

DECLARATION OF INNOCENCE

A Resolution from the Terre Haute Branch of the NAACP

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Be it resolved that all lynching victims, who were subjected to unauthorized and illegal vigilante violence prior to trial, sentencing and/or final conviction, were denied due process as guaranteed by the fifth and fourteenth amendments of the US Constitution and therefore were presumed to be -- and must now officially be declared -- innocent of all charges.

- By exonerating all past lynching victims, this resolution removes any onus or stigma that may remain on them as well as their past and future kin. Those who lynched these victims committed murder; thus, the guilt of committing this act of injustice falls squarely and exclusively on themselves – the perpetrators of said injustices -- not their victims.
- In addition, by virtue of this resolution, the illegal and unconstitutional action of lynching reverses any and all allegations purportedly made against the victims by those doing the lynching, and hereby declares their victims automatically innocent.
- Therefore, if any crimes were, in fact, committed by the victims of illegal and unconstitutional lynching, this declaration of innocence now nullifies, abrogates and reverses any allegations that may have been levied and institutes the presumption of innocence with which all victims of lynching are now hereby entitled.
- Finally, by denying their victims the right to a full legal process, the responsibility of all illegal lynching falls on those who initiated and participated in all such acts. As a result, all victims of lynching are hereby exonerated now and forever.