

# BLACKS CHARGE 'KILL' ATTITUDE

## Shootout Between Police, RNA Discussed

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A group of Jackson blacks charged Friday a shootout between the Republic of New Africa and lawmen was a result of police "trying to kill some Negroes."

Dr. Aaron Shirley of Jackson and several other blacks told newsmen they had formed a group called "the Black Jacksonians for Justice" to answer the "false impression that the black community is in accordance with the local, state and federal officers in their actions against the 'black separatist' RNA."

Shirley said that while the black community felt it was "indeed unfortunate that a policeman lost his life in the incident, we think it is just as unfortunate that law enforcement officers found it necessary to use tanks, shotguns and massive forces of men to serve simple warrants on black people."

Shirley claimed the support of 90 per cent of all Negroes in Jackson.

Among those appearing with him at the news conference were Alex Waiges, Mississippi field secretary for the NAACP; B. G. Thompson, an alderman from Bolton, a small town about 20 miles from Jackson, and Dr. James Anderson, a Jackson physician.

Eleven members of the RNA were arrested following last Wednesday's shootout which resulted in the death of Jackson police detective William Skinner and the wounding of two other lawmen.

Seven of the blacks were arrested at the scene of the shooting while four others were arrested at another residence some 30 minutes later.

All have been charged with murder and attempted murder by the state while seven face federal charges of assaulting a federal officer.

Police said they went to the RNA headquarters to serve four warrants and after calling on persons inside RNA headquarters to come out finally used tear gas. Shots were fired from inside the house, officers said, wounding the three.

Shirley, director of the Jackson-Hinds County Health Center, charged that officers were out serving warrants, and "it was clear that their mission early on the morning of Aug. 18 . . . was as it has been too many times in the past and as it was, in Jackson State . . . to go out and kill some (Negroes)."

"This kill some (Negroes) attitude more than anything else is responsible for the policeman's death," Shirley said. "Since this incident the white policemen have carried on another mission which if not stopped, is going to get someone else killed—there have been any number of blacks arrested and beaten before and after being carried to jail."

Shirley said the incidents had been brought to the attention of city officials, however, he said he would not reveal the names of those involved because of possible repercussions.

Shirley said one of the women arrested was pregnant and that he was concerned about medical attention.

The physician said the organization felt that it was "through no compassion of the police officers that none of the blacks were hurt . . . from the number of shots fired into the house . . . and the way they were fired, they were trying to kill some (Negroes)."

Both Jackson police and federal agents have testified that they did not fire their weapons until fired upon. Lawmen have also testified that the blacks were armed with automatic weapons while they carried shotguns and pistols.