



## HANDOUT

# Quotes from Civil Rights Leaders on Emmett Till

- "I thought about Emmett Till, and I couldn't go back [to the back of the bus]."  
**ROSA PARKS**
  
- "[Emmett Till's murder was] one of the most brutal and inhuman crimes of the 20<sup>th</sup> century."  
**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**
  
- "It would appear that the state of Mississippi has decided to maintain white supremacy by murdering children."  
**ROY WILKINS, HEAD OF THE NAACP**
  
- "Nothing that boy did could ever justify what happened to him."  
**CAROLYN BRYANT DONHAM, EMMETT'S ACCUSER, 2007**
  
- "When people saw what had happened to my son, men stood up who had never stood up before."  
**MAMIE TILL-MOBLEY**
  
- "And the fact that Emmett Till, a young black man, could be found floating down the river in Mississippi, as, indeed, many had been done over the years, this set in concrete the determination of people to move forward."  
**REVEREND FRED SHUTTLESWORTH, CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER**
  
- "I was not even born when Emmett Till was brutally murdered in Money, Miss., but growing up in Detroit in the early 1960s, I knew his name well. When I took the long train ride to my mother's hometown of Greenwood, Miss., in 1967, I learned even more about him. I learned that he had violated the rigid rules of racial deference and hierarchy that governed the South, and had paid for it with his life."  
**BARBARA RANSBY, PROFESSOR OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES AND HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO**
  
- "I think the picture in Jet magazine showing Emmett Till's mutilation was probably the greatest media product in the last forty or fifty years because that picture stimulated a lot of interest and anger on the part of blacks all over the country."  
**CONGRESSMAN CHARLES DIGGS**