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02/10/2025 Trial  
Plaintiff Exhibit No. 140

# Black protester attacked at Donald Trump rally called 'monkey' and other racial slurs, he says

The Black Lives Matter protester [attacked during Donald's Trump's Birmingham rally](#) said he was punched, kicked and called "n\*\*\*\*r" while a group of eight or nine people were on top of him.

[Mercutio Southall Jr.](#), a well-known activist who said he has been tased at least 30 times and [just recently marched heavily -armed through a Birmingham neighborhood](#) to teach people about gun rights, said he is sore after today's pummeling but doesn't think he was seriously injured.

"I'm alive," Southall told AL.com in his first interview since he was escorted out of the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex.

Southall said he attended today's rally because of Trump's disparaging remarks about minorities - blacks, Latinos and most recently Muslims. "Birmingham is 75 percent black, so why did he choose to come here," Southall said. "He could have gone to Mountain Brook or Hoover, I know they have the venues that can handle his rhetoric."

Southall said the fracas began when one of his fellow activists was recording their presence at the rally, which they always do. He said, "I'm recording this live from the BJCC because we want Donald Trump to know he's not welcome here," and that's when someone knocked the phone out of the other man's hand.

"They said 'Go home, n\*\*\*\*r, and somebody punched me," Southall said. "I punched back. You know don't do the turn-the-other-cheek (expletive)."

He said people encircled him, and he was being pushed and punched from every direction. Someone hit him from behind, and the next thing he knew, he was at the bottom of pile. He was kicked in the stomach, and the chest, both men and women. "I got enough people off of me that I was able to get up a little bit," he said. "Somebody got behind me and started trying to choke me out."

Asked what he was thinking when he was being pummeled from above, Southall said what he always says: "I'm not dying today," he said. "I've got (expletive) to do. They're not fixing to kill me."

Southall said he was also thinking, "Is it me? Every time I go somewhere they're trying to beat me, or tase me or kill me."

Trump, the front-running Republican presidential candidate, had Southall thrown out. Secret Service agents and Birmingham police escorted Southall from the room. "They were trying to protect them from me and I was like, 'where were you when they were attacking me and choking me?'" he said.

Southall said he was repeatedly called a "n\*\*\*\*r" and "monkey" and told his life doesn't matter. It's nothing new to him. "When I wake up in the morning, I pretty much expect trouble," he said. "We're not the Negroes from the 60s. I believe in defending myself, defending my people and sticking up for my people."

"I'm not violent. I'm not out threatening to blow up people," he said. "Self-preservation is an instinct every creature has and we deserve respect."

AL.com captured a video of Southall flipping off the crowd while being led out of the building by police. In the video posted to Twitter by CNN reporter Jeremy Diamond, Trump can be heard speaking in the background saying, "Get him the hell out of here."

Southall said he doesn't yet know what will happen next, but said he would support a police investigation and criminal charges against those who attacked him. "I would love for them to experience a little bit of what I go through," he said. "I'm all for that."

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