

BRIEFS **Justice at last for the Scott Sisters**

MISSISSIPPI – Gladys and Jamie Scott are returning home for the first time in 16 years.

On Wednesday, Dec. 28, Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour suspended their sentences -- handed down in the extreme and biased ruling of Judge Marcus Gordon that condemned each of the women to double life sentences for an \$11 robbery.

NAACP President Ben Jealous said, "The moment I landed in Jackson, Mississippi, Governor Barbour called to tell me about the suspension."

International Civil Rights Walk of Fame Announces 2011 Inductees Footsteps of Civil Rights Leaders

ATLANTA, GA - Footsteps of 10 new revered civil rights icons will be added to the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame during the 2011 Trumpet Awards events. This induction ceremony is scheduled for Friday, January 28, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, National Park Service Atlanta. The 2011 honorees in this distinguished group include Arthur Blank, James Brown, The Reverend Dr. Gerald Durley, Bishop Neil C. Ellis, Leon Hall, Bishop Barbara King, Marc H. Morial, Mayor Carl Stokes, Congressman Louis Stokes, and Henry "Hank" Thomas.

The ICRWF was created in 2004 to give recognition to the foot soldiers of justice who sacrificed and struggled to make equality a reality for all. This extraordinary display has become one of the most visited tourist attractions in the city of Atlanta and has enriched the heritage of the civil rights movement. The shoes used to create the footsteps will also be on display during the unveiling program.

Hanging Death in the Dirty South: Suicide or Lynching?

New Year for some is a flashback to the 1800s



Photo by Lens of Ansur

Men of the Nation of Islam served as pallbearers at the funeral of Frederick Carter in Mississippi, Dec. 18. NOI leader Min. Louis Farrakhan, NAACP President Benjamin Jealous and local groups are calling for a federal investigation into the man's hanging death which was ruled a suicide but some are calling it a modern day lynching.

By Adeeba Folami

With 2011 right around the corner and a Black president in the White House, visions of a "post-racial America" may still be alive in many minds but not for a growing number of Blacks who remain outraged over the death of Frederick Jermaine Carter, 26, whose dead body was found hanging from a tree Dec. 3 near Greenwood, Mississippi. Suspended with a noose around his neck in Leflore, the same county where 14-year-old Emmett Till was lynched in 1955, supposedly for disrespecting a White woman. History records that more than 500 Blacks were lynched in Mississippi from 1800 to 1955; and more than 5000 nationwide suffered the tortuous death by hanging, often at the hands of White

lynch mobs.

Initial autopsy findings ruled Carter's death a suicide but, according to Wendol Lee, President of Operation Help Civil Rights Group (OHCRG), the family has called for a second, independent autopsy which should be completed next month. Lee's group is active in Mississippi and surrounding states on issues related to civil rights violations and 300 people of the county, he said, asked for OHCRG's help, fearing Ku Klux Klan involvement and that there would soon be more hangings of innocent people.

The group performed its own investigation and Tuesday released certain findings at a news conference held in the southern state. "We still don't believe that it was a suicide. We're asking

that some kind of charges be brought on [the sheriff] for tampering with the evidence, not taping off the scene, allowing people to come all around and walk through the area. We don't think there was a full investigation," Lee said in a phone interview hours before addressing the press. He shared that at least one person claims to have seen Carter talking with a sheriff's deputy some time before the hanging but it appears that information was never investigated. This only deepens OHCRG's suspicions and their call for an independent investigation into Sheriff Ricky Banks' actions. "All he [Banks] did was walk over there and said there was a suicide and we believe he's covering up something," he said of Banks, who is Cau-

casian.

A Dec. 16 editorial in the Greenwood Commonwealth Newspaper (GCN) outlined the careless degree to which investigation of Carter's death was handled. Days after the death, photos of the body hanging on a tree began circulating on the internet and even on websites of certain news outlets. The photos were never sourced as to who took them and as controversy grew, many sites pulled the photos down. The editorial explained that neither the coroner nor the sheriff's department took or distributed photos and suggested that someone with a cell phone had taken them. Banks reportedly said his department was told that a person was bragging about taking the pictures and posting them

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