

# Freedom Riders Essay

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It is shocking how terribly abused a group of non-violent protesters called the freedom riders were, when all they wanted was their civil rights. It is even more surprising that there is still segregation happening today. In our American society we have not reached full racial equality in our country, discrimination now-days is not as terribly brutal as the time of the freedom rides, but there is still some serious cases of discrimination happening right now.

1961, the year of the courageous freedom rides. An organization called C.O.R.E (congress of racial equality) made up of all sexes, races, and religions decided to organize a non-violent protest, fighting for African American civil rights, as part of the Civil Rights movement. The idea of the protest was to end segregation on interstate buses. They took interstate buses from Washington D.C, down to Mississippi. After numerous violent incidents, new groups filled in for the original freedom riders once they could not continue any longer. The freedom riders were beat constantly at bus stations, waiting rooms, airports, while refusing to hit back. They were attacked by angry mobs of white people (assumed to be the Ku Klux Klan). They then got arrested and were sent to Parchment prison (the most dreaded prison in the U.S.A) all the sudden average people from all over the country started coming to Jackson Mississippi, getting arrested, and filling up the jail, to help protest. At one point the jail was full of freedom riders, with more than 430 people. This got the President (John F Kennedy)s attention, and the presidents Attorney General, (Robert F Kennedy)s attention then talked the ICC (interstate commerce commission). The commission that runs, and controls the bus terminals. told them they needed to end segregation in all the interstate bus terminals. The freedom riders, with help

from average individuals who felt strongly about the cause, ended interstate bus segregation in the U.S.A.

segregation is not over yet, we see it everyday! There have been recent cases of bad segregation. In 2015 a collage in Mississippi finally took down there confederate flag. This may not seem like a big deal, but for black people it's a huge deal, because the confederate flag was made when slavery was happening. In 2014 a restaurant in Portland made a black man pre pay for his meal, when they were letting white people pay after they ate there meal. The restaurant did this because they thought the black man would eat and ditch the restaurant without paying, just because the color of his skin. In 2015 the man brought this case to court, trying to sue the restaurant, at this point we do not know who has won the court case. That is a bad case of discrimination that happened extremely recently! Those are just 2 examples of segregation that have happened in our modern day society here in the U.S.A, but there is so much more segregation happening!

Are you shocked? At both, how terribly treated the freedom riders were, and that there is still bad cases of segregation happening in our modern day society! If you take a moment, to look and hear for discrimination, you will notice it happens everyday all around you, over the radio, on the streets, on T.V, at concerts ECT. All you have to do is pay attention.