Armed group's leader in federal building: 'We will be here as long as it takes'

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CNN)Armed anti-government protesters have taken over a building in a federal wildlife refuge in Oregon, accusing officials of unfairly punishing ranchers who refused to sell their land.

One of them is Ammon Bundy, the 40-year-old son of Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, who is well-known for anti-government action.

He spoke by phone to CNN on Sunday. Asked several times what he and those with him want, he answered in vague terms, saying that they want the federal government to restore the "people's constitutional rights."

OPINION: Face it, Oregon building takeover is terrorism

"This refuge -- it has been destructive to the people of the county and to the people of the area," he said.

"People need to be aware that we've become a system where government is actually claiming and using and defending people's rights, and they are doing that against the people."

Armed protesters rally to support Oregon rancher

Armed protesters rally to support Oregon rancher 02:05

The group is occupying part of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge near Burns after gathering outside for a demonstration supporting Dwight and Steven Hammond, father-and-son ranchers who were convicted of arson.

Prosecutors said the Hammonds set a fire that burned about 130 acres in 2001 to cover up poaching. They were sentenced to five years in prison.

The Hammonds, who are set to turn themselves in Monday afternoon, have said they set the fire to reduce the growth of invasive plants and to protect their property from wildfires, CNN affiliate KTVZ reported.

The Hammonds have been clear in that they don't want help from the Bundy group.

"Neither Ammon Bundy nor anyone within his group/organization speak for the Hammond family," the Hammonds' attorney W. Alan Schroeder wrote to Harney County Sheriff David Ward.

CNN law enforcement analyst Art Roderick, a retired U.S. marshal who investigated anti-government militias for years, warned that Bundy's call for supporters to join him might "turn into a bad situation."

"What's going to happen hopefully (is) ... we don't go out there with a big force, because that's what they're looking for," he said. "The last thing we need is some type of confrontation."

He said that over the years, law enforcement has learned how to handle a situation like this; one that hasn't erupted in violence and in which a law may be broken, but there's no immediate threat to anyone's life.

The best approach now, Roderick said, is to wait the group out and to figure out how to bring a peaceful end to the situation.

The protest has prompted Harney County School District 3 to call off classes for the entire week, Superintendent Dr. Marilyn L. McBride said.

"Schools will open on January 11," she said. "Ensuring staff and student safety is our greatest concern."

**'We are not terrorists'**

After the march Saturday, the armed protesters broke into the refuge's unoccupied building and refused to leave. Officials have said there are no government employees in the building.

"We will be here as long as it takes," Bundy said. "We have no intentions of using force upon anyone, (but) if force is used against us, we would defend ourselves."

Ammon Bundy said that the group in Oregon was armed, but that he would not describe it as a militia. He declined to say how many people were with him, telling CNN on Sunday that giving that information might jeopardize "operational security."

The elder Bundy drew national attention last year after staging a standoff with federal authorities over a Bureau of Land Management dispute.

"We are not terrorists," Ammon Bundy said. "We are concerned citizens and realize we have to act if we want to pass along anything to our children."

He wouldn't call his group a militia, but others are.

"I don't like the militia's methods," local resident Monica McCannon told KTVZ. "They had their rally. Now it's time for them to go home. People are afraid of them."

**What the protesters want**

When asked what it would take for the protesters to leave, Bundy did not offer specifics. He said he and those with him are prepared to stay put for days or weeks or "as long as necessary."

Cliven Bundy&#39;s ranch west of Mesquite, Nevada, on April 11, 2014, was the site of a tense standoff between him and the federal government. Bundy and other ranchers have been locked in a dispute with the government for decades over where they can graze their cattle and how they use the land. Click through the images to see what set it off.

8 photos: Land Rights

"We are using the wildlife refuge as a place for individuals across the United States to come and assist in helping the people of Harney County claim back their lands and resources," he said.

"The people will need to be able to use the land and resources without fear as free men and women. We know it will take some time."

He did not explicitly call on authorities to commute the prison sentences for the Hammonds, but he said their case illustrates officials' "abuse" of power.

"Now that people such as the Hammonds are taking a stand and not selling their ranches, they are being prosecuted in their own courts as terrorists and putting them in prison for five years," Bundy said.

He said the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge has taken over the space of 100 ranches since the early 1900s.

"They are continuing to expand the refuge at the expense of the ranchers and miners," Bundy said.

He also said Harney County, in southeastern Oregon, went from one of the state's wealthiest counties to one of the poorest.

CNN has not independently corroborated Bundy's claims.

"I want to emphasis that the American people are wondering why they can't seem to get ahead or why everything is costing more and you are getting less, and that is because the federal government is taking and using the land and resources," Bundy said.

### **What the feds say**

Acting U.S. Attorney Billy J. Williams of Oregon gave a starkly different perspective on the arson case.

His office declined to comment on the situation at the wildlife refuge Saturday, but it cited an opinion piece written by Williams in the [Burns Times Herald](http://burnstimesherald.info/) last month defending the federal prosecutors' actions in the Hammonds case.

"Five years ago, a federal grand jury charged Dwight and Steven Hammond with committing arson on public lands and endangering firefighters," Williams wrote for the newspaper. "Steven Hammond was also found guilty of committing a second arson in 2006."

The prosecutor said witnesses saw the Hammonds illegally slaughter a herd of deer on public land.

"At least seven deer were shot with others limping or running from the scene," Williams wrote.

He said a teenage relative of the Hammonds testified that Steven Hammond gave him a box of matches and told him to start the blaze. "The fires destroyed evidence of the deer slaughter and took about 130 acres of public land out of public use for two years," the prosecutor wrote.

Williams also disputed the notion that the Hammonds were prosecuted as terrorists, as Bundy suggested.

"The jury was neither asked if the Hammonds were terrorists, nor were defendants ever charged with or accused of terrorism," Williams wrote. "Suggesting otherwise is simply flat-out wrong."

**1965**

# Selma to Montgomery march begins

In the name of African-American voting rights, 3,200 civil rights demonstrators, led by Martin Luther King Jr., begin a historic march from Selma, Alabama, to the state capitol at Montgomery. Federalized Alabama National Guardsmen and FBI agents were on hand to provide safe passage for themarch, which twice had been turned back by Alabama state police at Selma’s Edmund Pettus Bridge.

In 1965, King and his Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) decided to make the small town of Selma the focus of their drive to win voting rights for African Americans in the South. Alabama’s governor, George Wallace, was a vocal opponent of the African-American civil rights movement, and local authorities in Selma had consistently thwarted efforts by the Dallas County Voters League and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to register local blacks. In spite of repeated registration campaigns, only 2 percent of eligible blacks were on the voter rolls. Furthermore, the local sheriff was notoriously brutal, and so seemed sure to respond in so galling a way as to attract national attention.

King had won the 1964 Nobel Prize for Peace, and the world’s eyes turned to Selma after his arrival there in January 1965. He launched a series of peaceful protests, and by mid-February thousands of protesters in the Selma area had spent time in jail, including King himself.

On February 18, a group of white segregationists attacked some peaceful marchers in the nearby town of Marion. Jimmie Lee Jackson, a young African American, wasshot by a state trooperin the melee. After he died, King and the SCLC planned a massive march from Selma to Montgomery. Although Governor Wallace promised to prevent it from going forward, on March 7 some 500 demonstrators, led by SCLC leader Hosea Williams and SNCC leader John Lewis, began the 54-mile march to the state capital. After crossing Pettus Bridge, they were met by Alabama state troopers and posse men who attacked them with nightsticks, tear gas, and whips after they refused to turn back. Several of the protesters were severely beaten, and others ran for their lives. The incident was captured on national television and outraged many Americans. Hundreds of ministers, priests, and rabbis headed to Selma to join the voting rights campaign. King, who was in Atlanta at the time, promised to return to Selma immediately and lead another attempt.

On March 9, King led more than 2,000 marchers, black and white, across the Edmund Pettus Bridge but found Highway 80 blocked again by state troopers. King paused the marchers and led them in prayer, whereupon the troopers stepped aside. King then turned the protesters around, believing that the troopers were trying to create an opportunity that would allow them to enforce a federal injunction prohibiting the march. This decision led to criticism from some marchers who called King cowardly. In Selma that night, James Reeb, a white minister from Boston, was fatally beaten by a group of segregationists.

Six days later, on March 15, President Lyndon Johnson went on national television to pledge his support to the Selma protesters and call for the passage of a new voting rights bill that he was introducing in Congress. “There is no Negro problem. There is no Southern problem. There is no Northern problem. There is only an American problem,” he said, “…Their cause must be our cause too. Because it is not just Negros, but really it is all of us, who must overcome the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice. And we *shall* overcome.”

On March 21, U.S. Army troops and federalized Alabama National Guardsmen escorted the marchers across Edmund Pettus Bridge and down Highway 80. When the highway narrowed to two lanes, only 300 marchers were permitted, but thousands more rejoined the Alabama Freedom March as it came into Montgomery on March 25. On the steps of the Alabama State Capitol, King addressed live television cameras and a crowd of 25,000, just a few hundred feet from the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, where he got his start as a minister in 1954. That August, President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act, which guaranteed African Americans the right to vote.

Between the passing of the act and the May 1966 primary, 122,000 blacks registered to votein the state. This represented a quarter of Alabama’s voters.

**History of the Black Panther Party**

**Goal:**

The Black Panther party had a specific platform laid out in 10 points. It included goals such as: "We want power to determine the destiny of our black and oppressed communities," and: "We want land, bread, housing, education, clothing, justice and peace." In the long term, the group aimed rather vaguely at a revolutionary overthrow of the white-dominated status quo and black power.

But they had no more concrete platform for governing.

They took their inspiration from a combination of socialist intellectuals, combining their thoughts on the role of class struggle with the specific theories about black nationalism.

**The role of violence:**

The Black Panthers committed to a violent image and to actual violence from their inception.

The image was clearly a large part of the Black Panthers' ability to create an impression, and to at least some white onlookers, evoked a fascination that was often expressed with erotic overtones.

For example, one author writing in 1976, observed that the group's "paramilitarism was clearly visible from the start, as Black Panthers strutted around in their black jackets, black berets, and tight-fitting black pants, their pockets bulging with side arms, their clenched fists high above their defiant heads (Albert Parry, Terrorism from Robespierre to Arafat).

The group acted on its image. In some instances, members would appear en masse and simply threaten violence. In others, they took over buildings or engaged in shootouts with police or with other militant groups Both Black Panther members and police members were killed in confrontations.

**Notable events & attacks:**

* May 2, 1967: About 30 armed Black Panther members entered the California legislature to protest consideration of outlawing the right of private citizens to bear arms. There was no violence, but the spectacle is well remembered and brought the group into public light..
* 1967-1968: A number of shootouts between Black Panther members and the police, leave a number of both parties dead
* April 6, 1968: An armed confrontation between Black Panthers and police led to a 90 minute confrontation at a building housing Panthers. Eventually, the Panthers surrendered. Over the course of the day, at least four policemen were wounded and one killed. One Panther member, Bobby Hutton, was killed by the police and seven others were arrested.
* December 4, 1969: Another well-remembered instance of violence was instigated by the FBI, which provided the information needed to raid the Illinois Black Panther Party head's apartment. Two members of the Black Panthers were killed by gunfire. The event is remembered partly for the disproportionate firing: evidence revealed later that the police fired up to 99 bullets, while the Panthers may have shot one. It is also remembered because information required for the break-in was obtained by an FBI infiltrator in a period when surveillance of the domestic group had been approved.

**Origins:**

The Black Panthers emerged out of the nonviolent civil rights movement of the early 1960s. Its leaders Newton and Seale both began their experience with organized groups as members of the Revolutionary Action movement, a socialist group with militant and non-violent political activities. Its roots may be also found in the Lowndes County Freedom Organization (LCFO)—an Alabama group dedicated to registering African-American voters. The group was also called the Black Panther party. The name was later borrowed by Newton and Seale for their California based [Black Panther party."](http://terrorism.about.com/od/groupsleader1/ig/Terrorists-in-their-Own-Words/Eldridge-Cleaver.htm)

**Ferguson Missouri**

**The US town of Ferguson has seen rioting and looting after a jury decided not to bring charges over the killing of a black teenager.**

Michael Brown was shot by a white police officer, Darren Wilson, on 9 August, sparking protests.

A police chief said the latest violence in the suburb of St Louis, Missouri, was "probably much worse" than on any night since the teenager's death.

St Louis County police chief Jon Belmar said rioters had fired 150 shots.

Many in the African-American community had called for Mr Wilson to be charged with murder, but after three months of deliberation a Missouri grand jury - of nine white and three black members - made no recommendation of charges.

President Barack Obama joined the teenager's family on Monday in appealing for calm, urging Americans to accept the decision was "the grand jury's to make''.

The sun's shining this morning on South Florissant, which saw some of the most violent demonstrations outside the Ferguson Police Department last night.

Local residents have been up since the early hours cleaning up the streets. Shopkeepers are boarding up shops. A small group of protesters is yelling at half a dozen police standing outside the department.

A group of residents is standing outside a beauty parlour which was looted last night. Its windows have been smashed in and they're hoping to stop anyone else coming in and looting.

"We're trying to come together and get past this", says Judy. Everyone's expecting more demonstrations tonight.

"They let our town burn," says Anastasia Knowles. "They sacrificed us for Clayton," she says referring to the choice to deploy the state national guard there and not in Ferguson.

Authorities said more than 80 people were arrested amid chaos in several areas of St Louis overnight. Sixty-one of those arrests were in Ferguson, with charges including burglary and trespassing.

The fabric of the community, Mr Belmar said, had been "torn apart" in Ferguson, which is a predominantly black community patrolled by a mainly white police force.

As protesters charged barricades, hurling glass bottles, police responded with smoke and tear gas.

One protester, Charles Miller, told the BBC that while he did not advocate violence, he understood why people were angry.

"You can't just go shoot an 18-year-old who's unarmed on the street, despite what the story may have been," he said.

Thousands of people also protested in other US cities, from Los Angeles to New York.

In Oakland, California, they blocked traffic on a major highway in the San Francisco Bay area.

## Officer Darren Wilson's testimony

Mr Wilson said he tried to block Mr Brown and another man in the street with his police vehicle in connection with a robbery, but when he tried to open the car door, Mr Brown slammed it shut.

The police officer said he managed to reopen the door, pushing Mr Brown back with it, and then the teenager hit him in the face. In the struggle which followed, Mr Wilson said, the teenager tried to grab his drawn gun while insulting him.

Mr Wilson said he fired several shots during the struggle before Mr Brown ran off. When Mr Brown stopped running, the officer said, he ordered him to get on the ground but Mr Brown advanced on him instead, putting his right hand under his shirt in the waistband of his trousers. Mr Wilson said he then fired the fatal shots.

## **'Y'all wrong!'**

Much of the debate since August has centred on whether Michael Brown was attempting to surrender to Darren Wilson when he was shot, and protesters have adopted the chant "Hands up, don't shoot".

But state prosecutor Robert McCulloch, speaking after the grand jury decision, said physical evidence had contradicted some of the witness statements.

Police say there was a struggle between the teenager and the officer before the shooting.

Mr Wilson himself says that before the shooting, Mr Brown had pushed him back into his car, hit him and grabbed at his drawn gun.

The jury was made up of 12 randomly picked citizens from the state of Missouri. At least nine votes were needed in order to issue an indictment.

Mr Brown's family said in a statement: "We are profoundly disappointed that the killer of our child will not face the consequence of his actions."

But they also appealed for calm, saying: "Let's not just make noise, let's make a difference", and calling for all police to wear body cameras.

Mr Brown's mother, Lesley McSpadden, wept at news of the jury's decision as she was comforted by supporters outside the police station in Ferguson.

Mr Brown's family could yet file a wrongful-death lawsuit against Mr Wilson.

Meanwhile, a justice department investigation is still under way into whether the police officer violated Mr Brown's civil rights.

Darren Wilson, 28, is currently on paid leave and has kept out of the public eye.

The department is also investigating practices at the Ferguson police department.

## SIT INS

## **Process[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Sit-in&action=edit&section=1" \o "Edit section: Process)]**

Protesters usually seat themselves at a strategic location (inside a restaurant, in a street to block it, in a government or corporate office, and so on). They remain until they are evicted, usually by force, or arrested, or until their requests have been met. Sit-ins have historically been a highly successful form of protest because they cause disruption that draws attention to the protest and, by proxy, the protesters' cause. They are a [non-violent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-violent) way to effectually shut down an area or business. The forced removal of protesters, and sometimes the use of violence against them, often arouses sympathy from the public, increasing the chances of the demonstrators reaching their audience.

## **United States[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Sit-in&action=edit&section=2" \o "Edit section: United States)]**

### Civil rights movement**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Sit-in&action=edit&section=3" \o "Edit section: Civil rights movement)]**

The [Fellowship of Reconciliation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fellowship_of_Reconciliation) (FOR) the [Congress of Racial Equality](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congress_of_Racial_Equality) (CORE) conducted sit-ins as early as the 1940s. Ernest Calloway refers to [Bernice Fisher](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernice_Fisher) as "Godmother of the restaurant 'sit-in' technique."[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sit-in#cite_note-1) In August 1939, African-American attorney [Samuel Wilbert Tucker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Wilbert_Tucker) organized a sit-in at the then-[segregated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racial_segregation_in_the_United_States) [Alexandria, Virginia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexandria,_Virginia), library.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sit-in#cite_note-2) [Congress of Industrial Organizations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congress_of_Industrial_Organizations) (CIO) labor delegates had a brief, spontaneous [lunch counter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunch_counter) sit-in during their 1947 [Columbus, Ohio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbus,_Ohio), convention.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sit-in#cite_note-3)

In one of the earliest racially connected sit-ins, followers of [Father Divine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Father_Divine) and the [International Peace Mission Movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Peace_Mission_Movement) joined with the Cafeteria [Workers Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labor_unions_in_the_United_States), Local 302, in September 1939 to protest racially unfair hiring practices at New York's Shack Sandwich Shops, Inc. According to the [*New York Times*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Times) for September 23, 1939,[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sit-in#cite_note-4) on Thursday between 75 and 100 followers showed up at the restaurant at Forty-first Street and [Lexington Avenue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lexington_Avenue), where most of the [strike](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strike_action) activity has been concentrated, and groups went into the place, purchased five-cent cups of coffee, and conducted what might be described as a kind of customers' nickel sit down strike. Other patrons were unable to find seats."[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sit-in#cite_note-5)

In May 1942, [James Farmer, Jr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Farmer,_Jr.), an organizer for the Fellowship of Reconciliation, led a group of 27 people to protest the racially discriminatory no-service policy of the Jack Spratt Diner on 47th Street in [Chicago](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago). Each seating area in the diner was taken by groups that included at least one black person. The peaceful patrons, several from the campus of the nearby [University of Chicago](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Chicago), then tried to order; all were refused. The police were called, but when they arrived they told the management that no laws were being broken, so no arrests were made. The diner closed for the night but thereafter, according to periodic checks made by CORE activists, it no longer enforced its discriminatory policy.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sit-in#cite_note-6)

With the encouragement of [Melvin B. Tolson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melvin_B._Tolson) and Farmer, students from [Wiley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiley_College) and [Bishop](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bishop_College) Colleges organized the first sit-in in Texas in the rotunda of the [Harrison County Courthouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Harrison_County_Courthouse_(Texas)) in[Marshall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marshall,_Texas). This sit-in directly challenged the oldest [White Citizens Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Citizens_Parties) in Texas and would culminate in the reversal of [Jim Crow laws](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim_Crow_laws) in the state and the [desegregation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desegregation) of postgraduate studies in Texas by the [Sweatt v. Painter (1950)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sweatt_v._Painter" \o "Sweatt v. Painter) verdict. Sit-ins were an integral part of the nonviolent strategy of civil disobedience and mass protests that eventually led to passage of the[Civil Rights Act of 1964](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_Rights_Act_of_1964) which ended legally sanctioned racial segregation in the United States and also passage of the [Voting Rights Act of 1965](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voting_Rights_Act_of_1965) that struck down many racially motivated barriers used to deny voting rights to non-whites.

#### 1955 Baltimore, Maryland, sit-in**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Sit-in&action=edit&section=4" \o "Edit section: 1955 Baltimore, Maryland, sit-in)]**

*See also:*[*Read's Drug Store*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Read%27s_Drug_Store)

One of the earliest lunch counter sit-ins of the [American Civil Rights Movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African-American_Civil_Rights_Movement_(1955-1968)) was started by a group of [Morgan State College](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morgan_State_University) (now University) students and the Baltimore chapter of[CORE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congress_of_Racial_Equality). Their goal was to desegregate Read's drug stores. The peaceful [impromptu](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/impromptu#Adjective) sit-in lasted less than one half an hour and the students were not served. They left voluntarily and no one was arrested. After losing business from the sit-in and several local protests, two days later [*The Afro newspaper*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baltimore_Afro-American) ran a story featuring Arthur Nattans, Sr., then President of Read's who was quoted saying, “We will serve all customers throughout our entire stores, including the fountains, and this becomes effective immediately". As a result, 37 Baltimore-area lunch counters became desegregated.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sit-in#cite_note-7)[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sit-in#cite_note-8)

#### 1957 Durham, North Carolina sit-in**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Sit-in&action=edit&section=5" \o "Edit section: 1957 Durham, North Carolina sit-in)]**

*Main article:*[*Royal Ice Cream Sit-in*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Ice_Cream_Sit-in)

At another early sit-in, the "Royal Seven", a group of three women and four men from [Durham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Durham,_North_Carolina), [North Carolina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Carolina), sat in at the Royal Ice Cream Parlor on June 23, 1957, to protest practices of segregation.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sit-in#cite_note-9) The activists were arrested and charged with trespassing. Their efforts are now recognized via historical markers in Durham. They went to court three times; each case ended in their being found guilty.

#### 1958 Wichita and Oklahoma City sit-ins**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Sit-in&action=edit&section=6" \o "Edit section: 1958 Wichita and Oklahoma City sit-ins)]**

*Main articles: [Dockum Drug Store sit-in](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dockum_Drug_Store_sit-in" \o "Dockum Drug Store sit-in) and*[*Clara Luper*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clara_Luper)

This sit-in for the purpose of integrating segregated establishments began on July 19, 1958, in [Wichita, Kansas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wichita,_Kansas), at Dockum Drugs, a store in the old Rexall chain.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sit-in#cite_note-NPR-10) In early August, the drugstore became integrated. A few weeks later on August 19, 1958, in [Oklahoma City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oklahoma_City), a nationally recognized sit-in at the Katz Drug Store lunch counter occurred. The Oklahoma City Sit-in Movement was led by [NAACP Youth Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NAACP_Youth_Council) leader [Clara Luper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clara_Luper), a local high school teacher, and young local students, including Luper's eight-year-old daughter, who suggested the sit-in be held. The group quickly desegregated the Katz Drug Store lunch counters. It took several more years, but she and the students, using the tactic, integrated all of Oklahoma City's eating establishments. Today, in downtown [Wichita, Kansas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wichita,_Kansas), a statue depicting a waitress at a counter serving people honors this pioneering sit-in.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sit-in#cite_note-11)

#### 1960 Greensboro and Nashville sit-ins**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Sit-in&action=edit&section=7" \o "Edit section: 1960 Greensboro and Nashville sit-ins)]**

*Main articles:*[*Greensboro sit-ins*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greensboro_sit-ins)*and*[*Nashville sit-ins*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nashville_sit-ins)

Following the [Oklahoma City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oklahoma_City) sit-ins, the tactic of non-violent student sit-ins spread. The [Greensboro sit-ins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greensboro_sit-ins) at a [Woolworth's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F.W._Woolworth_Company) in [Greensboro, North Carolina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greensboro,_North_Carolina), on February 1, 1960, launched a wave of anti-segregation sit-ins across the South and opened a national awareness of the depth of segregation in the nation.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sit-in#cite_note-12) Within weeks, sit-in campaigns had begun in nearly a dozen cities, primarily targeting Woolworth's and [S. H. Kress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S._H._Kress_%26_Co.) and other stores of other national chains.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sit-in#cite_note-13)

The largest and best-organized of these campaigns were the [Nashville sit-ins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nashville_sit-ins), whose groundwork was already underway. They involved hundreds of participants, and led to the successful desegregation of Nashville [lunch counters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunch_counter).[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sit-in#cite_note-14) Most of the participants in the Nashville sit-ins were college students, and many, such as [Diane Nash](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diane_Nash), [James Bevel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Bevel), [Bernard Lafayette](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernard_Lafayette), and [C. T. Vivian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C._T._Vivian), went on to lead, strategize, and direct almost every aspect of the nation's civil rights movement in the 1960s. The students of the [historically black colleges and universities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historically_black_colleges_and_universities) in the city played a critical role in implementing the Nashville sit-ins.[*[citation needed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed" \o "Wikipedia:Citation needed)*]

#### 1961 Rock Hill, South Carolina sit-in**[**[**edit**](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Sit-in&action=edit&section=8)**]**

The [Friendship Nine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friendship_Nine) was a group of African American men who went to jail after staging a sit-in at a segregated [McCrory's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McCrory%27s) [lunch counter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunch_counter) in [Rock Hill, South Carolina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_Hill,_South_Carolina) in 1961. The group gained nationwide attention because they followed an untried strategy called "Jail, No Bail",[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sit-in#cite_note-15)[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sit-in#cite_note-16)[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sit-in#cite_note-17)[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sit-in#cite_note-18)[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sit-in#cite_note-19) which lessened the huge financial burden [civil rights](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_rights) groups were facing as the sit-in movement spread across the South. They became known as the Friendship Nine because eight of the nine men were students at Rock Hill's Friendship Junior College. They are sometimes referred to as the Rock Hill Nine.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sit-in#cite_note-20)