

Philip Daniel Berrigan Rejected Offer to Leave From U.S. Prison

PHILIP DANIEL BERRIGAN, a prominent peace activist, has rejected an offer to leave the Federal Reformatory for Women in Alderson, West Virginia, where he is serving a 30-month sentence for his role in the 1968 assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The offer, made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), was that Berrigan could be released if he agreed to leave the country and not return for a period of five years. Berrigan, who is 42 years old, has refused the offer, stating that he is committed to the non-violent struggle for peace and social justice.

Berrigan was arrested in London in 1968 after being identified as one of the three men who threw a Molotov cocktail at the Rev. Dr. King's car in Memphis, Tennessee. He was charged with conspiracy to murder and was sentenced to 30 months in prison.

During his imprisonment, Berrigan has continued to work for peace and social justice. He has written and spoken extensively about the need for non-violent resistance and the role of the church in social change.

The FBI's offer to release Berrigan has been widely criticized. Many peace activists and church leaders have expressed their disappointment and support for Berrigan's decision to remain in prison. They believe that Berrigan's presence in prison is a powerful statement of his commitment to non-violence and social justice.

Berrigan's refusal to leave the country is seen as a significant act of civil disobedience. It is a statement of his belief that the non-violent struggle for peace and social justice is a long-term commitment that cannot be abandoned.