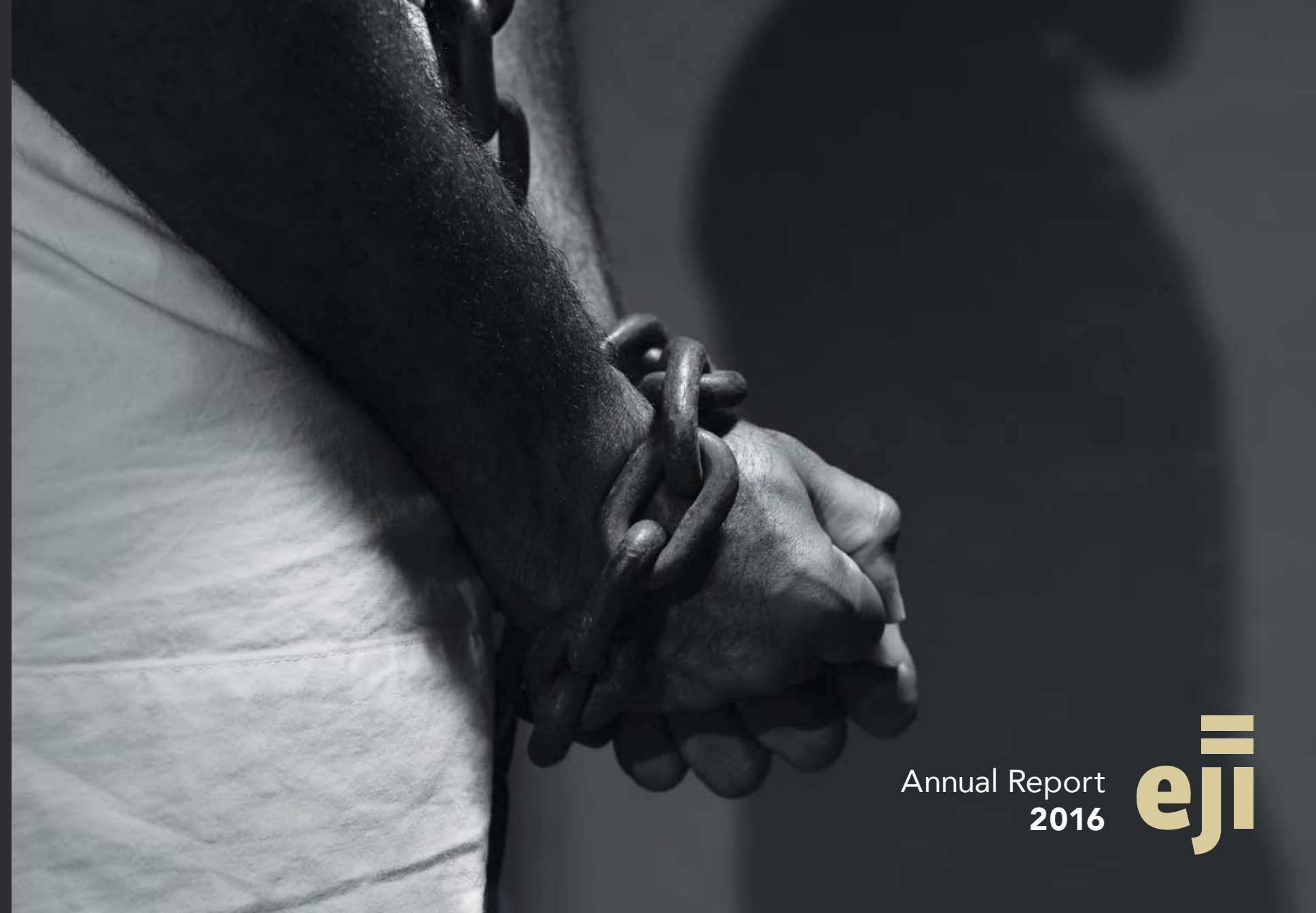




**Equal Justice Initiative**

122 Commerce Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104  
334-269-1803  
[www.eji.org](http://www.eji.org)

EJI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



Annual Report  
2016



**T**he Equal Justice Initiative is pleased to report on another year of advocacy, litigation, education, and reform work in the United States. We are committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment, challenging cruel conditions of confinement, and confronting America's long history of racial inequality and injustice. We represent the poor, children prosecuted as adults, the mentally ill, the disfavored, and others who are marginalized by our criminal justice system.

In the last year we have won relief for nearly a dozen condemned prisoners on death row facing execution. We have won reduced sentences for more than a dozen people who were sentenced to die in prison when they were children and we continue to represent scores of other condemned juveniles. We have fought against horrific prison

conditions and abuse within jails and prisons and we are challenging the extreme sentences that continue to be imposed on low-level offenders and people who are not a threat to public safety. In the last year, we have won the release of more than a dozen people who were unfairly sentenced or convicted and we are committed to continuing our work to reform the criminal justice system.

EJI is taking bold new steps to challenge America's history of racial inequality, engaging thousands of community members in education and activism projects and producing award-winning films, materials, and reports. We have also announced plans for a major new museum on the history of racial injustice and a national memorial dedicated to victims of lynching.

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**None of this work would be possible without your support.  
We are very, very grateful that you stand with us, and we  
hope you will continue to support our efforts.**

Cover Photo by Rob Culpepper. Above photo by Caleb Chancy.





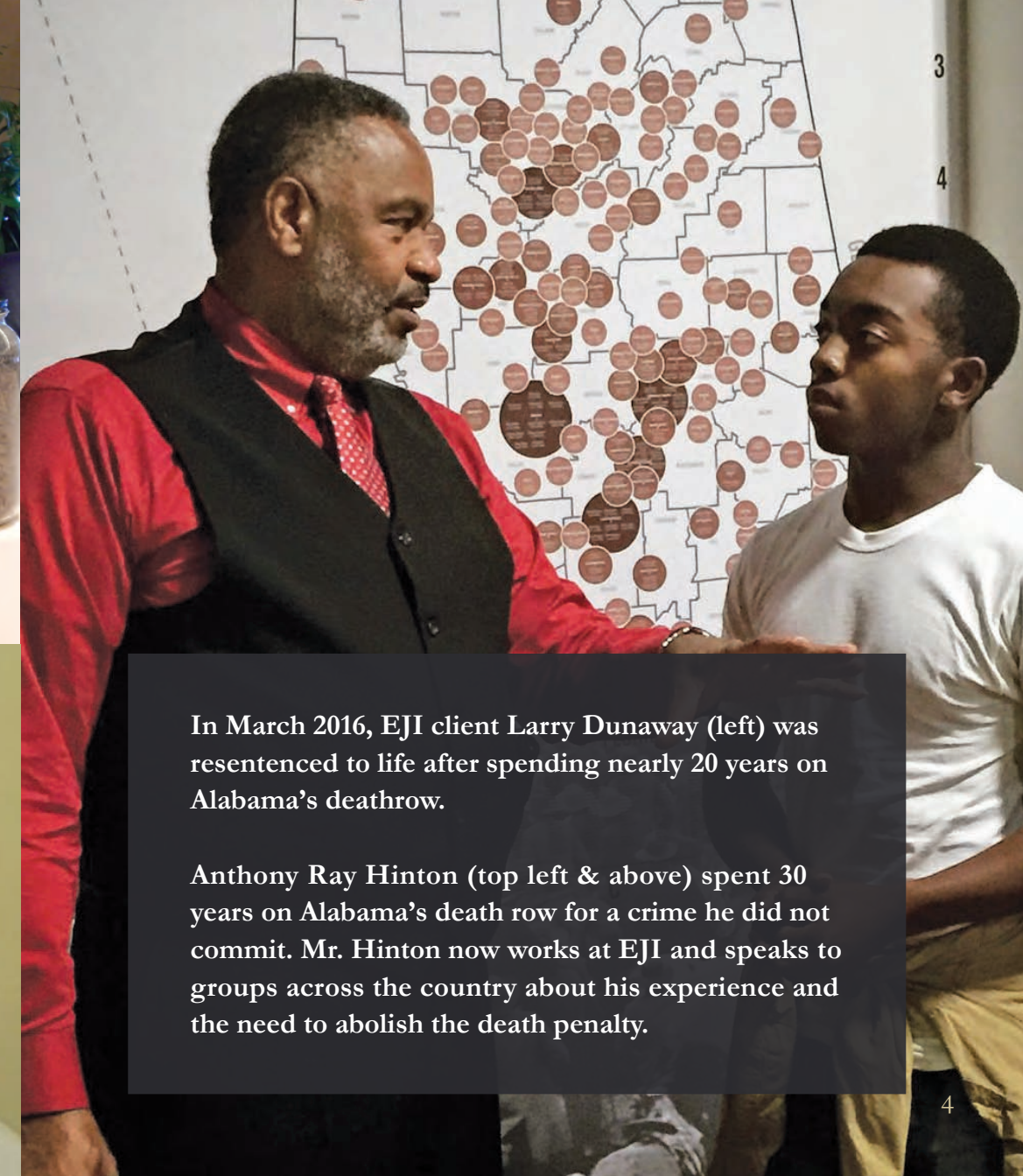


**EJI provides direct legal assistance to scores of death row prisoners. In the last year, we won relief for nearly a dozen condemned prisoners in Alabama.**

EJI is challenging the constitutionality of capital punishment. In Alabama, elected judges still override jury verdicts of life; death row prisoners cannot find adequate legal representation; and serious questions about the reliability and fairness of the death penalty

persist. EJI won new trials, reduced sentences, stays of execution, and relief from the United States Supreme Court in several death penalty cases in 2016. We have recently filed a case asking the Supreme Court to declare Alabama's death penalty statute unconstitutional.

Photo: AP



In March 2016, EJI client Larry Dunaway (left) was resentenced to life after spending nearly 20 years on Alabama's death row.

Anthony Ray Hinton (top left & above) spent 30 years on Alabama's death row for a crime he did not commit. Mr. Hinton now works at EJI and speaks to groups across the country about his experience and the need to abolish the death penalty.





**EJI continues to challenge the adult prosecution of children in the United States, and we hope to end the practice of putting children in adult jails and prisons, where they are targeted for abuse and violence.**

**13**

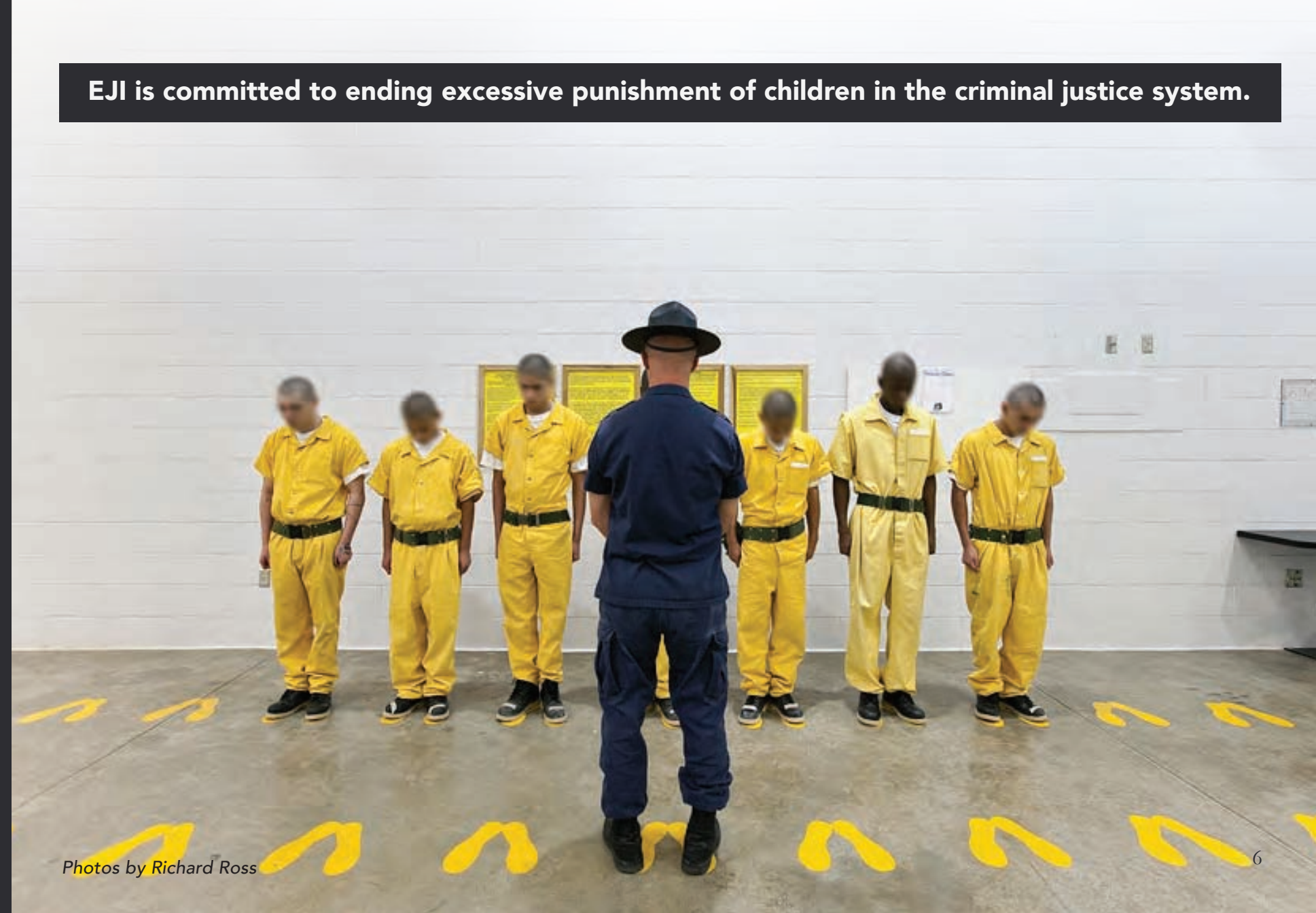
**Number of states that still have no minimum age for prosecuting children as adults.**

EJI is working to create a minimum age in this country. Although EJI has won major reforms in the United States Supreme Court, much work remains to help people who were sentenced to life imprisonment without parole for juvenile crimes, some when they were as young as 13.

**100+**

**Number of people EJI represented who were condemned to die in prison for crimes that occurred when they were children.**

**EJI is committed to ending excessive punishment of children in the criminal justice system.**





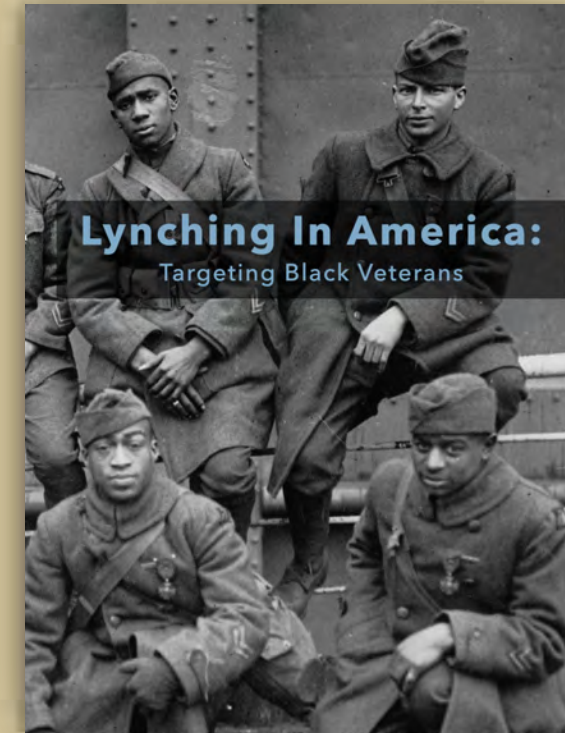
**In 2016, EJI won the release of several people who had been sentenced to die in prison as children. We continue to represent scores of child offenders across the country.**



In April, we won the release of Talmadge Hayes, who was sentenced to die in a Florida prison for a nonhomicide offense when he was 16. EJI won his release after his imprisonment for 27 years. **He now works in a print shop in West Palm Beach, Florida, where he has won high praise from his employers.**



In June, we won the release of Willie Leason, who spent over 50 years at Louisiana's notorious Angola prison after being convicted of a nonhomicide offense when he was 17 and condemned to die in prison. **Left, Mr. Leason enjoys his first meal as a free man.**



Each year EJI produces reports, videos, media, and educational materials that reach thousands of people, helping them understand the challenges created by mass incarceration, excessive punishment, and our history of inequality.

In November 2016, EJI produced a new report on the lynching of black veterans from the Civil War through World War II. We have produced several new videos in 2016, including a new film on lynching with award-winning artist Molly Crabapple.



*Still from animated film, Lynching in America*



Staton Correctional Facility, Alabama



**EJI is challenging the increasingly dangerous conditions of confinement that thousands of incarcerated people must confront every day in the United States.**

In Alabama, where hundreds of prisoners are stabbed, raped, seriously assaulted, or abused each year, the horrific conditions have sparked strikes by both incarcerated people and correctional staff. EJI has filed several complaints with the United States Department of Justice, which has recently announced an investigation into Alabama's prisons. We have also filed a lawsuit in federal court against the Alabama Department of Corrections over conditions at St. Clair Correctional Facility, which has one of the highest homicide rates of incarcerated people in the nation.

Prisons in Alabama are severely overcrowded because they are filled with thousands of people who are not a threat to public safety but nonetheless are imprisoned for long terms for low-level property or drug crimes. **We have become one of the most punitive nations on the planet, with overcrowded prisons creating serious human rights abuses.**

**70**  
MILLION

People with  
criminal arrests

**6** MILLION

People on probation  
or parole

**2** MILLION

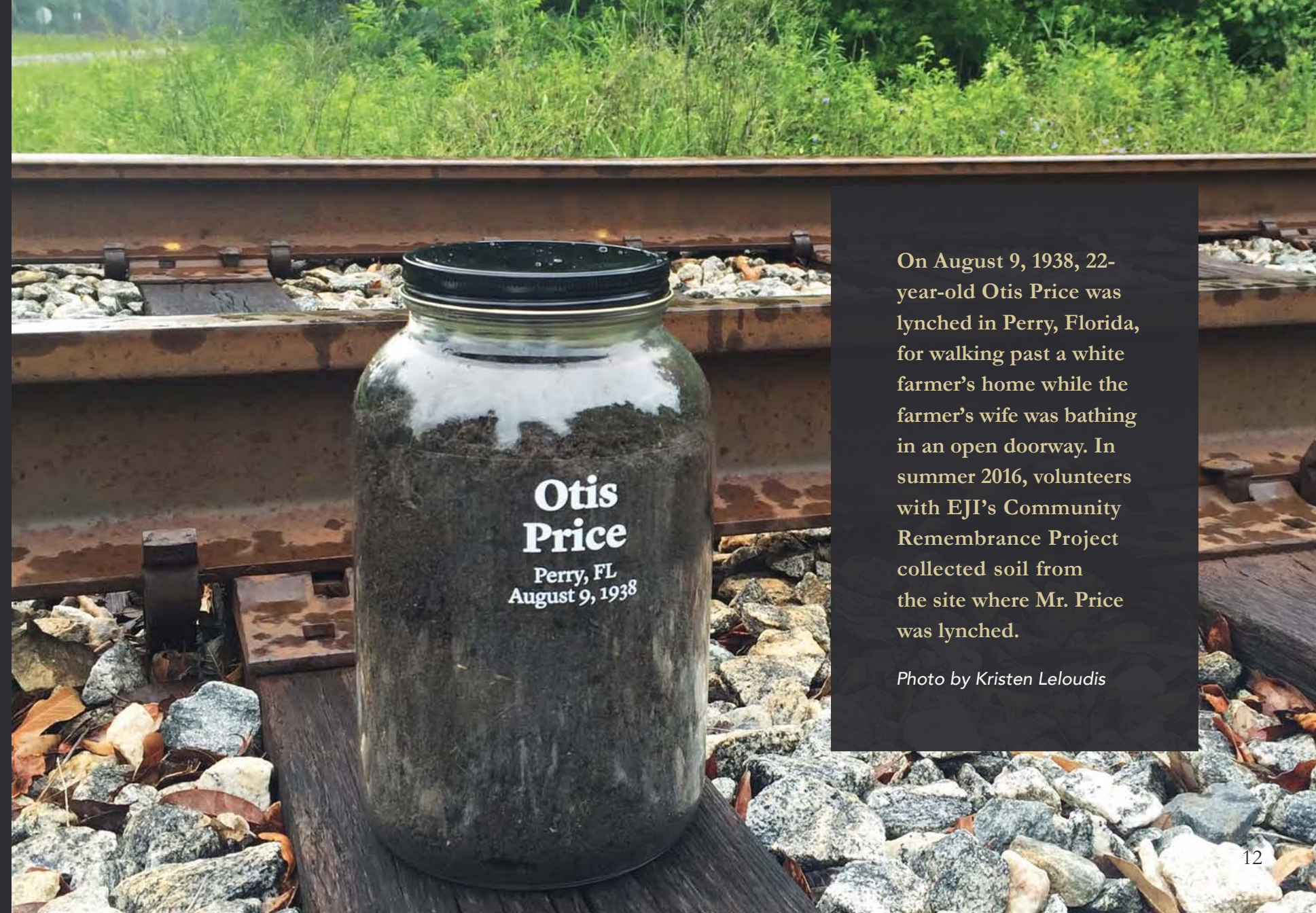
Incarcerated  
People



**EJI works to confront our nation's history of racial injustice. America's history of racial inequality continues to undermine fair treatment, equal justice, and opportunity for many Americans.**

The genocide of Native people, the legacy of slavery and racial terror, and the legally supported abuse of racial minorities are not well understood. EJI believes that a deeper engagement with our nation's history of racial injustice is important to addressing present-day questions of social justice and equality.

Our racial justice projects have grown in scope and scale and reach thousands of people each year. We hope to support more meaningful and informed work on overcoming racial bias in the United States and we are very excited about a range of new programs and initiatives.



On August 9, 1938, 22-year-old Otis Price was lynched in Perry, Florida, for walking past a white farmer's home while the farmer's wife was bathing in an open doorway. In summer 2016, volunteers with EJI's Community Remembrance Project collected soil from the site where Mr. Price was lynched.

*Photo by Kristen Leloudis*



EJI has worked with thousands of volunteers to collect soil from over 300 lynching sites as part of our Community Remembrance Project.

The jars of soil are exhibited at EJI. Each jar bears the name of a man, woman, or child lynched in America, as well as the date and location of the lynching.





# FROM ENSLAVEMENT TO MASS INCARCERATION



**In 2017, EJI will open a new museum that addresses race in America. *From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration* Museum is designed to change the way we think about racial history.**

The United States has a long and tortured history of racial inequality that has not been effectively addressed. As a result, racial disparities continue to burden people of color; the criminal justice system is infected with racial bias; and a presumption of dangerousness and guilt has led to mass incarceration, excessive punishment, and police violence against young people of color.

The Equal Justice Initiative's planned museum will be situated at the site of a former slave warehouse in Montgomery, Alabama, within 150 yards of one of the South's most prominent slave auction sites and the Alabama River dock and rail station where tens of thousands of enslaved black people were trafficked. The museum will showcase interactive displays about America's history of racial inequality and present dynamic information and content, including virtual reality films about

the domestic slave trade, lynching, segregation, and mass incarceration. The museum will house the nation's most comprehensive collection of data on lynching.

The museum will engage visitors in reflection, conversation, and exploration of our nation's history of racial inequality and provide a narrative framework that contextualizes Montgomery's rich history in the struggle for racial justice. EJI believes our efforts to understand contemporary issues will be compromised until we more appropriately acknowledge the connection between enslavement, lynching, segregation, and mass incarceration.

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**Please make plans to visit our new museum when it opens next summer.**



## National Memorial for Peace and Justice

EJI has documented several thousand racial terror lynchings of black men, women, and children, who were hanged, burned alive, shot, drowned, and beaten to death by white mobs in the United States between 1877 and 1950. Racial terror lynchings traumatized survivors, witnesses, and the entire African American community. The era of racial terror profoundly impacted our country, as millions of black people fled the American South to urban communities in the North and West as refugees from violent racism. Yet no prominent monument or memorial exists to commemorate the African Americans who were lynched in America.

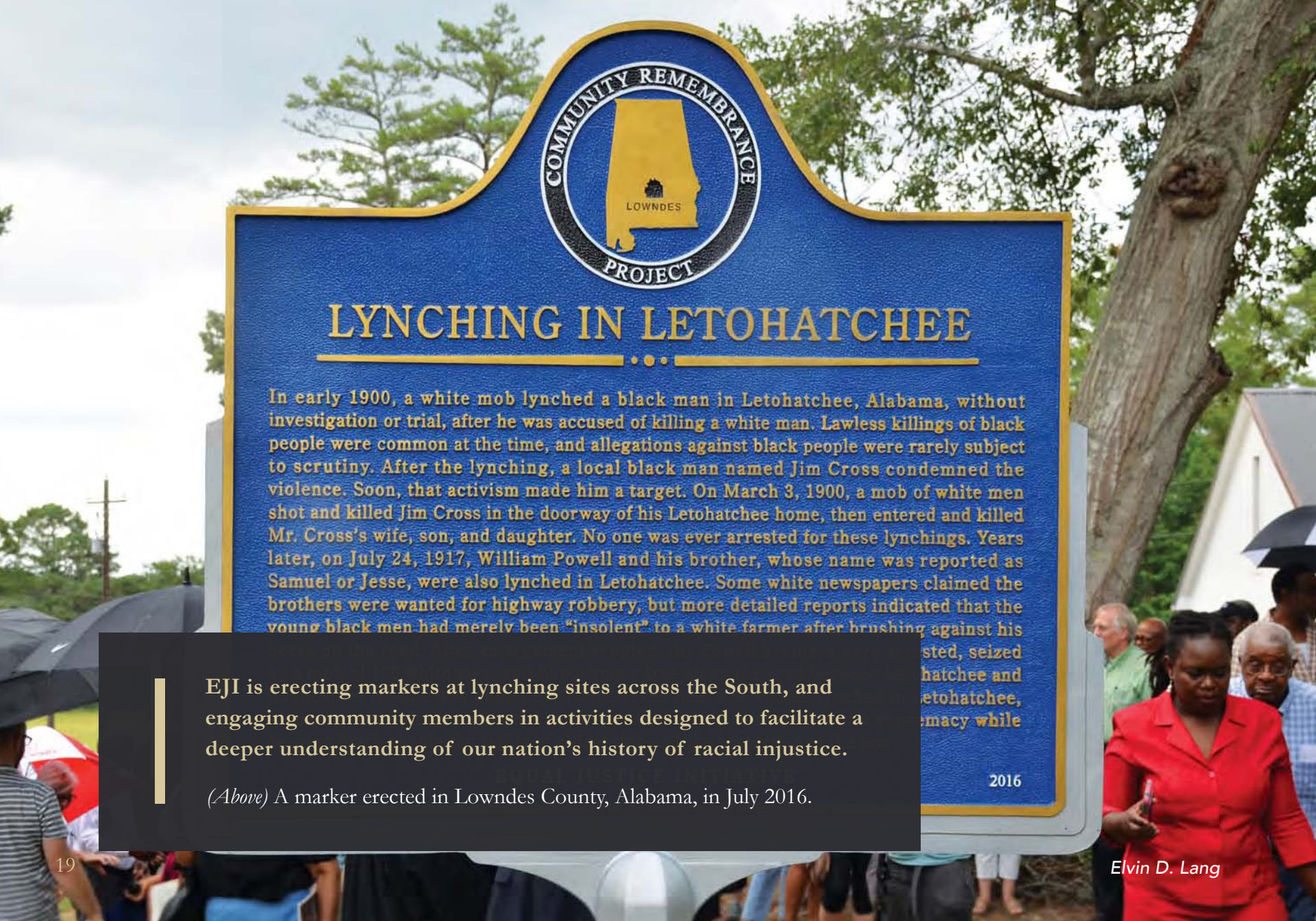
EJI plans to build a national lynching memorial that will sit on six acres of land in Montgomery and become the nation's first national memorial to victims of lynching. The massive structure will contain the names of over 4000 lynching victims engraved on concrete columns representing each county in the United States where racial terror lynchings took place. Counties across the country will be invited to retrieve duplicate columns with the names of each county's lynching victims to be placed in every county.

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**The memorial is expected to open in early 2018.**







## LYNCHING IN LETOHATCHEE

In early 1900, a white mob lynched a black man in Letohatchee, Alabama, without investigation or trial, after he was accused of killing a white man. Lawless killings of black people were common at the time, and allegations against black people were rarely subject to scrutiny. After the lynching, a local black man named Jim Cross condemned the violence. Soon, that activism made him a target. On March 3, 1900, a mob of white men shot and killed Jim Cross in the doorway of his Letohatchee home, then entered and killed Mr. Cross's wife, son, and daughter. No one was ever arrested for these lynchings. Years later, on July 24, 1917, William Powell and his brother, whose name was reported as Samuel or Jesse, were also lynched in Letohatchee. Some white newspapers claimed the brothers were wanted for highway robbery, but more detailed reports indicated that the young black men had merely been "insolent" to a white farmer after brushing against his

sted, seized hatchee and etohatchee, macy while

2016

EJI is erecting markers at lynching sites across the South, and engaging community members in activities designed to facilitate a deeper understanding of our nation's history of racial injustice.

*(Above)* A marker erected in Lowndes County, Alabama, in July 2016.

Elvin D. Lang



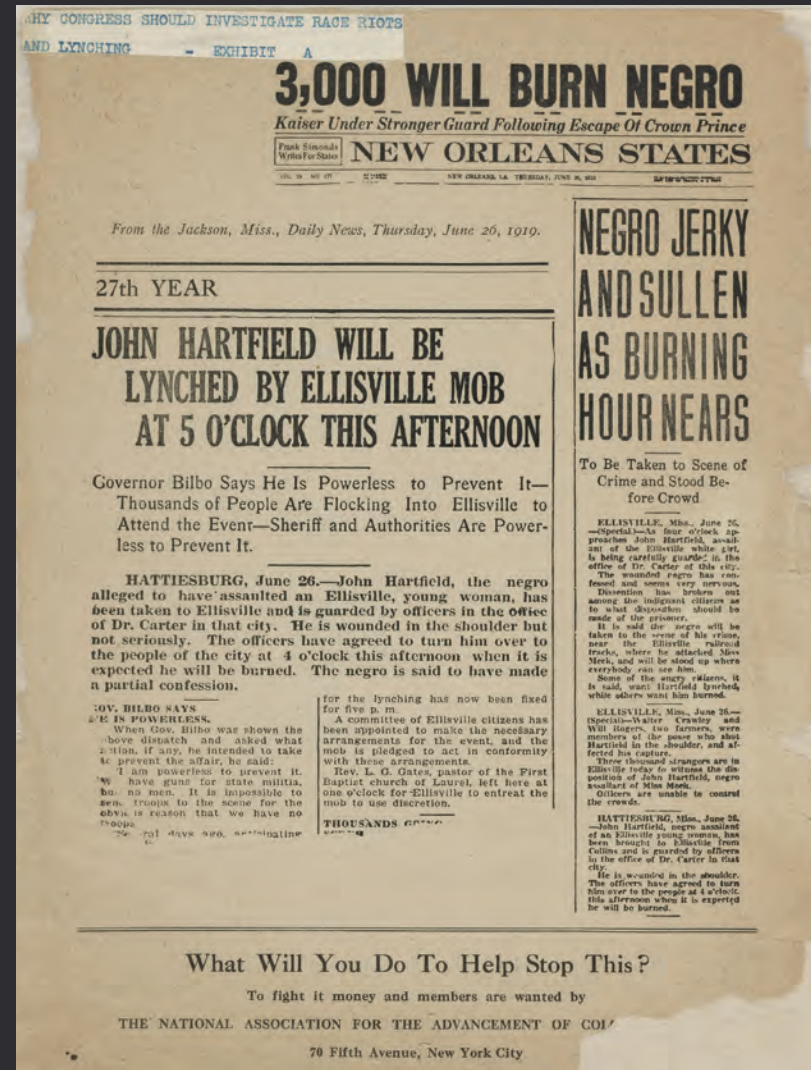
Juan Mejia



Mamie Lang fled Ellisville, Mississippi, with her family when she was a young child after a mob tried to lynch her father and his friend, John Hartfield. Mr. Hartfield returned to Mississippi and was lynched by a white mob of nearly 10,000 people for accusations of intimate relations with a white woman.

Mrs. Lang Kirkland and her family never returned to Mississippi until EJI published its report, *Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror*, and she decided to visit the site where Mr. Hartfield was lynched.

We celebrated her courage and her extraordinary witness at our annual dinner in April 2016, where Mrs. Lang Kirkland spoke powerfully about her experiences. Today she is 108 years old.



National Archives



Ozier Muhammad





Attorneys Ryan Becker and Sia Sanneh



Director Bryan Stevenson



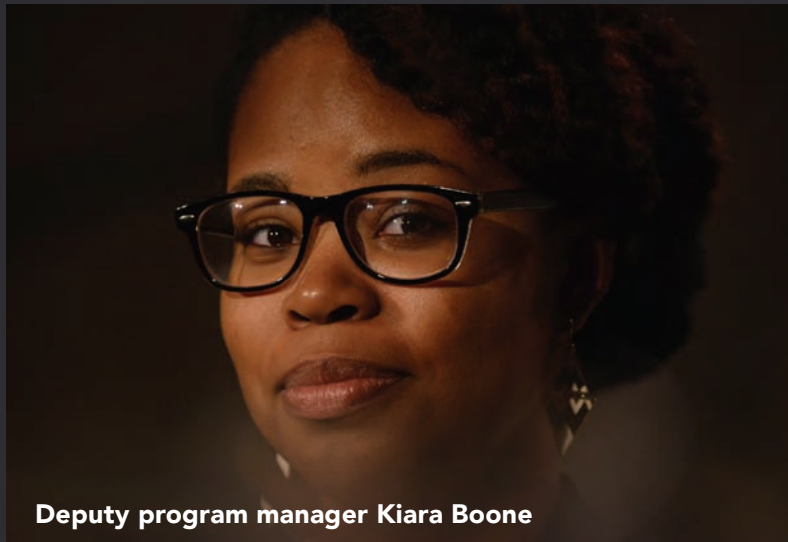
EJI staff at 2016 benefit dinner



Senior attorney Sia Sanneh and Deputy Director Randy Susskind



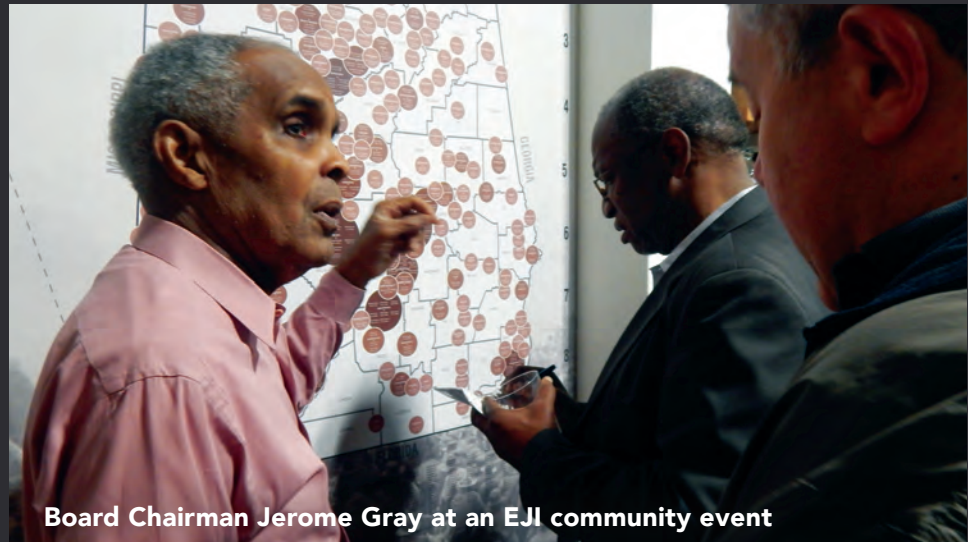
Senior staff Maria Morrison, Randy Susskind, Aaryn Urell, Jackie Jones-Peace, Alicia D'Addario, Cathleen Price, Charlotte Morrison, and Sia Sanneh



Deputy program manager Kiara Boone



Senior Attorney Charlotte Morrison



Board Chairman Jerome Gray at an EJI community event

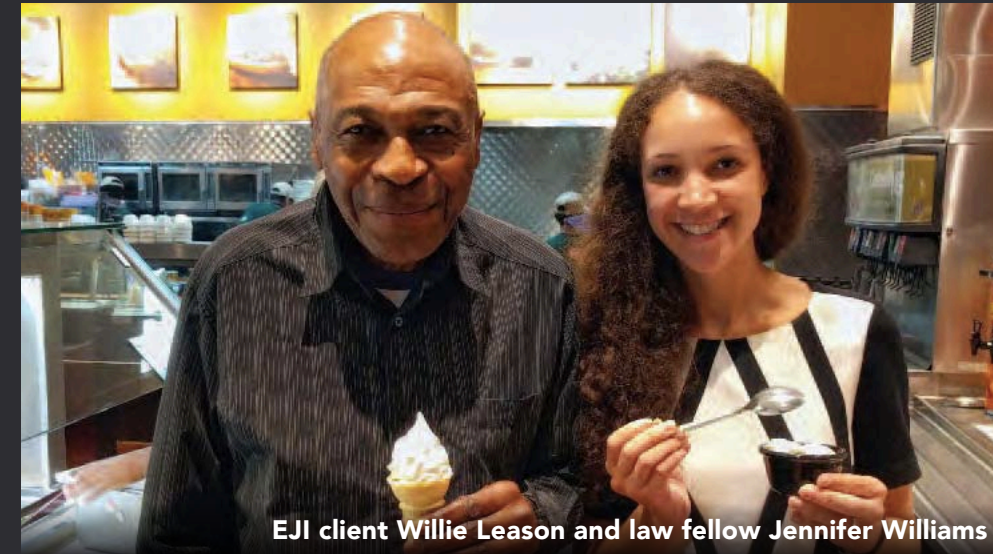


## EJI Staff

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**TERRON FERGUSON**, Law Fellow  
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**JONATHAN NOMAMIUKOR**, Law Fellow  
**EVAN MILLIGAN**, Law Fellow  
**ERIC BROWN**, Justice Fellow  
**KORBIN FELDER**, Justice Fellow  
**JONATHAN KUBAKUNDIMANA**, Program Assistant  
**AJWANG RADING**, Justice Fellow



EJI client Willie Leason and law fellow Jennifer Williams



Program assistant Jonathan Kubakundimana



Community educator Anthony Ray Hinton enjoys tea while speaking in London, England



Staff attorney Stephen Chu