

## FBI March 26, 1965 Memorandum

O. A.G.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

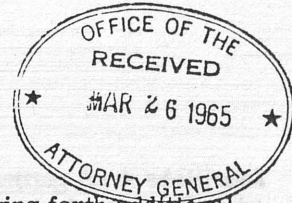
# Memorandum

TO : The Attorney General

DATE: March 26, 1965

FROM: *JGH* Director, FBI

SUBJECT: MURDER OF MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO  
IN LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA,  
MARCH 25, 1965



Enclosed is a memorandum setting forth additional details of the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on March 25, 1965.

This information has been furnished to the White House.

Enclosure

- 1 - The Deputy Attorney General (Enclosure)
- 1 - Mr. John Doar (Enclosure)  
Acting Assistant Attorney General

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ATTORNEY GENERAL	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

The Attorney General

March 26, 1935

Director, FBI

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Acting Assistant Attorney General



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

March 26, 1965

MURDER OF VIOLA LIUZZO  
LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA  
MARCH 25, 1965

The following are the most recent developments concerning the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, who was fatally shot as she drove in Lowndes County, Alabama, on March 25, 1965.

A complaint was filed today before the United States Commissioner at Birmingham charging William Orville Eaton, Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr., Eugene Thomas and Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., with violating Section 241, Title 18, United States Code, in that they conspired to intimidate and injure citizens in the free exercise of their Constitutional rights.

Eaton, Wilkins and Thomas were arrested by FBI Agents today and taken before the United States Commissioner at Birmingham who scheduled a preliminary hearing for Thursday, April 15, 1965, and remanded all three subjects to the custody of the United States Marshal in lieu of \$50,000 bond each. They are confined in the Jefferson County Jail in Birmingham. Rowe will be taken before the Commissioner at a later time.

At the Commissioner's hearing, the subjects were represented by Matt Murphy, a Klan attorney.

All four of those charged in the complaint filed before the Commissioner are members of the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. Our investigation indicates that they were driving from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in Thomas' car when they saw the victim driving a car with a Michigan license plate. A Negro man was with Mrs. Liuzzo and reportedly was sitting close to her.

U. S. GOVERNMENT  
Memorandum

As the subjects' car passed the victim's automobile, Wilkins fired a .38 caliber revolver owned by Thomas and Eaton fired his own .22 caliber pistol from the rear seat. Approximately six shots were fired. The subjects continued on to Montgomery, and the victim's car veered off the road.

The home of subject Thomas was searched today by FBI Agents who found a snub-nosed .38 caliber revolver. Mrs. Thomas claimed that the gun is hers, and she volunteered the fact that she had in her car another .38 caliber gun belonging to her husband. Both of these weapons were taken into custody by FBI Agents, and they are being appropriately examined to determine if either one fired the bullets that have been recovered in this case. It is noted that one .38 caliber bullet was removed from the base of Mrs. Liuzzo's brain and another was found in her automobile.

The home of William Orville Eaton was also searched today by FBI Agents who recovered a .22 caliber revolver. Our investigation indicated that a few hours before the shooting Thomas received a warning traffic ticket for speeding in the same area. This warning traffic ticket has also been recovered from Thomas.

FBI Agents are making exhaustive terrain searches to recover any other bullets or cartridge cases. We are also vigorously pursuing every other avenue of logical investigation to develop additional evidence to support successful prosecution.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : The Attorney General

DATE: March 26, 1965

*JCH* : Director, FBI

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HFR*

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Enclosed is a memorandum setting forth background information immediately available concerning Viola Liuzzo who was shot and killed near Selma, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965, and her husband Anthony J. Liuzzo.

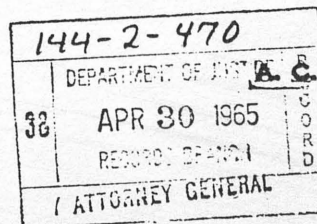
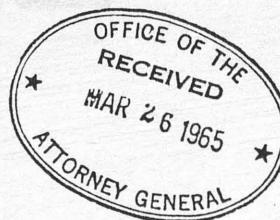
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BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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March 26, 1935

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

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A check of the Michigan Secretary of State, the Detroit Police Department and the Detroit FBI files shows the following information concerning Viola Liuzzo who was shot and killed near Selma, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965, and her husband Anthony J. Liuzzo.

The Detroit, Michigan, Police Department files reveal that Viola Liuzzo, born April 11, 1925, at California, Pennsylvania, residence 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, Michigan, was arrested on June 16, 1964, for "failing to send children to school." No disposition was shown for this arrest.

The files of the FBI Detroit Office disclose that Viola Liuzzo, no address given, wrote a letter to the "Detroit Free Press," a Detroit daily newspaper, belittling the Government's attack on James R. Hoffa, President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

The records of the Michigan Secretary of State's Office, Lansing, Michigan, indicate that a Michigan operator's license was issued to Viola Liuzzo, born April 11, 1925, residence 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, on April 16, 1963. Her description is given as white female, blond hair, gray eyes, height 5 feet 2½ inches, weight 127 pounds, no vision restriction.

The records of the Michigan Secretary of State's Office also indicate that a chauffeur's license was issued to Anthony James Liuzzo, born October 5, 1913, residence 19375 Marlowe, Detroit. The license is to expire May 5, 1965. Liuzzo is described as a white male, height 5 feet 10½ inches, weight 192 pounds, blue eyes, black hair, with no vision restriction.



A 1963 Oldsmobile coupe with 1965 Michigan license EJ 9177 is registered to Anthony J. Liuzzo, 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, Michigan.

The files of the Detroit Police Department reveal that Anthony J. Liuzzo, born October 5, 1913, was arrested on September 9, 1953, on a charge of "conspiracy to request and accept money." He was employed at that time as a business agent for Teamsters Local #247. The charge was subsequently dismissed by Recorder Judge Martha Griffiths in October, 1953.

The files of our Detroit Office reveal that Anthony J. Liuzzo was the subject of a Bureau anti-racketeering, Labor Management Relations Act, investigation in 1953. This investigation grew out of the arrest on September 9, 1953, of Liuzzo and five other Teamsters officials by the Detroit Police Department as set forth above. The officials were charged with soliciting gifts and bribes from various trucking companies to prevent labor trouble. When the State charges were dropped against Liuzzo, he was also dropped as a subject of the FBI's investigation.

The 1964 City Directory for the West side of Detroit reveals that Anthony J. Liuzzo and his wife, Viola, reside at 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, and he is employed as a business agent for the Teamsters Union in Detroit. It is reported that Mrs. Liuzzo was employed as a laboratory technician at Mount Sinai Hospital, Detroit, and is a part-time student at Wayne University in Detroit. She is reported to be the mother of five children.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

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