



NAACP
Monroe County Branch

**Media Release:
Monroe County NAACP denounces arrest of peaceful
protesters.**

Whereas;

1. Since 1968 the Monroe County Branch of the NAACP has opposed abuse of power and discriminatory practices in Monroe County.
2. On April 25, 2024, Indiana University caused the arrest of over 33 arrests with dozens more since then of peaceful protesters expressing their views in Dunn Meadow, an area designated for such purposes since 1969.
3. IU purports to have changed the protest policy on the day of the arrests without due process or advance notice to those arrested, to the IU Student Government, or to the IU Faculty, manifesting a total disregard for the interests of those who make up the academic institution of IU.
4. IU called in the Indiana State Police to carry out the arrests, rather than utilizing the Indiana University Police Department, in whose jurisdiction these cases clearly fell.
5. Calling in the State Police deprived the protesters of the benefits of the special training IUPD receives in de-escalating confrontations and working within the IU disciplinary process, rather than seeking criminal prosecution.
6. Those student protesters have been banned from campus without any opportunity to be heard, thus unjustly keeping them from completing their coursework and, in some cases, denying them graduation this Spring.
7. All these acts in violation of student rights, civil rights, and human rights have been carried out by an IU administration that now stands against the values of free expression and learning that have characterized Indiana University for over 250 years.

Therefore, the Monroe County Branch of the NAACP #3062:

- A. Denounces the arrest of demonstrators under these circumstances.
- B. In light of the gross violation of the protesters' rights, demands that Indiana University:
 - * Immediately drop criminal charges against peaceful protesters.
 - * Immediately drop disciplinary charges against peaceful protesters within the IU system.
 - * Immediately rescind any peaceful protesters' actions barring any enrolled students from campus.

All of which is set forth this 28 day of April 2024.

Monroe County Branch, NAACP

Jim Sims, 1st Vice President

William Morris, Chair, Legal Redress Committee

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