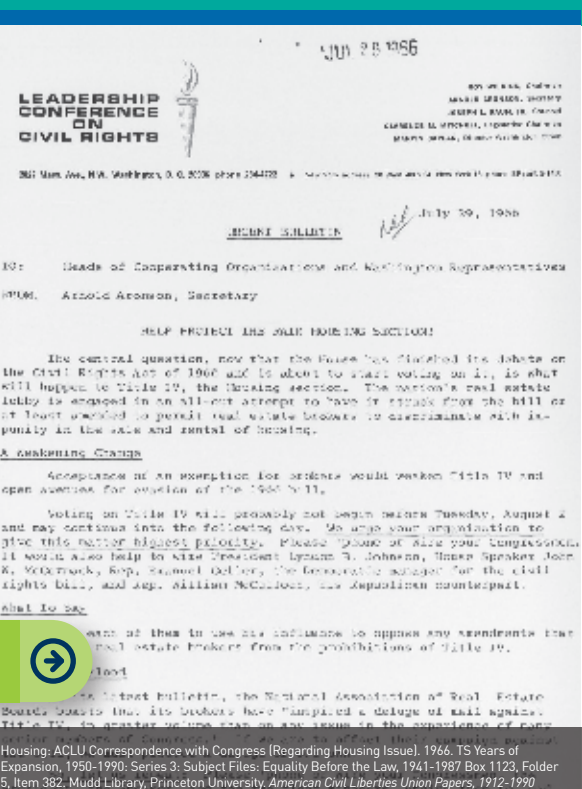
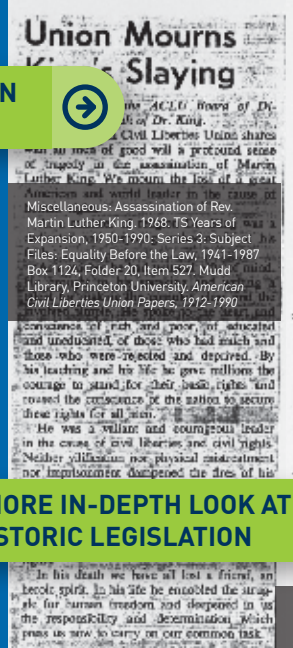
1968

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is fatally shot in Memphis, Tennessee. The shooter, James Earl Ray, is convicted in March 1969 and sentenced to 99 years in prison.

President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which prohibits housing discrimination.

[SEE THE ACLU'S REACTION TO THIS TRAGIC EVENT](#)

[GET A MORE IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THIS HISTORIC LEGISLATION](#)



THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

The ACLU's relationship to the civil rights movement is as relevant today as it was in the 1960s. These primary source collections can help us draw parallels between events of the past and those taking place today.

Read more about how civil rights issues are still impacting our society

[OPPOSING VIEW POINTS IN CONTEXT: RACIAL PROFILING](#)

[OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS IN CONTEXT: VOTING RIGHTS](#)

