

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

democracynow.org

[50 years after “Bloody Sunday” and the historic Selma to Montgomery march](#)



Democracy Now! was on the ground in Selma this weekend as over 80,000 people commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery voting rights march known as "Bloody Sunday."

On March 7, 1965, Alabama state troopers beat and tear gassed 600 peaceful protestors as they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge, named for the U.S. Senator, Confederate General and Grand Dragon of the Alabama Ku Klux Klan.

[You can check out all of our coverage here to get voices and perspectives that you won't hear anywhere else.](#)

We examine the significance of this anniversary as the movements for racial justice, voting rights and against police brutality coalesce, bringing together past and present to shape a new future.

Highlights include:

["Still Work to Be Done": Rep. John Lewis Returns to Selma 50 Years After He Was Beaten Unconscious](#)

John Lewis was a leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee when he led 600 people across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. On Saturday, he returned to Alabama as a Democratic congressman from Georgia to introduce President Obama during the ceremonies commemorating Bloody Sunday.

[Civil Rights Pioneer Diane Nash: I Refused to March With George Bush During](#)

Selma Anniversary Diane Nash, who helped found the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee spoke at an event honoring civil rights foot soldiers and explained her refusal to participate in the weekend's march in protest of the participation of former President George W. Bush. "The Selma movement stands for nonviolence and peace and democracy and fairness and voting rights, and George Bush stands for just the opposite." she explained.

Civil Rights Icon C.T. Vivian on Nonviolence & Hypocrisy of U.S. Promoting Democracy Abroad

Outside the historic Brown Chapel AME Church in Selma, Amy speaks with the civil rights pioneer C. T. Vivian, a close friend and adviser to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. about the power of nonviolence and the continued fight for voting rights. 50 years ago, Vivian was punched in the face by Dallas County Sheriff Jim Clark on the courthouse steps in Selma as he tried to escort a group of African Americans inside to register to vote. The punch was so hard, Clark broke his own hand.

In Trip to Selma, Michael Brown's Mother Calls for Elimination of Ferguson Police Dept.

As the U.S. Department of Justice calls for a major overhaul of Ferguson's criminal justice system after finding systemic racial bias, we speak with Michael Brown's mother, Lesley McSpadden and Sherrilyn Ifill, head of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Dying for the Right to Vote: Remembering the Selma Martyrs, From Jimmie Lee Jackson to Viola Liuzzo

Democracy Now! spoke to marchers who were honoring four civil rights activists were killed in Alabama between February and August of 1965: Jimmie Lee Jackson, Viola Liuzzo, Rev. James Reeb and Jonathan Daniels.

Web Exclusive

"The Power of the People": Selma Director Ava DuVernay on Fight for Civil Rights, Voting Equality

