**Overview of Greensboro Massacre (from Teaching Tolerance)**

In Greensboro, North Carolina, on Nov. 3, 1979, in the absence of a dissuasive police presence, a caravan of white supremacists confronted demonstrators preparing for a “Death to the Klan” rally. The rally was being organized by the Communist Workers Party (CWP), previously known as the Workers Viewpoint Organization (WVO).

The confrontation left five dead and at least ten others wounded. Klan and neo-Nazis, some of whom were filmed by news cameras as they shot into the crowd, claimed self-defense and were twice acquitted of criminal charges by all-white juries. In a subsequent civil lawsuit, the shooters and the Greensboro Police Department were found jointly liable for one of the five deaths. Many in the community felt that justice was not served.

In 2004, the [Greensboro Truth and Reconciliation Commission](http://www.greensborotrc.org/) was convened to examine what has come to be known as the “Greensboro Massacre” in order to “heal relations between opposing sides by uncovering all pertinent facts, distinguishing truth from lies, and allowing for acknowledgment, appropriate public mourning, forgiveness and healing.” Toward those ends, the Commission reviewed information from the trials, records from law enforcement, newspaper and magazine articles, academic literature and some 200 interviews and personal statements given in private and at public hearings. The Commission’s final report, issued on May 25, 2006, pulled from all of these diverse resources to uncover a “collective truth” about what happened