

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF NEW JERSEY

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NEWS RELEASE

News Release

Release Time: Friday A.M.

The American Civil Liberties Union announced it would conduct a full scale impartial investigation of police brutality charges arising out of the 11 arrests at 91 N. 14th Street on the Newark - East Orange border last Friday night.

State A.C.L.U. Director Henry di Suvero said the Union was responding to the requests of James Hooper, Newark-Essex C.O.R.E. Chairman and some of the victims and witnesses of the incident to investigate the situation.

"The A.C.L.U.", said di Suvero, "will perform the fact finding job that no City agency appears willing to do. It is also clear from past experience that there is little hope in securing action from the State or Federal authorities. The community deserves to know the facts exactly as they occurred and the A.C.L.U. intends to do this job."

The Union spokesman said: "A.C.L.U. will set up shop right where the incident occurred at 91 N. 14th Street at 10:30 on Saturday morning. We will have attorneys and law students from the Civil Rights Research Council taking down statements from any witness who steps forward. C.O.R.E. has agreed to leaflet the area beforehand, and we understand that news of our investigation is circulating in the neighborhood. We also expect to meet with the Newark and East Orange Police Departments in order to find out their side of the story too."

The A.C.L.U. expects to complete its report within a week.

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