

Photographs ground”
(hatt, 2004)
moreover, "he also
ordered

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Photographs are forms of communication that can give insight into a situation, event or even just a passing moment. However, particular images have the ability to do more than just communicate. They can define an event, capture an emotion or even symbolize a movement.

Due to their ability to represent a meaning beyond what is photographed, these images are therefore referred to as "iconic." This is the case for a picture that was captured in Birmingham, Alabama on May 3, 1963 by photographer Bill Hudson, commonly referred to as "Police Dog Attack in Birmingham, Alabama 1963" (Selwyn-Holmes, 2010). It became an influential component which assisted in bringing attention to the Civil Rights movement of 1963. The image was originally captured amidst a protest in Birmingham. The protest, which was referred to as the "The Children's Crusade" was initially meant to be a peaceful march organized by Martin Luther King for the Civil Rights Campaign.

However, the police chief responded harshly to this by ordering "firemen to turn on their hoses on demonstrators, so that the powerful jets of water knocked them to the ground" (Hatt, 2004). Moreover, "he also ordered the police to let their German Sheppard dogs loose on the terrified crowds" (Hatt, 2004). Hudson was able to capture one of the many moments that portrayed police brutality against the African-Americans when "a German shepherd held by a tooth-baring cop attacked a black youth" (McWhorter, 1993). After it was repeatedly posted on the newspapers, the picture immediately became a significant part of the movement as it represented what the African-Americans were fighting against.

During the time, this photo was an important tool used to gain the attention of the public and arouse white sympathy. In addition to visually portraying police brutality, the image assisted in nationalizing the African-American freedom movement which led to abolishing legal segregation (McWhorter, 1993). After this, even the attitudes of the public changed with " Birmingham's business leaders beginning to desegregate lunch counters and fitting rooms and hiring more African-Americans" (Siemaszko, 2012).

" Police Dog Attack in Birmingham, Alabama 1963" became iconic due to its ability to visually challenge the social attitudes and regime of power.