

Primary Source Document Collection
MISSION US: "No Turning Back"

The Chicago Defender, Sept. 10, 1955

After Emmett Till was murdered on August 28, 1955, his mother, Mamie, decided to hold an open casket funeral so the country would see the brutality he suffered and the type of racial violence that went unpunished in the South. Photos of Till's mutilated corpse were published in Black newspapers and magazines across the country, and front page headlines helped raise public awareness of anti-Black violence.

Brownell Orders Probe Of Mississippi Voting
NATION SHOCKED, VOW ACTION
IN LYNCHING OF CHICAGO YOUTH

'Murder,' White Says; Promises Prosecution

An aroused and angry nation this week demanded justice for the kidnapping of 14-year-old Emmett Till of Chicago, whose bound and mutilated body was found Wednesday in the Tallahatchie river near Neshoba, Miss.

Splitting Hairs Over Lynching
Sen. Dan Rostenkowski...
The Senate...
The House...



EMMETT TILL

Urge Eisenhower To See That 'Justice Is Served'

Richard J. Daley, mayor of Chicago, had urged President Dwight D. Eisenhower to see all the facilities of the federal government to see that justice is served in the slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Till of Chicago.

The NAACP charged that the federal government is...
The NAACP charged that the federal government is...
The NAACP charged that the federal government is...

'rottest Mississippi Shame'

There's nothing more rot than the rot of Mississippi...
The rot of Mississippi...
The rot of Mississippi...



Thousands of people gathered for the funeral of Emmett Till...

Blood On Their Hands ...

The lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Till...
The lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Till...
The lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Till...

Thousands At Rites For Till

More than 10,000 people gathered for the funeral of 14-year-old Emmett Till...
More than 10,000 people gathered for the funeral of 14-year-old Emmett Till...
More than 10,000 people gathered for the funeral of 14-year-old Emmett Till...

Baptists Of America Hold Meet In Chicago

Thousands of delegates to the 11th annual session...
Thousands of delegates to the 11th annual session...
Thousands of delegates to the 11th annual session...



DR. GREEN PEARCE

Mother's Tears Greet Son Who Died A Martyr

She wept the passionate...
She wept the passionate...
She wept the passionate...

Brownell Orders Voting Probe

WASHINGTON - The FBI has been directed to investigate...
WASHINGTON - The FBI has been directed to investigate...
WASHINGTON - The FBI has been directed to investigate...

1905 - GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY - 1955
MISSION US

TEACHER'S GUIDE

**Primary Source Document Collection**

**MISSION US: "No Turning Back"**

---

---

**Source:** <https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/v1/55bbe8c4e4b07309dc53b00f/1503883950142-QLWHRAFE7H4L0815PSJF/Chicago+Defender+ +Sept+10+ +front+page.jpg?format=1000w>

**Discussion questions:**

1. What was the significance of Mamie Till's decision to hold an open casket funeral?
2. How did the Black press spread awareness about Emmett Till's murder?
3. Read at the various headlines: which types of "action" was the Chicago Defender calling for?