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Judge Bars Files on Activists

JERSEY CITY, N.J., Aug. 6 (UPI)—A Superior Court judge today declared New Jersey's state-wide system of intelligence gathering on riots and demonstrations unconstitutional and ordered all files on activists destroyed.

Judge Robert A. Matthews said the "data bank" supplied by all New Jersey police departments on local demonstrations and disorders was a "potential danger" to those involved and violated the First Amendment's provision for freedom of assembly.

Matthews said that the "secret files maintained by the intelligence gathering system are inherently dangerous, and by their very existence tend to restrict those who would advocate social and political change."

The judge made the decision in a suit brought by several Jersey City residents opposed to the data bank and by the Jersey City branch of the NAACP.

Matthews directed Atty. Gen. Arthur J. Sills and all police departments in New Jersey to produce and destroy all the information they have gathered which does not pertain to "specific charges against persons for specifically defined conduct."