



NAACP Memphis
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MEDIA STATEMENT ON JEFF SESSIONS VISIT

Deidre Malone, President,
NAACP, MEMPHIS BRANCH

(May 25, 2017 – MEMPHIS, TENN) “Last Friday, Attorney General Jeff Sessions instructed federal prosecutors to reinstate mandatory minimum sentences that overwhelming effects non-violent, low-level drug offenders. Mandatory minimum sentences have unfairly and disproportionately incarcerated a generation of African American men. Under President Obama, US Attorney General Eric Holder issued guidelines to U. S. Attorneys that they should refrain from seeking long sentences for nonviolent drug offenders. A troubling statistic is that 1 out of 3 African American males is forbidden by law to vote, due to the War on Drugs. Mandatory sentencing laws take discretion away from the judges so as to impose harsh sentences, regardless of the circumstances. The cost of our prison systems is nearly a \$100 billion a year. This type of sentencing destroys lives and families. We are not going back to Jim Crow days of 50 years ago. What are we going to do? What we are doing today – PROTEST and take it a step further. We are going to write, call, email, text, message - our U.S. Congressman and Senators and let them know that we are not going back. We are going to call our relatives in other parts of the country and ask them to do the same. The more pressure we put on our elected officials to stand with us on this issue, the greater chance we have of abolishing mandatory sentencing.”

For more information, please contact Deidre Malone, President of the Memphis Branch NAACP at president@naacpmemphis.org.

About the Memphis Branch NAACP:

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the nation’s oldest civil rights organization, and the Memphis Branch NAACP is the largest branch of the organization in the United States. The mission of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination. During the entire year of 2017, the Memphis Branch NAACP is celebrating 100 years of service to the community.

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