

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY CENTER CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

- FEBRUARY 1, 1960:** Four North Carolina A & T State University freshmen sit in at a Woolworth lunch counter. Shortly, thereafter, Atlanta University Center (AUC) students organize the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights (COAHR) with Morehouse College student Lonnie King as its chairperson.
- MARCH 9, 1960:** The COAHR publishes "An Appeal for Human Rights" in the city's newspapers. The advertisement puts the city on notice concerning the students' intent to move against segregation.
- MARCH 15, 1960:** Sit-ins begin as seventy-seven AUC students are arrested in demonstrations at City Hall, the State Capitol, Fulton County Courthouse, office buildings, railroad and bus stations.
- APRIL, 1960:** The students organize boycotts and pickets of grocery stores to force the hiring of black employees.
- MAY 17, 1960:** The COAHR conducts a march of 3,000 from the AUC to the State Capitol.
- SUMMER, 1960:** COAHR throughout the summer maintains the movement by publishing a newspaper, The Student Movement and You; conducting kneel-ins at churches, filing suits against segregation; and directing a boycott at Rich's department store.
- JULY 31, 1960:** The Atlanta Inquirer begins publication. It evolves from the student newspaper.
- OCTOBER 19, 1960:** Sit-ins resume as forty-two are arrested in demonstrations at Rich's and other downtown department store lunch counters. Martin Luther King, Jr., is among those arrested.
- OCTOBER 20-21, 1960:** Demonstrations and arrests continue as negotiators agree to a thirty-day moratorium on demonstrations in exchange for the release of those arrested except for Dr. King. He is sentenced to four months in Reidsville State Prison for

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violating probation on a Dekalb County traffic violation by being arrested at Rich's. Presidential candidate John F. Kennedy intervenes by making sympathetic contacts with Mrs. King and others. The Kennedy campaign uses these events in its appeal to black voters and wins a narrow victory against Richard Nixon.

NOVEMBER 25, 1960: Demonstrations resume and the boycott effectively continues through the Christmas season.

FEBRUARY 7-10, 1961: Seventy-nine students are arrested.

MARCH 6, 1961: A settlement spearheaded by the efforts of A. T. Walden calls for desegregation of lunch counters in the fall after the Atlanta public schools are desegregated. During the interim, demonstrations and the boycott were to cease. The settlement causes a firestorm of dissension among the students.

MARCH 10, 1961: At an emotional mass meeting at Warren Memorial Church it appears disagreement over the settlement will irreparably divide the movement until Martin Luther King, Jr., is able to bring opposing sides together to abide by the settlement.

SEPTEMBER 29, 1961: Downtown lunch counters are desegregated.

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