



Motto: Leading the Fight Against Injustice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEY ARRESTED IN LEXINGTON, MS; PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 12, 2023 @ NOON AT LEXINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

The issues plaguing Holmes County have been ongoing for years, but more recently within the previous three (3) years the issues of police brutality and police corruption have skyrocketed. The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party along with other state and national organizations have been working tirelessly and relentlessly to achieve justice for our community. The citizens of Lexington are fearful of driving for fear of harassment from the police. Innocent mentally ill citizens are brutalized on our streets and imprisoned unlawfully. Our elected officials have refused to act on this matter because these unlawful arrests are benefiting the city financially.

The citizens were feeling hopeful following the June 1st meeting with Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clark of the Civil Rights Division and U.S. Attorney Darren J. LaMarca of the Southern District of Mississippi. However, on the evening of Saturday, June 10, 2023, Attorney Jill Jefferson, founder and president of JULIAN, was arrested unlawfully by the Lexington Police Department. Upon leaving an event, she witnessed police officers engaging with a citizen, but because of the numerous complaints against the police department, she decided to drive by the scene and record. While driving, an officer asked her to show her driver's license. Other officers approached the vehicle and began to pull her out. She was placed in handcuffs and put in the patrol car. She was charged with Failure to Comply, Disorderly Conduct, and Resisting Arrest.

The Lexington Police Department has been charging citizens unlawfully and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party will not stop until this corruption is uprooted. Attorney Jill Jefferson has been in this community fighting with us and it is heartbreaking to witness this appalling act. We stand in solidarity with Attorney Jill Jefferson, and we will rally until this matter is resolved. We are calling for all organizations that stand against these inhumane actions to aid us in this fight for all citizens of Holmes County.

Due to the failures of our elected officials and the constant abuse of power by law enforcement, the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party publicly condemns the City of Lexington and the Lexington Police Department. Our elected officials possess the power to control its police department, but they have refused to bring justice in this matter. The MFDP calls for an end to police brutality, police corruption, and abuse of power. The MFDP further calls for the removal of the elected officials of Lexington, MS and the termination of all complicit police officers. No justice, no peace.

Grace and Peace,

Cardell Wright
MFDP President

Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party

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