



**MEDIA ADVISORY**

June 5, 2009

**Local author to discuss new book on civil rights history**

Hasan Kwame Jeffries, author of *Bloody Lowndes: Civil Rights and Black Power in Alabama's Black Belt* (NYU Press, 2009), will discuss his new book on July 8, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. at the King Arts Complex, 867 Mt. Vernon Ave., Columbus, Ohio. The presentation is open to the public; no reservations are necessary.

Jeffries, an assistant professor of history at The Ohio State University with a joint appointment at the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, specializes in African American history and the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements.

The book, scheduled for July 1 release by New York University Press, focuses on the history and contributions of the rarely observed Lowndes County Freedom Organization (LCFO), an all-black, independent political party formed in Alabama in 1966. The group's ballot symbol, a black panther, which would later be adopted by the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, was created in a time when African Americans in rural Lowndes County were completely excluded from the political process. Jeffries' book focuses on the seminal actions of the LCFO, and draws on a wide array of government documents and personal interviews with Lowndes County locals and members of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

The author will be available for a book signing after the presentation.

The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity was established in 2003 as a center for interdisciplinary research at The Ohio State University. The Kirwan Institute partners with people, communities, and institutions worldwide to think about, talk about, and act on race in ways that create and expand opportunity for all. For more information about the Kirwan Institute, go to: <http://kirwaninstitute.org/>.

The mission of the King Arts Complex is to enrich and improve the quality of life in our community and society, creating enhanced understanding and harmony by preserving, presenting and fostering the contributions of African Americans through creative expression and education while building bridges of understanding and harmony among all people. For more information about the King Arts Complex, go to: <http://kingartscomplex.com/>.

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