FD-610 (Rev. 10-9-85)

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
Attn: Criminal Investigative Division
Civil Rights Unit

2/9/89

FROM: Acting SAC, SAVANNAH

Title: (use additional page if necessary)
UNSUBS,
OFFICERS OF THE RICHMOND COUNTY, GA
POLICE DEPARTMENT;
ADRIEENE BROWN - COMPLAINANT;
JAMES BROWN - VICTIM;
CR(B)
OO: SV

Enclosed for CO is one copy of re Bureau airtel and enclosure.

Re: Bureau airtel 1/31/89.

2. Office of Origin File No: 44B-3846 (include alpha)
3. Auxiliary Office File No: _____-_____ (initial submission only)
4. X initial submission _____ supplemental submission
5. Matter Type: (check more than one if applicable)
   A. Brutality
      ☒ Law Enforcement
      ☐ Non-Law Enforcement
   No Brutality
      ☐ Law Enforcement
      ☐ Non-Law Enforcement
   B. Violence
      ☐ Racial ☐ Religious ☐ Other
   C. ISS Matters
      ☐ Migrant Victim ☐ Other
   D. Known/Suspected Extremist Group
      ☐ Klan ☐ Other _____

Use to describe above (check all applicable)
☐ Arson ☐ Injury ☐ Property damage
☐ Death ☒ No injury ☐ Cross burning

INDEX

b6
b7C

44-115189-1

6. Date of incident 10/88
7. Date of complaint 1/23/89
8. Synopsis of case:
On 1/23/89, complainant telephoned Assistant Section Chief [redacted] FBIHQ, alleging violation of rights of JAMES BROWN by UNSUBS, Officers of Richmond County Police Department, Augusta, Georgia, and by his attorney, all growing out of a confrontation which began in Augusta, and ended with BROWN's tires being shot out in South Carolina. On 2/9/89, complainant advised she had no first-hand knowledge of the situation, but patched her husband through from prison in Columbia, South Carolina, where he is serving his sentence. JAMES BROWN alleges violations were made by South Carolina police, rather than Georgia. Complainant to be interviewed 2/10/89. Victim requests to be interviewed at Columbia.

9. Significant case ☐ Yes ☒ No (if yes, provide reason) _____

89 FEB 18 1989

Remarks/Administrative

(2) - Bureau
2 - Columbia (Enc. 1)
2 - Savannah

ABG:dse
(6)

Date Initials
Searched
Indexed
Serialized
Filed

FBI/DOJ

89 MAR 3 1989

I. PURPOSE

RECEIVED
CRIMINAL
INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION
SEP 13 4 10 PM '90
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE
FBI

The FD-610 is designed to promptly provide FBIHQ with a complete set of pertinent facts for each Civil Rights case investigated by the FBI. Data is directly entered into a computer which will assist in more effective, efficient, and economical management of the Civil Rights Program by FBIHQ and the field. Each office **MUST** correctly complete **ALL** items requested on the form either on the initial submission, or later by supplemental submission prior to the close of the case. Title changes should be submitted by report **or** FD-610, whichever is more appropriate.

II. WHEN TO SUBMIT

The FD-610 is to be submitted in all cases supervised by the Civil Rights Unit, which include the following classifications: 44-CR; 50-ISS; 173-CRA 1964; 177-DIH; 187-Privacy Act of 1974-Criminal; 189-ECOA; 204-FRS; 214-CRIPA. The FD-610 should be, in most cases, the initial communication advising FBIHQ of the initiation of the investigation. In all instances, the FD-610 should be submitted within 5 working days of receipt of the complaint; however, the urgency of the situation may require a prior telephone call or teletype to FBIHQ.

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Initial - Should be checked if it is the first FD-610 submitted in the case. Every attempt should be made to provide all the information required on the initial submission; however, the initial submission of the FD-610 should not be held in abeyance while awaiting data which will be obtained on a later date. The auxiliary office (AO) should submit the initial FD-610 when they receive the original complaint with two copies designated to the office of origin.

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IV. SIGNIFICANT CASE

Significant cases are those receiving extensive media attention, involving a prominent individual or involving FBI personnel as the subject or victim. Significant cases are also those wherein FBI investigation has determined the allegations to be serious and substantial thus warranting a full investigation. When prosecution becomes imminent, FBIHQ should be advised promptly and a supplemental FD-610 should be submitted designating the case "significant" if not already so designated.

LEADS

COLUMBIA

AT COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

Interview JAMES BROWN at the state prison, Columbia, South Carolina.

SAVANNAH

AT AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

Investigation continuing.

FD-36 (Rev. 8-29-85)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:
☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date 2/27/89

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: ACTING SAC, SAVANNAH (44B-3846)(P)

SUBJECT: CHANGED:
UNSUBS,
OFFICERS, AUGUSTA, GEORGIA, POLICE
DEPARTMENT AND NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA,
POLICE DEPARTMENT;
ADRIENNE BROWN - COMPLAINANT;
JAMES BROWN - VICTIM;
CIVIL RIGHTS (B)
OO: SV

Title marked "Changed" to add North Augusta, South Carolina, Police Department, as subject, and to correct spelling of complainant's first name. Case formerly captioned "UNSUBS, OFFICERS OF THE RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA, POLICE DEPARTMENT; ADRIEENE BROWN - COMPLAINANT; JAMES BROWN - VICTIM; CR(B); OO:SV."

Re Savannah FD-610, 2/9/89; and Bureau airtel, 1/31/89.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and two copies of an LHM dated and captioned as above. In addition, two copies of the LHM are enclosed for Columbia and one copy is being furnished to the USA's Office in Savannah.

By referenced Savannah communication, Columbia was set a lead to interview victim at South Carolina prison. Savannah will maintain case in pending status until receipt of Columbia communication.

1-CID-CRU
2 - Bureau (Enc. 3)
2 - Columbia (Enc. 2)
2 - Savannah

ENCLOSURE

DE-314 44-115189-2

1-CID-CRU
1-CRD-DOJ
6-94 3/9/89 A,B WCB/HJC

3 MAR 3 1989

5-5

ABG:kpk
(6)

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) (Time) Per _____

Date

Received
Entered
Modified
Complete

SV 44B-3846

LEAD

COLUMBIA DIVISION

AT COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

Furnish results of interview of victim, consider contact with USA, Columbia, for possible referral to USDJ, in view of allegations which occurred in South Carolina.

U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Savannah, Georgia

February 27, 1989

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS,
OFFICERS,
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA, POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND
NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA, POLICE DEPARTMENT;
ADRIENNE BROWN - COMPLAINANT;
JAMES BROWN - VICTIM;
CIVIL RIGHTS

On February 10, 1989, ADRIENNE BROWN was interviewed at the Augusta, Georgia, Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. She furnished the following information:

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

44-115189-2
ENCLOSURE

FBI/DOJ

FD-302 (REV. 3-10-82)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/14/89

ADRIENNE L. BROWN, born March 9, 1950, was interviewed by appointment at the Augusta, Georgia office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). She was accompanied by a friend whom she identified as [redacted] Mrs. BROWN stated that she is the wife of entertainer JAMES BROWN and wished to furnish information concerning what she believes is a pattern of harassment on the part of law enforcement officers against her husband which has been going on for about one and one-half years.

Mrs. BROWN recalled that the first incident which led her to believe her husband was being harassed took place about 9:30 PM one night when she and JAMES BROWN were driving toward their home in Beech Island, South Carolina, along Highway 278. They were passing through Richmond County, Georgia, on their way home when they bumped into the rear bumper of a car which had stopped in the roadway. The bumper of the other car was bent in a minor way, and the BROWNs' van stalled. Other people at the scene helped JAMES BROWN get the car started by "jump starting" the engine. As the BROWNs drove off, they heard someone yell, "That's James Brown." The car which they had bumped began to follow them and a police officer pulled the van over after they entered South Carolina. When JAMES BROWN asked what he had done to be pulled over, the officer ordered him out of his car in a very unpleasant manner. The officer then threw JAMES BROWN against the car and ordered him to spread his legs. b6 b7C

Mrs. BROWN stated that her husband tried to ask what he had done, but the officer replied that he did not want to hear it and that he would arrest BROWN. BROWN and the officer then "got into it" as a second police car arrived. BROWN tried to tell the officer that they should contact Aiken County, South Carolina [redacted] and discuss this matter, but the officer would not listen. BROWN and the officer were "fighting like cats and dogs" and at one point Mrs. BROWN was pushed back into the side of the van and was threatened with arrest. Three police officers then put BROWN into the floor of the police car, after having tied his hands behind him with some kind of wire. Mrs. BROWN followed the police car as it took BROWN to the police station, and recalled that it stopped for several minutes at a market where the police officers spoke among themselves. b6 b7C

Investigation on 2/10/89 at Augusta, Georgia File # SV 44B-3846

by SA [redacted] /dse Date dictated 2/13/89

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

At the jail, BROWN was taken inside while Mrs. BROWN watched through the outside glass walls. BROWN later told Mrs. BROWN that one of the police had hit him in the mouth during questioning which followed. BROWN told her that he could identify the individual who hit him if he should see him, but did not know the individual's name. BROWN was kept at the jail from about 11:00 PM, until the following 8:00 AM. During that time, Mrs. BROWN called [redacted] her husband, but [redacted] said he could do nothing until morning. Through the involvement of a friend, [redacted] BROWN was released a few hours later upon payment of a $180 bond. BROWN told Mrs. BROWN that only two of the police officers had treated him unfairly.

The second incident began about a month after the one mentioned above. BROWN had been depressed for about a month, feeling that people in the area were down on him due to his reputation and also some business problems. On this occasion, he and Mrs. BROWN had a disagreement and BROWN yelled at her. She called police and asked that someone come by to calm JAMES down, and this was done. No charges were made against BROWN, but Mrs. BROWN believes that the police may have started thinking that BROWN was a chronic problem of some sort. b6 b7C

About a week later, neighbors near the BROWNs' 33 acre home reported hearing gunshots and thought there may have been problems of some sort. Mrs. BROWN stated that BROWN sometimes fired his guns for relaxation on his property, as he had done on this occasion. Police responding to the neighbors' call stopped BROWN and later arrested him for carrying a shotgun in his auto and for resisting arrest. BROWN went to court and received a suspended sentence as well as a period of probation. He was directed to put on a concert for the benefit of crippled children, which he did, but which was a failure due to the fear of the local black population of the police, who boycotted the concert.

The next incident happened about September 23, 1988, on a Saturday. BROWN, whose drivers license had been revoked, had driven to his office at 1052 Stevens Creek Road, Augusta, Georgia, in his pickup truck. When he got there, he found that an insurance class was going on in his office, and that someone had obtained the key to his private bathroom and was using the facilities. Not knowing who the people were, BROWN took an

unloaded and inoperative shotgun into the office where the meeting was going on, put the shotgun against the wall, and asked who had given permission for anyone to use his facilities. Mrs. BROWN noted that just before this had happened, BROWN had undergone oral surgery for the third time in a month. BROWN was in considerable pain and was taking several types of medicine. He was also agitated, could not sit still, and had difficulty concentrating.

When BROWN asked the people in the class who had given them permission to use the office and where they had gotten the key to the bathroom, no one answered him and he told them to get out. They would not, and BROWN decided to go and talk about the matter to [redacted] of Richmond County, Georgia. As he left, the shotgun was still standing against the wall, but someone in the meeting called him back to get it. As BROWN left the office area and neared Washington Road, which leads downtown to the Sheriff's Department, a police car passed him. The policeman waved to BROWN, but did not have his siren or blue lights on, so BROWN waved back and continued on. A second police car got behind BROWN, but again without lights or siren. BROWN admitted that he speeded up as the cars followed him, but said that he police car had chased him into speeding.

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b7C

BROWN drove into South Carolina over the Interstate 20 bridge, then turned off that highway onto Martintown Road, proceeding in the direction of downtown Augusta, Georgia, still being chased by Georgia police cars.

Mrs. BROWN stated that her husband, due to pain, anger, frustration, and medication, did not stop as soon as he should have, as he did not see the blue lights of the police car as soon as someone else, not on medication, would have. At the intersection of Martintown Road and Atomic Road, North Augusta, South Carolina, BROWN pulled into a parking lot and stopped. Three Georgia police cars pulled in behind him and one police officer came to the passenger side of the pickup and broke out the side window with his nightstick. [redacted] an Aiken County Sheriff's Deputy and friend of the BROWNs, then approached the pickup and started to explain to BROWN what was going on. As he did so, however, two police officers got in front of BROWN's pickup and started shooting at it. Mrs. BROWN stressed that her husband was not armed, that the shotgun in his truck was not loaded and did not work anyway. Police fired a total of 23 shots, 17 of which hit the truck. Police also tried to pull

BROWN out of the truck, even as he was telling [redacted] that he was on his way to see [redacted] Fearing for his life, BROWN then drove away. Although police claimed otherwise, BROWN did not try to back over any of the police cars, just pulled the truck forward and out of the parking lot. Since his tires had been shot out, he could not go faster than 30-35 miles per hour.

BROWN drove from North Augusta, South Carolina, to Augusta, Georgia, and police officers admitted at the trial later that they had followed BROWN, but had not chased him. BROWN drove to the residence of [redacted] who lives on [redacted] At [redacted] residence, JAMES BROWN was arrested and taken to the Richmond County Jail. He agreed to return to South Carolina, and on the way the South Carolina police told him that he had to get a blood sample taken. Not realizing that he should have had a second sample taken to be analyzed by a private laboratory, BROWN agreed to do what police told him he had to do. When the police sample was analyzed, they first said that BROWN's blood contained cocaine, then later said that it had PCP in it. Mrs. BROWN advised that she knows from reading that PCP can show up in the blood of a person who breathes the second-hand smoke of a person smoking PCP. She is sure her husband never used PCP, as he has always campaigned against the use of drugs in any form.

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BROWN was taken to Aiken, South Carolina, and was released to Mrs. BROWN at 10:00 PM or 11:00 PM, after the magistrate told Mrs. BROWN that some of the police had received improper training. She returned to their home with BROWN, who was still restless and in pain. After BROWN finally went to sleep, Mrs. BROWN napped and awoke a couple of hours later to find BROWN missing. After looking for him on the property, she returned to their house and shortly received a call informing her that BROWN had been arrested in Augusta, Georgia. She was told that BROWN had driven to the Georgia War Veterans' Home in Augusta, where his father is hospitalized. Police arrested BROWN for driving without a license, for speeding, and for yelling at some people, although he was just upset at seeing his father in the hospital. BROWN was released from the Richmond County Jail that same day.

On November 21, 1988, BROWN went on trial in Aiken, South Carolina, before Judge LONG. BROWN had returned from a European tour only a day or two earlier, and was not prepared for the trial. The judge failed to grant a motion to change the

venue of the trial, even though it was shown that some 90 articles and news broadcasts concerning BROWN had been printed or aired during a 30-day period, all of which stories carried the police version of what had happened. The judge was very involved in picking the jury which tried BROWN, and did not take steps to protect the jurors from hearing about the trial. He also required BROWN to spend each night in jail, even though BROWN had already returned from Europe to be present for the trial. During the course of the trial, the District Attorney used trickery to plant false thoughts in the minds of the jury, and the police told conflicting stories, some of which had been written down in report form several days after the incident. BROWN took the stand and admitted that he had not stopped for the blue lights soon enough, but denied trying to hurt anyone and said he had been frightened and had driven off to keep from being shot.

At the conclusion of the trial, the jury found BROWN guilty and he was later sentenced to six years in prison. Mrs. BROWN felt that the sentence was unjust, as a 19 year old white man had received only six months on a second offense of the same kind that BROWN received six years for.

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b7C

On January 23, 1989, BROWN went to trial in Richmond County, Georgia, on eleven traffic violations resulting from the same incident which began at the business office on Stevens Creek Road and from the arrest at the War Veterans' Home. [redacted] him in this action and BROWN pleaded guilty. The judge sentenced BROWN to a six-year prison term, to run concurrent with the South Carolina sentence.

Mrs. BROWN advised that her husband has a long history of service to the United States and she feels his six-year sentence is unfair and based on racial considerations. She wished to make this information available to the United States Department of Justice in an effort to see her husband released from jail.

Complainant

The following descriptive ~~information was~~ obtained through observation and interview: Adrienne Brown

Name	ADRIENNE L. BROWN, Nee MODELL
Race	Black
Sex	Female
Date of Birth	March 9, 1950

GA

Res: 430 Douglas Dr
Beach Island, SC

Residence	430 Douglas Drive Beech Island, South Carolina 19841
Home Telephone	(803) 827-0931
Business	Top Notch, Incorporated 1052 Stevens Creek Road Suite 116 Augusta, Georgia 30907
Business Telephone	(404) 733-1052

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS, OFFICERS,
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA, POLICE DEPARTMENT

On February 23, 1989, the facts of this matter were discussed with Assistant United States Attorney D. GREGORY WEDDLE, Southern District of Georgia, Augusta, Georgia, who advised that he saw no apparent prosecutive merit in the allegations, but that he would defer to the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice.

FD-36 (Rev. 8-29-85)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- ☐ Teletype
- ☐ Facsimile
- ☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:
- ☐ Immediate
- ☐ Priority
- ☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- ☐ TOP SECRET
- ☐ SECRET
- ☐ CONFIDENTIAL
- ☐ UNCLAS E F T O
- ☐ UNCLAS

Date 2/27/89

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, COLUMBIA (44B-SV-3846)(P)

UNSUBS,
OFFICERS OF THE RICHMOND COUNTY
GEORGIA POLICE DEPARTMENT;
ADRIEENE BROWN - COMPLAINANT;
JAMES BROWN - VICTIM;
CIVIL RIGHTS;
OO: SV

Re Bureau airtel to Savannah, 1/3/89, and Savannah airtel (FD-610) to the Bureau 2/9/89.

UACB, Columbia Division will delay interview of victim per lead in re Savannah airtel until receipt by Columbia of Savannah interview of complainant.

b6
b7C

2 - Bureau
1 - Savannah (44B-3846)(Info)
2 - Columbia

ARG/gmb
(5) 1*

44-115189-3

MAR 6 1989

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) (Time) Per _____

GPO : 1987 O - 193-749

256

6-94 (Rev. 8-6-85)

Memorandum

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

To : Assistant Attorney General
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION Attn: Criminal Section

Date 3/9/89

From : Director, FBI

Subject : UNSUBS,
OFFICERS OF THE RICHMOND COUNTY
GEORGIA POLICE DEPARTMENT;
JAMES BROWN - VICTIM;
ADRIEENE BROWN - COMPLAINANT;
CIVIL RIGHTS
OO: SAVANNAH

Field Office File Number 44 B - 3846

DOJ File Number _____ - _____ - _____

Reference:

Enclosed is one copy of: Savannah LHM dated 2/27/89.

☐ Also enclosed is an Internal Affairs Report

☒ A. This is the initial communication in this matter:

Type matter (Initial communication only)
☐ Brutality - Law Enforcement
☐ Brutality - Nonlaw Enforcement
☒ No Brutality - Law Enforcement
☐ No Brutality - Nonlaw Enforcement
☐ Racial Violence
☐ ISS Matter
☐ Death Case

44-115189-4

☒ B. FBI Status-Pending

MAY 5 1989

☐ C. FBI Status-Closed

☐ D. This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by the Federal Bureau of Investigation unless specifically requested by the Department of Justice.

☐ E. Due to the nature of this matter, it should receive your expeditious attention. Please contact the Civil Rights Unit, FBIHQ, Attn: _____

Enc (1) POG:ljc

SENT BY COURIER
DATE 3/13/89 INITIAL CJC

MAIL ROOM ☐

256

FBI/DOJ

Memorandum

Subject	Date
Notice of File Closing CIVIL RIGHTS MATTER	6/9/89

To

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

From

James P. Turner, Acting
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

This is to inform you that as of this date your field office file numbered SV-44B-3846 dated 3/9/89 has been filed.

The victim in this matter is James Brown.

b6
b7C

44-115189-5

Date Initials
Received JUN 26 1989
Entered
Indexed
Complete

FD-36 (Rev. 8-29-85)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- ☐ Teletype
- ☐ Facsimile
- ☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:
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- ☐ Priority
- ☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- ☐ TOP SECRET
- ☐ SECRET
- ☐ CONFIDENTIAL
- ☐ UNCLAS E F T O
- ☐ UNCLAS

Date 6/9/89

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, COLUMBIA (44A-SV-3846) (RUC)

SUBJECT: UNSUBS,
OFFICERS,
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA POLICE DEPARTMENT AND
NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA POLICE DEPT.;
ADRIENNE BROWN - COMPLAINANT;
JAMES JOSEPH BROWN, aka
James Brown - Victim
CIVIL RIGHTS
OO: SV

Re CO airtel to BU, 3/29/89.

In view of the fact that Columbia has no outstanding leads, this case is being considered RUC.

b6
b7C

2 - Bureau
2 - Savannah (44B-SV-3846)
1 - Columbia
JHK:dsb
(5)

1*

DE-125

44-115189-6

Date
Received
Entered
Modified
Searched

JUN 12 1989

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) (Time) Per _____

FD-610 (Rev. 10-9-85)

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
Attn: Criminal Investigative Division
Civil Rights Unit

DATE: 4/11/89

ACTING
FROM: SAC, SAVANNAH (44B-3846)(C)

1. Title: (use additional page if necessary)
UNSUBS,
OFFICERS,
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA POLICE DEPARTMENT
AND NORTH AUGUSTA, SC POLICE DEPARTMENT;
ADRIENNE BROWN - COMPLAINANT;
JAMES JOSEPH BROWN, aka
James Brown - VICTIM;
CR(B)
OO: SV

Re: CO airtel and LHM dated 3/29/89.

2. Office of Origin File No: 44B-3846 (include alpha)
3. Auxiliary Office File No: _____-_____ (initial submission only)
4. _____ initial submission X supplemental submission
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      ☐ Racial ☐ Religious ☐ Other
   C. ISS Matters
      ☐ Migrant Victim ☐ Other
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      ☐ Klan ☐ Other _____

Use to describe above (check all applicable)
☐ Arson ☐ Injury ☐ Property damage
☐ Death ☐ No injury ☐ Cross burning

6. Date of incident _____ 7. Date of complaint _____
8. Synopsis of case:

INDEX

44-115189-7

Received Date
Entered
Modified
Surgeon

9. Significant case ☐ Yes ☐ No (if yes, provide reason) _____

Remarks/Administrative

UACB, Savannah placing case in closed status to await decision of FBIHQ or CR Division, DOJ, re additional investigation.

2 - Bureau
1 - Savannah

ABG:dse
(3)

FBI/DOJ

CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT
APR 18 2 53 PM '89
RECEIVED FBI

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OGC:tryj 1/25/89

to

JAMES BROWN COMPLAINANT
RICHMOND COUNTY GEORGIA
POLICE DEPARTMENT

PURP: To adv of a telephone call rec'd frm ADRIENNE BROWN, wife of capt emply, concerng a complaint of viol of capt emply's civil rights.

b6
b7C

REC: None, for infor.

FD-250 (11-30-54) FBI/DOJ

Memorandum

Exec AD Adm. ____
Exec AD Inv. ____
Exec AD LES ____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs. ____
Crim. Inv. ____
Ident. ____
Insp. ____
Intell. ____
Lab. ____
Legal Coun. ____
Off. Cong. & Public Affs. ____
Rec. Mgnt. ____
Tech. Servs. ____
Training ____
Off. Liaison & Int. Affs. ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Sec'y ____

SSP
CLASS
SRC
SER
REC

From : [redacted]

Date 1/25/89

Subject : JAMES BROWN
COMPLAINANT
RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA POLICE DEPARTMENT
CIVIL RIGHTS MATTER

PURPOSE: To advise of a telephone call received from ADRIENNE BROWN, wife of singer JAMES BROWN, concerning a complaint of violation of JAMES BROWN's civil rights.

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DETAILS: On 1/23/89, ADRIENNE BROWN, wife of singer JAMES BROWN, telephonically (404-733-1052) contacted SA [redacted] Assistant Section Chief, Response Section, Identification Division, and expressed concern that her husband's civil rights had been violated, first by the Richmond County, Georgia Police Department and lastly by his Attorney. Mrs. BROWN advised she had obtained SA [redacted] name from a friend at the Atlanta Police Department.

44-115189-8

Mrs. BROWN advised that in October, 1988, her husband went to a seminar in Augusta, Georgia. While there, several Richmond County, Georgia Police Officers, for no known reason, started harrassing him. Mr. BROWN was armed and when the officers learned this, they went after him. He exited the area which led to a chase into the state of South Carolina. Officers in South Carolina claimed that Mr. BROWN allegedly tried to run over two officers who had set up a road block. Mrs. BROWN claims that her husband indicated the incident did not happen that way, that it is true that he attempted to flee from the Georgia Officers; however, there was no road block. The South Carolina Officers were in hiding and shot out Mr. BROWN's front tires as he entered their area. Mrs. BROWN advised that Mr. BROWN feared for his life and tried to get away from the Officers who were shooting at him. According to her husband, Mrs. BROWN states the Georgia Officers, who appeared at the indictment in Aiken, South Carolina, in connection with the police chase had advised the South Carolina Officers that Mr. BROWN had attempted to kill the Georgia Officers and was armed and dangerous. The Georgia Officers stated this as the reason they shot out Mr. BROWN's tires. The lie the Georgia Officers started led to the incident.

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MAR 1 1989

At the arraignment, Mr. BROWN entered an innocent plea for the traffic and weapon charges. Mrs. BROWN feels her husband's civil rights were violated by his lawyer because the lawyer changed the innocent plea to guilty causing Mr. BROWN to be sentenced to six years in jail. Mrs. BROWN would like the FBI to look into this matter.

Enclosures (2)
1 - Mr. F. I. Clarke (Attn: [redacted], Rm. 5131, TL-233) - Enc. (2)
1 - [redacted] Rm. 9961, TL# 345 - Enc. (2)
OGC:trj
(3)

(CONTINUED - OVER)

☆ U.S.G.P.O.: 1988-202-042/75505

Memorandum from [redacted]
RE: JAMES BROWN
COMPLAINANT
RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA POLICE DEPARTMENT
CIVIL RIGHTS MATTER

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SA [redacted] advised Mrs. BROWN of their appeal rights and that it was a matter that would have to be settled by the Court of Appeals. Based on the information provided by Mrs. BROWN, there is no violation of Federal law by the Richmond County, Georgia Police Department, nor Mr. BROWN's Attorney. It was also recommended that she call the Bar Association concerning the complaint she has about the Attorney. She was also advised that if she wished to pursue the matter, she could contact FBI, Atlanta or the United States Attorney's Office in Atlanta.

RECOMMENDATION: None, for information.

APPROVED:

Director
Exec. AD-Adm.
Exec. AD-Inv.
Exec. AD-LEG

Adm. Servs.
Crim. Inv.
Ident.
Inspection
Intell.
Laboratory
Legal Coun.

Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.
Off. of Lia. & Int'l Affs.
Rec. Mgmt.
Tech. Servs.
Training

FD-350 (Rev. 5-8-81)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Singer James Brown Enters Innocent Pleas In Court

James Brown

Godfather of Soul James Brown's lawyer recently entered innocent pleas on traffic and weapons charges against Brown and also asked for a jury trial.

Brown, who is currently on a European concert tour, was arrested and charged in September after a two-state police chase (JET, Nov. 21).

The earliest possible date for a jury trial would be in January, according to H. Scott Allen, chief assistant solicitor in Richmond County, Ga.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
Jet Magazine
Page 33

Date: November 21, 1988
Edition:

Title: Singer James Brown Enters Innocent Pleas in Court

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office:

Indexing:

44-115189-8

ENCLOSURE

FBI/DOJ

FD-350 (Rev. 5-8-81)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

James Brown Indicted In Ga., S.C. Cop Car Chase

Godfather of Soul James Brown was recently indicted in Aiken, S.C., in connection with a police chase that started in Georgia and crossed into South Carolina.

Brown, 55, was charged with two counts of assault and battery with intent to kill and one count of failure to stop for a police car. He was charged earlier in Georgia over the incident.

Police said Brown entered a seminar in Augusta carrying a gun and then led police on the chase (JET, Oct. 10).

Brown allegedly tried to run over two officers who were setting up a roadblock. The officers reportedly shot out Brown's front tires, but he kept driving.

A trial has been set for December, Brown was on a European concert tour at press time.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Jet Magazine
Page 60

Date: December 5, 1988

Edition:

Title: James Borwn Indicted In Ga., S. C. Cop Car Chase

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office:

Indexing:

44-115189-8

FBI/DOJ

SSR
CLASS
SRC'D
SER
REC

AIRTEL

1/31/89

Director, FBI

SAC, Savannah

UNSUBS,
OFFICERS OF THE RICHMOND
COUNTY, GEORGIA POLICE DEPARTMENT;
ADRIENNE BROWN - COMPLAINANT;
JAMES BROWN - VICTIM;
CIVIL RIGHTS;
OO: SAVANNAH

Enclosed for Savannah are two copies of a memorandum (with attachments) dated 1/25/89 documenting telephone contact by Adrienne Brown with FBIHQ officials.

On 1/23/89, Adrienne Brown, wife of entertainer James Brown, telephonically contacted Assistant Section Chief [redacted] Response Section, Identification Division, FBIHQ alleging that her husband's civil rights had been violated by the Richmond County, Georgia, Police Department and his attorney, as a result of a confrontation with law enforcement officers in October, 1988, at Augusta, Georgia. Information presented by Brown during the telephone contact is set forth in the enclosed communication, to include information regarding Brown's arrest and later indictment in Aiken, South Carolina.

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Initial information obtained during the telephone call was presented to Deputy Chief Daniel L. Bell, Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice on 1/27/89 for a preliminary opinion as to whether or not the information supported the initiation of an investigation. Deputy Chief Bell opined that the information is not of sufficient specificity to make such a determination and he requested that the Bureau conduct a limited investigation to ascertain the allegation and facts known to the complainant constituting the civil rights complaint.

44-115789-9

Savannah is requested to conduct a limited investigation consisting of an interview of Adrienne Brown to determine the specific civil rights violations alleged to have been perpetrated against her husband. Following the interview of Adrienne Brown, Savannah is to make a determination as to whether or not victim James Brown should be interviewed prior to the submission of the field office findings in this matter.

Exec AD Adm.
Exec AD Inv.
Exec AD LES
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs.
Crim. Inv.
Ident.
Insp.
Intell.
Lab.
Legal Coun.
Off. Cong. & Public Affs.
Rec. Mgnt.
Tech. Servs.
Training
Off. Liaison & Int. Affs.
Telephone Rm.
Director's Sec'y
MAIL ROOM

2 - Savannah - Enclosures (2)
2 - Columbia (INFO)
WCB/pmd (7)

MAR 1 1989

This request has been reviewed by the Civil Rights Unit, FBIHQ, and unless reasons exist to the contrary, you are to complete the requested investigation in accordance with the provisions of Section 44, Manual of Investigative Operations and Guidelines and submit results within 21 workdays of the receipt of this communication.

Submit FD-610 within 5 workdays of receipt of this airtel.

FD-36 (Rev. 8-29-85)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- ☐ Teletype
- ☐ Facsimile
- ☐ Airtel
- ☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:
- ☐ Immediate
- ☐ Priority
- ☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- ☐ TOP SECRET
- ☐ SECRET
- ☐ CONFIDENTIAL
- ☐ UNCLAS E F T O
- ☐ UNCLAS

Date 3/29/89

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, COLUMBIA (44A-SV-3846)

SUBJECT: "CHANGED"
UNSUBS,
OFFICERS,
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA POLICE DEPARTMENT AND
NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA POLICE
DEPARTMENT;
ADRIENNE BROWN - COMPLAINANT;
JAMES JOSEPH BROWN, aka
James Brown - VICTIM;
CIVIL RIGHTS;
OO:SV

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Title marked "Changed" to show the full name of the victim. Title formally shown as UNSUBS, OFFICERS, AUGUSTA GEORGIA POLICE DEPARTMENT AND NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA POLICE DEPARTMENT; ADRIENNE BROWN - COMPLAINANT; JAMES BROWN - VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS.

Re Savannah airtel to the Bureau, February 27, 1989.

44-1589-10

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and two copies of an LHM re captioned matter. Two copies of same LHM being furnished to the Savannah Division. One copy of the LHM is being furnished to the United States Attorney, Columbia, South Carolina, as well as LHM enclosed in re airtel.

UACB no contact is being made by the Columbia Division with the United States Attorney, District of South Carolina, at this time for opinion as to prosecutive potential due to the lack of investigation upon which to base such an opinion.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 3)
2 - Savannah (44B-SV-3846) (Enc. 2)
2 - Columbia

ARG:lms
(6)

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
(Number) (Time)

GPO : 1987 O - 193-749

Columbia Division is maintaining this matter in pending status in anticipation of further direction from the Bureau.

U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Columbia, South Carolina
March 29, 1989

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS,
OFFICERS,
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA POLICE DEPARTMENT AND
NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA POLICE
DEPARTMENT;
ADRIENNE BROWN - COMPLAINANT;
JAMES JOSEPH BROWN - VICTIM;
CIVIL RIGHTS

On March 15, 1989, JAMES JOSEPH BROWN, inmate, was interviewed at State Park Correctional Center, Columbia, South Carolina. Results of this interview are as follows.

44-115181-10

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FD-302 (REV. 3-10-82)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3/28/89

JAMES JOSEPH BROWN, inmate, State Park Correctional Center, Columbia, South Carolina, was interviewed concerning an alleged Civil Rights violation. He was advised that any information he furnished could be used in a Court of Law. BROWN thereafter furnished the following information:

BROWN advised that approximately one and a half years ago he and his wife, ADRIENNE BROWN, were in his van on Highway 278, Aiken County, South Carolina, and had just crossed the Sandbar Ferry Bridge. At this time they noted that a vehicle which appeared to be inoperative was parked on the shoulder of the roadway by the bridge. BROWN drove up behind this vehicle in anticipation of giving the vehicle a push with his van. In doing so he bumped into the rear bumper of the stalled vehicle. As a result, BROWN's van also stalled. A passing motorist helped BROWN start his vehicle. There were young people at the scene who saw that it was JAMES BROWN and BROWN not wanting to get involved with the excitement quickly left the scene. No damage had been done to the vehicle that he had attempted to assist. BROWN continued on toward his residence in Beech Island, South Carolina. When he was near his residence he was pulled over by an Aiken County Deputy Sheriff using a blue light. BROWN stopped his vehicle, exited from it and was then told by the Deputy to produce his drivers license. BROWN produced his Georgia drivers license. BROWN stated that the deputy's demeanor was quite rude and impolite. The deputy then called for backup policemen. BROWN stated that he assumes that he was stopped because of the small collision he had had with the stalled vehicle earlier near the bridge, however, when posing this question to the deputy, the deputy would not answer. At this time BROWN told the deputy that he wanted to speak with a lawyer. The deputy then grabbed BROWN's arm and threw him to the ground. BROWN attempted to get up, however, the deputy was holding him face down. At this time other policemen arrived on the scene (possibly four others). BROWN's hands were pulled behind his back and his wrists were secured to each other very tightly with silver colored wired. BROWN, at this point, began to fear for his life and because of this began to struggle. He then was placed on the rear seat of a police vehicle on his knees with his hands still tied behind his back. He remained in this position for approximately forty-five minutes while the vehicle made at least two stops before taking him to the Aiken County Jail.

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Investigation on 3/15/89 at Columbia, South Carolina File # 44A-SV-3846

by SA [redacted] /lms Date dictated 3/22/89

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

*U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1988-202-044:81030

When arriving at the jail, BROWN was taken out of the police vehicle and because of his being in the kneeing position for so long he had difficulty walking. The wire was then removed from his wrists. He was then booked and charged with speeding and other charges which BROWN cannot recall. BROWN remained in the Aiken County Jail overnight and released the next day on bond. BROWN stated that at the time of this incident, he had not been drinking nor was he under the influence of drugs.

On a later date, date not remembered, BROWN pled guilty for which he received a suspended sentence. He was sentenced to give a free crippled children concert. This was done.

BROWN stated that at a later date on a Saturday, date not recalled, he drove his pick up truck to his office in Executive Park, Augusta, Georgia. When arriving he noticed that the parking lot was full with automobiles. When arriving at his office he observed that his bathroom door was open. Thinking that possibly there had been a break-in he went back to his truck in the parking lot, got his shot gun and took it back to his office. He then learned that there was a meeting going on somewhere in the office complex and that the attendees of this meeting had been using the bathroom in his office. BROWN was extremely upset about this and began questioning those in attendance as to the reason for using his facility. During this time BROWN had placed his shot gun in the corner of his office in full view. BROWN then asked for the return of his keys, received same and then locked the bathroom door. He then left his office with the shot gun, placed it in the pick up truck and began driving his truck on I-20 into South Carolina. After crossing into South Carolina, he left the interstate and turned onto Martintown Road in North Augusta, South Carolina. At this location he observed that a road block had been set up by two police vehicles in a "V" shape. BROWN seeing this drove around the police road block to avoid hitting the police vehicles and continued on.

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BROWN's vehicle was then pulled over by Deputy [redacted] of the Aiken County Sheriff's Department. [redacted] instructed BROWN to get out of the vehicle. At this time six other police vehicles converged on the scene. [redacted] then reached in BROWN's vehicle and turned off the ignition, leaving the keys in place. [redacted] then told BROWN to exit the vehicle through the passenger door. At this time a policeman began kicking the vehicle door and hitting the vehicle with the butt of his gun. This resulted in a window being broken. Because of

this violence BROWN decided to remain in his vehicle. He then locked the vehicle. BROWN stated that he was in fear for his life. A North Augusta policeman then shot and hit BROWN's truck at least eight times and another North Augusta policeman shot approximately nine times at the tires and hood. Other shots were also fired. BROWN later counted the bullet holes in his truck and these totalled twenty three. Two of these shots hit the gas tank and the tires were flat. BROWN became very afraid. Because of this fear BROWN started up his vehicle and drove away on the flat tires. He was followed by numerous police vehicles. BROWN then drove to the Augusta, Georgia residence of [redacted] a friend and a [redacted] Near [redacted] residence the truck became disabled. At this time approximately twenty policemen arrived on the scene. BROWN was pulled from his vehicle by the policeman an slammed against the side of his truck causing injury to his face and body. He was then placed in a police vehicle and taken to the Richmond County Jail in Augusta, Georgia. While sitting handcuffed at the jail awaiting the booking process, a white male, 5'4" tall, stocky, in plain clothes walked up to BROWN while he was still handcuffed and hit him on the left side of his jaw. This blow was totally unprovoked. The blow knocked loose a denture post of BROWN's teeth implant and caused much pain to him. Somewhat later a judge arrived and placed BROWN on bond. No extradition processing took place, however, two deputies then took BROWN to the Aiken County Hospital in Aiken, South Carolina, for a blood test. He was then taken to the Aiken County Jail where he remained overnight. The next day he appeared before a judge in Aiken and was released on bond.

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In November, 1988, BROWN appeared for a jury trial in Aiken County, South Carolina, at which time he was found guilty and sentenced to six years in jail. In January, 1989, BROWN appeared in court in Richmond County, Georgia, at which time he was advised by his attorney to plead guilty. As a result he was sentenced to serve a six year concurrent sentence with the South Carolina sentence. BROWN is not sure what the charges were in Georgia.

The following descriptive data was obtained from observation and interview:

Name:	JAMES JOSEPH BROWN
Race:	Black
Sex:	Male
Date of Birth:	May 3, 1933

Place of Birth:	Barnwell County, South Carolina
Height:	5'7"
Weight:	182 pounds
Hair:	Black
Eyes:	Brown
Employment:	Entertainer
Spouse:	Adrienne Brown
Social Security Number:	259-32-3801
Residence:	430 Douglas Drive Beech Island, South Carolina

6-94 (Rev. 8-6-85)

Memorandum

To : Assistant Attorney General
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION Attn: Daniel L. Bell

Date 4/13/89

From : Director, FBI

Subject : UNSUBS, OFFICERS, AUGUSTA, GEORGIA
POLICE DEPARTMENT AND NORTH AUGUSTA
SOUTH CAROLINA POLICE DEPARTMENT;
JAMES JOSEPH BROWN, AKA; - VICTIM;
ADRIENNE BROWN - COMPLAINANT;
CIVIL RIGHTS
OO: SAVANNAH

Field Office File Number 44 B - 3846

DOJ File Number _____ - _____ - _____

Reference: FBI memorandum dated 3/9/89, 1/27/89 telephone conversation between Deputy Chief Dan Bell and SSA [redacted]

Enclosed is one copy of: Columbia LHM dated 3/29/89.

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☐ Also enclosed is an Internal Affairs Report

☐ A. This is the initial communication in this matter:

Type matter (Initial communication only)
- ☐ Brutality - Law Enforcement
- ☐ Brutality - Nonlaw Enforcement
- ☐ No Brutality - Law Enforcement
- ☐ No Brutality - Nonlaw Enforcement
- ☐ Racial Violence
- ☐ ISS Matter
- ☐ Death Case

44-115189-11

☒ B. FBI Status-Pending

☐ C. FBI Status-Closed

JUN 8 1989

☐ D. This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by the Federal Bureau of Investigation unless specifically requested by the Department of Justice.

☐ E. Due to the nature of this matter, it should receive your expeditious attention. Please contact the Civil Rights Unit, FBIHQ, Attn: _____

Enc (1)

NOTE: In referenced telephone conversation, Mr. Bell requested a limited investigation into captioned matter. The enclosed LHM contains an FD-302 of the victim's interview. The complainant was previously interviewed and those results were furnished by referenced FBI memorandum dated 3/9/89. The Department is requested to advise the Civil Rights Unit, FBIHQ of its opinion as to whether further action is warranted. This matter will be maintained in pending status at FBIHQ until opinion is rendered.

345

MAIL ROOM ☐
POG:ljc

SENT BY COURIER
DATE 4/13/89 INITIAL