

Jeremy Malibu  
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## The 10 most horrific crimes committed by the KKK

All of this information was found on HomeCultures article, "12 most horrific crimes committed by the KKK between 1921 and 2016."

1. Emmett Till's murdering: 14 year old Emmett Till was visiting family in Money, Mississippi from Chicago when his friends dared him to do something harmless. This harmless act was flirting with a white cashier. When Emmet left the store he simply said, " Bye baby." These two words led to one of the most horrific murder cases of all time. Carolyn Bryant's husband and brother returned from a business trip outraged and kidnapped Emmett from his uncle's house. They went on to perform such acts of terrible violence that Carolyn Bryant later admitted that nothing that boy did could have deserved what he got. The KKK members gouged his eyes out, castrated him, beat him to near death, then forced him to carry a 75 pound cotton bail to a river where they shot him in the head and threw his body in the river. Emmett's mom chose to have an open casket to show the world what racists had done to her son. I chose this as number one because of the hatred behind the murder and the pure anger at a child just for saying bye baby. The brother and husband got off without a single charge, not even kidnapping(1).
2. The 16th street bombing: The 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama was a church mainly attended by African Americans which is why it was such a good target for the KKK. On the morning of September 15, 1963 church goers were about to begin morning services when a homemade bomb went off in the East side of the church. When the smoke cleared and the rubble removed there were four bodies of young girls. The victims were, Addie Mae Collins age 14, Denise McNair age 11, Carole Robertson age 14, and Cynthia Wesley age 14. Over 20 others were injured in the attack including Sarah Collins who lost an eye. I chose this as number two because of the targets and knowledge that the Ex Klan members had of how many children were in that church. They knew that this was a meeting place for Civil Rights Activists but also they knew there was going to be youth in the building(1).
3. Michael Donald Murder: Alabama was home to some of the most violent chapters of the KKK. Michael Donald was one of the targets of these violent chapters. After an increase in Civil Rights movement, the KKK responded by beating Michael with a tree limb, strangle him, slit his throat, and hang him from a neighborhood tree to send a message. This was ranked so high because of the torture they put him through and then publicising it to his own neighborhood.
4. Judge Edward Aaron's Murdering: Judge Edward was an ordinary man except for one thing that made him a target for the KKK. He was African American. The KKK members who abducted him later said that was his sin and that's why they chose him(2). They kidnapped him and took him to their secret meeting spot where they castrated him and dumped him in a river to die. Police found him and the Four Klansmen were sentenced to 20 years in prison. This was all for a Klan member to prove himself worthy. This is number four spot because of mainly the motive. The only reason they did this horrible

act was because he was black. To me that's shocking. Not only that but also because it was just for a Klan member to prove himself it was like a test but using a real human being as the testing piece.

5. Willie Edwards murder: In Montgomery, Alabama in 1957, Willie Edwards was forced to jump off the Alabama Bridge 125 feet to his death by four Klansmen. They Kidnapped the 24 year old African American man and drove him to the bridge where they held him at gunpoint(2). The most shocking part of this murder was that this punishment was for insulting a white woman. Not only that but they got the wrong guy. Yes you heard that right. They killed a innocent young man who they thought insulted a white woman which that in itself is not even close to a just reason to murder someone let alone he didn't even do it. This is why this murder is so high on the list even though it wasn't a mass murder but it was just stupid. Plain out stupid. Willie Edwards left a two children and a pregnant wife. That is why I put this murder at this spot on the list.
6. Viola Liuzzo murder: Viola Liuzzo was the only White female killed during the Civil Rights movement. While driving a African American man home in her car she was murdered by four Klansmen almost purely for that reason. The murder which happened in Selma, 1965, was supposedly said to be a win for the Klan because she was a avid Civil Rights supporter. This was brutal murder and a big blow to the Civil Rights movement at that point in time.
7. Jewish Center shootings: Former KKK leader, Frazier Glenn Miller Jr. executed a terrible attack on the Jewish community in Overland Park, Kansas. He drove to two Jewish community centers with the intent to kill as he said, "I wanted to Kill Jews not people." He ended up killing 3 people including a 14 year old. All three of the victims were not Jewish. The reason I chose this was because they were innocent people like almost all of these victims in these attacks and they weren't even Jewish. He knocked an innocent family to their knees for no reason(3).
8. Jason Smith murder: The state of Louisiana in the recent year of 2011, saw a horrible hate crime. The 14 year old Jason Smith body was found with all of his main organs missing. The case was ruled as a accidental drowning but it was obvious it wasn't due to the missing of organs. This case was believed to be a cover up due to the fact that the suspected murder was a KKK card carrying son of a FBI agent(4). This is a far fetched idea but it's possible. I chose this murder because of the innocence and age of the victim and how nothing was done in result.
9. Medgar Evers murder: Medgar Evers was the Leader of the NAACP which made him a very wanted target for the KKK. On June 12, 1963 Medgar was shot by a Klan member in his own driveway(4). He died about an hour away in a nearby hospital. This was a huge blow to the Civil Rights movement and that's why it is ranked on this list.
10. Anaheim Stabbings: This was the most recent event on this list but it is still last. This is mainly because no one was killed in the attack and both sides were fighting against each other. About 30 counter protesters showed up when KKK vehicles pulled up and 6 members of the KKK hopped out. What happened next on that day in 2016 was brutal. Immediately, protesters rushed the KKK and started to inflict violence on anybody with a confederate flag. The KKK responded by stabbing 3 of the protesters, one being in

critical condition. 6 members were arrested and tried for the stabbings. Again, I chose this because nobody was killed and both sides were fighting.