

## U.S . REPORT ORDERED REVEALED NEW LIGHT ON LIUZZO SLAYING

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WASHINGTON -- Much of a government **report on** a Ku Klux Klansman who doubled as an FBI informant in the 1960s must be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act, a federal appeals court ruled Tuesday.

The U.S . Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the government's attempt to keep secret the 302-page **report on** Gary Thomas Rowe Jr., who has been linked to several violent crimes, including the murder of Viola **Liuzzo** , the civil-rights worker from Detroit, in Alabama in 1965.

The **report** describes a government investigation into Rowe's FBI ties. The investigation was prompted by news **reports** in 1978 that Rowe had committed violent crimes while an FBI informant. Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and then-Sen. James Abourezk, D- S.D., requested the inquiry in 1978.

That year Rowe was indicted in Alabama for the **Liuzzo** killing. In October 1980 U.S . District Judge Robert Varner ruled that Rowe could not get a fair trial because of the 15-year time gap.

PLAYBOY ENTERPRISES INC. filed the request for the **report on** Rowe.

The Justice Department refused the request, maintaining that the **report** was exempt from disclosure as an internal memo compiled solely to help the department decide how to handle the situation.

But a federal district court rejected the government's contention. **On** Tuesday the three-judge appeals court panel unanimously affirmed the lower court. Most of the **report** must be released, it said.

The court did agree that certain parts should be kept secret. They include names of FBI agents and some sources, information that might identify them, confidential information from sources, summaries of evidence submitted to a grand jury and segments of the **report** that offered suggestions to the Justice Department.

**LIUZZO** , A HOUSEWIFE and college student, was shot and killed March 25, 1965, **on** a highway in Alabama as she took demonstrators home after the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery.

Rowe has maintained that **Liuzzo** was killed by Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr. Wilkins and two other Klansmen, William Eaton and Eugene Thomas, were acquitted of murder charges in an Alabama court but later were convicted in federal court of violating **Liuzzo** 's civil rights. All three were sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Rowe was riding with the three defendants **on** the night of **Liuzzo** 's murder and was the main witness against them. Rowe testified that, while he pretended to fire at **Liuzzo** , Wilkins killed her.

In 1978, shortly after they were released from parole following the federal convictions, Wilkins and Thomas charged that Rowe fired the fatal shot. Their testimony led to Rowe's indictment for **Liuzzo** 's murder.

**LIUZZO** 'S FIVE CHILDREN have filed a \$2 million damage suit against the federal government, charging the FBI had known that Rowe and his companions were embarked **on** a mission of violence the night **Liuzzo** was killed but had taken no steps to prevent it. The case is pending in federal court.

Rowe has also been linked to the beatings of civil-rights demonstrators in Anniston and Birmingham, Ala., in 1961 and a church bombing that killed four children in Birmingham in 1963.

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