


MRS. MCGEE'S OWN STORY



**"If there was any raping done,
It was Mrs. Hawkins who raped my husband!"...**



**Speech Delivered by Mrs. Rosalie McGee at the
Abyssinian Baptist Church, 132 West 138th St.,
New York City, Sunday, April 1st, 1951**

... I want to tell you about my husband Willie McGee who was framed five years ago on a rape charge in Laurel, Mississippi.

Five times he has been sentenced to the electric chair but five times the people everywhere spoke up and saved him.

Maybe some don't know what it is like in the South. My husband was taken from me five years ago and the people in Mississippi made it impossible for me to find a job and I had to work and support my four children. They said they were going to lynch my husband and they told my children their father was going to burn in the electric chair. They said my husband raped Mrs. Hawkins but it is not true. Because that night Mrs. Hawkins claimed my husband raped her, 'Mrs. Hawkins' husband was in bed in the next room. Her children were right in bed with her and she never once opened her mouth to cry out. She said she didn't want to wake up the children.

Four times Mrs. Hawkins came to my house looking for my husband. She sent pictures of herself and letters to him. When she saw us walking on the street she tried to tear me off my husband's arm. My husband went to California to get away from Mrs. Hawkins. To try to get work and send for me and the children. And when he couldn't and he came

back, there was Mrs. Hawkins after him. If there was any raping done, it was Mrs. Hawkins who raped my husband!

Tonight, you are sitting here in New York. But tomorrow you may be framed. Tomorrow your husband may be framed. Tomorrow your son may be framed. Your sons may be in Korea fighting a war. My husband fought in the last war but he is being framed all the same. The people of Mississippi know my husband is being framed not because he raped Mrs. Hawkins — it is because he is a black man.

I have lived the last five years without my husband. I had to suffer but I think it should be Mrs. Hawkins who should suffer and some day it will all come back to her.

I am not only fighting for my husband. I am fighting for freedom and justice for all people. And even if they kill my husband, I will not stop fighting. I'm going to keep fighting till my blood runs like water.

Willie McGee Must Not Die

Willie McGee is scheduled to die May 8. You can help to save him! Write, wire President Truman to act under the Federal Civil Rights Law to save Willie McGee.



Why

I'd Like You

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THE CIVIL RIGHTS CONGRESS

"The Civil Rights Congress leads the fight against lynch justice. Fights for first-class citizenship for all. Works for peace and freedom for all. God bless the Civil Rights Congress."

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