

JAIL

Being in jail is an important way that we can point up a serious wrong. When we are in jail, freedom is foremost on the minds of our friends and relatives and they are more likely to cooperate and to act at this time. The issues of freedom or segregation is in the newspapers. Our being in jail gives others a chance to write letters, telephone and talk about the issue we are trying to point up. Our being in jail inspires others to demonstrate and often to join us. Our opponents are more likely to think about the problem and if we can persuade them they often change their minds in the behalf of justice. The attention of the entire country can be focused so that enough pressure can be brought to bear upon public officials to do what is right. Being in jail can bring about a crisis great enough so that people can not run away from the problem any longer. They must think about it and solve it. That is how we can bring about changes without harming anyone. Staying in jail can bring to bear the moral pressure of the country and world on the state of Alabama. In this way a freedom army will be of more service to the cause in jail than they could be on the outside. Each person in jail will have his own moral weight against the unjust government of Alabama. As long as he stays in jail he can keep his weight against the state and inspire others to put their weight against it. If our endurance and capacity to suffer are great enough, Alabama will have to yield to the weight of righteousness. Alabama will have to let us vote.

We will not be posting bond (except in extreme cases like serious illness or emergency) because as soon as we come out of jail our most important weapon, moral force, will be lost and everyone will go back to thinking about their everyday problems and living under the injustice as we have for so many years. Briefly, here are some more reasons that we will not be posting bonds:

1. As soon as we post bond, the fight is off moral grounds (our weapon) and into the courts (opponents weapon). Segregationists have legal strategies that are designed to maintain segregation, and they are in control of the courts.

2. The difference between a reckless, lawless person and members of the freedom army is that we feel that our breaking a certain unjust law or injunction or disobeying an official is so necessary to the cause of justice that we are completely willing to pay the consequences of breaking that law, so we are willing to serve our entire jail term.

3. When we are in jail, our families and friends are interested and act; when we get out they soon forget about freedom and the movement dies.

4. If workers on the outside have to spend their time finding and arranging bond, they have that much less time to carry the fight forward.

5. It doesn't make sense to get in jail and then want to get out. We could just stay out in the first place and not waste the time and bond money.

6. We've signed up to serve for a year. We have nothing to do in that time but fight for freedom so why hurry to get out of jail?

7. While we're in jail we're the state's problem. They have to feed us, endure the moral pressure from across the country, wonder what the movement will do next, and they know the movement is alive. We don't want to remove ourselves from their responsibility until we can be first class citizens.

8. Alabama does not obey the law. Court rulings mean nothing to them. So our appealing to higher courts and finally getting a favorable ruling may not actually do us much good.