**“Bombingham” in 1963**

* Birmingham, AL was called “the most thoroughly segregated city in the US” by MLK



* After Supreme Court rulings, Birmingham closed 8 pools, 38 playgrounds, & 4 golf courses rather than desegregate
* AL Governor *George Wallace* was a staunch segregationist



* Birmingham became a target for civil rights groups

MLK & Protesting

* MLK and SCLC announced plans for peaceful demonstrations



* Marches against segregation took place, mostly young people
* Protesters jailed for not having a permit
* MLK arrested and jailed in April



* He wrote “Letter from Birmingham County Jail,” attacking white clergymen asking for patience
* Early May 1,000 AA youth scheduled marches
* Birmingham police chief *Bull Connor* unleashed police dogs and fire hoses on the protesters



* People around the US and world were shocked
* Over 2,500 arrested that week
* On May 9 Birmingham Chamber of Commerce announced plans to desegregate in 90 days

Violent Response

* May 11 an integrated hotel was firebombed
* MLK’s brother’s house bombed the same night
* Violence increased in the entire South



* 9/16/63 the *16th Street Baptist Church* was bombed by KKK
* 4 girls killed, 14 other injuries



* The same day 2 AA teens shot and killed by police

Impact of Civil Rights Protests

* 10 dead during that year
* 35 AA homes and churches were firebombed
* 20,000 arrests
* Official segregation was finished in Birmingham

