



## **National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, St. Louis Branch Records (S0582)**

**Collection Number:** S0582

**Collection Title:** National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, St. Louis Branch Records

**Dates:** 1973-1986

**Creator:** National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, St. Louis Branch

**Abstract:** The National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, St. Louis Branch Records contain correspondence, meeting minutes, bylaws, and newsletters pertaining to the organization's mission to oppose the abuses of civil rights and oppression of minorities, the poor, laborers, and prisoners.

**Collection Size:** 2 cubic feet  
(76 folders, 48 photographs)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [stlouis@shsmo.org](mailto:stlouis@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, St. Louis Branch Records* (S0582); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

**Donor Information:** The records were donated to the University of Missouri by Pam Tulley on March 20, 1997 (Accession No. SA3253).

**Processed by:** Processed by Western Historical Manuscript Collection staff March 1997.  
Revised by Zack Palitzsch April 2021.

**Historical Note:**

The St. Louis branch of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression (NAARPR) was established in 1974. The national organization held its founding conference one year prior on May 13, 1973, in Chicago, Illinois, and was developed out of an earlier, similar group called the Coalition Against Racism and Political Repression. The group's national organizers included Angela Davis, William Kunstler, and Benjamin Chavis. It defined its aims as counteracting the abuses of civil rights and oppression of minorities, the poor, laborers and prisoners that followed the Watergate scandal. It organized over 800 representatives of trade unions, veterans groups, churches, and political organizations to combat the counter attacks against civil and social rights abuses. NAARPR became active in the defense and publicizing of many notable criminal prosecutions of civil rights activists, including those of the Wilmington 10, Charlotte 3, Joan Little, the Soledad Brothers, San Quentin 6, the Marion Brothers, George Merritt, and the Wounded Knee defendants.

Throughout the late 1970s and early 1980s, the St. Louis branch of NAARPR carried out the program of the national alliance by locally organizing petition drives, mass demonstrations, filling courtrooms with activists in support of defendants, and otherwise publicizing important cases they felt represented a system of racist prosecutions. The notable area cases that it became involved with included those of J. B. Johnson, Nathaniel Butler, the Missouri 9, and Gerald Garrett. It was also involved with protests over the closing of Homer G. Phillips Hospital in 1979 and 1980. Additionally, the St. Louis NAARPR organized an annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Human Rights Awards Banquet, presenting awards to local civil rights activists.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following seven series:

- Administration
- Correspondence
- Racial Injustices
- Publications
- Events
- Photographs
- Oversize

**Scope and Content Note:**

**Administration**

This series contains bylaws, mailing lists, meeting minutes, memoranda, and reports regarding the governance of the St. Louis branch of the NAARPR. The series also includes reports and meeting minutes from various committees and task forces within the organization, including the Police Crimes and Political Prisoners Task Forces as well as the Publicity Committee. Materials of note in this series include meeting minutes from the St. Louis Black Leadership Roundtable. The materials in this series date from 1974 to 1980 and are arranged alphabetically.

## **Correspondence**

This series consists of correspondence between the St. Louis branch of NAARPR and the Defense Committee, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and NAARPR's national office. Materials of note include correspondence from and regarding prisoners in the Missouri State Penitentiary. Materials in this series date from 1974 to 1980 and are arranged alphabetically.

## **Racial Injustices**

This series contains articles, correspondence, court proceedings, newspaper clippings, and press releases regarding civil rights activists accused with criminal charges. The materials also document the St. Louis branch of NAARPR's efforts in freeing prisoners who were charged with crimes they did not commit, including Gerald Garrett, J. B. Johnson, the Missouri Nine, and the Wilmington 10. Also included in this series are press releases, flyers, and newspaper clippings documenting St. Louis NAARPR's involvement in protesting the closing of Homer G. Phillips Hospital. The materials in this series date from 1972 to 1983 and are arranged alphabetically.

## **Publications**

This series contains articles, booklets, brochures, flyers, newsletters, newspaper clippings, and press releases regarding civil and social issues including abortion, racial segregation, labor, political prisoners, and the death penalty. This series also includes court proceedings for Ricardo Graham, who was racially discriminated against at the Missouri State Penitentiary, and Ronald Eugene Jones, who was falsely accused of first-degree murder. The materials in this series date from 1973 to 1981 and are arranged alphabetically.

## **Events**

This series contains booklets, brochures, flyers, guest lists, and programs regarding events held and attended by St. Louis NAARPR including the National NAARPR Conference in New York and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Human Rights Awards Banquet. The materials in this series date from 1978 to 1981 and are arranged chronologically.

## **Photographs**

This series consists of 48 photographs, contact sheets, and negatives depicting images of protesting capital punishment and the imprisonment of the Wilmington 10. This series also contains images of a trip to Africa. The photographs in this series are undated and are arranged into one folder.

## **Oversize**

This series consists of flyers for events and protests, membership lists for the Civil Rights Coalition, and posters depicting Angela Davis and Benjamin Chavis. The materials in this series are dated from 1977 to 1978 and arranged into one oversized folder.

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