

U.S . BILLS LIUZZOS \$ 80 , 000 OVER SUIT

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The five children of slain civil rights leader Viola Liuzzo have been billed for almost \$ **80 , 000** in court costs by the federal government, according to a memorandum received this week by the Michigan chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

The five "are no different than any other plaintiff who brings an unsuccessful wrongful death action and sits through the trial," said government attorneys in a written response to an ACLU motion that the Liuzzo family should not be required to pay. The ACLU motion was filed June 6 in U.S . District Court in Ann Arbor

Viola Liuzzo, a Detroit housewife and mother of five, was shot and killed in Alabama in 1965 while participating in the Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights march. Her children filed an unsuccessful \$2 million suit against the government, alleging that FBI informant Gary Thomas Rowe participated in the slaying.

U.S . DISTRICT JUDGE Charles Joiner ruled the Liuzzos must pay government court costs, in addition to their own court costs of more than \$60, **000** .

The memorandum said the Liuzzos "failed to prove their case though given ample opportunity to do so. In the process, the government was put to tremendous expense in the wholly proper act of defending itself from baseless accusations."

Howard Simon, executive director of the Michigan chapter of the ACLU, said the response "reeks of vindictiveness. This is not a typical lawsuit. Whether the Liuzzos deserved to win or lose, this lawsuit certainly forced the FBI to do a lot of soul searching in who they will use for informants , and might have caused some internal changes."

Justice Department officials could not be reached for comment.

The Liuzzos' bill

Fees of the court reporter:

Preparing the trial transcript \$2,993.95

Viewing video depositions \$1, **000** .00

Expenses of taking depositions \$5,201.66

Total \$9,195.61

Fees and disbursements for witnesses:

Travel expenses for individual witnesses,

up to \$615

Attendance expenses up to \$1,500

Subsistence expenses up to \$884.95

Total: \$12,723.51

Cost of answering questions raised by **Liuzzo's** attorneys:

Searching through FBI files for documents

(4,794 man hours at \$9.06 an hour) \$43,433.64

Photocopying 13,726 documents four times

(One for plaintiff, court, FBI and Dept. of Justice)

at 10 cents a copy: \$5,490.40

Hand delivery of documents \$266.25

Total: \$49,190.29

Other expenses in taking depositions:

Total: \$2,957.25

Trial preparation expenses:

Document analysis, retrieval and co-ordination

by one paralegal working 403.5 hours

at \$12.17 an hour: \$4,910.59

Mailing trial materials from Washington, D.C.,

to Ann Arbor: \$896.16

Total: \$5,806.75

TOTAL **BILL** TO LIUZZOS: \$79,873.41

Caption: Chart

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