

# Angela Davis Pleads Innocent to Charges

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SAN RAFAEL, Calif., July 27 (UPI)—After more than six months of legal skirmishing, black militant Angela Davis formally pleaded innocent today to murder, kidnaping and conspiracy charges resulting from the courthouse shootout which killed a judge and three others.

Judge Richard E. Arnason set the trial date for Sept. 27 and granted Miss Davis permission to act as her co-counsel.

"I plead not guilty," she said when the murder charge was read. She repeated "not guilty" to each of the other charges of kidnaping and conspiracy.

Allowing Miss Davis to be her own co-counsel means that she, along with her six other defense lawyers, can question witnesses, raise objections and

make legal motions during the trial. Arnason said he retained the right to revoke the permission, depending on her conduct.

Arnason, during the 20-minute court appearance, also denied a defense move to dismiss the charges on grounds that publicity about the case has made a fair trial impossible.

He ruled that the defense may question the panel of county judges that selected the grand jury that indicted Miss Davis in the shootout incident. Miss Davis' attorneys contend that there was "systematic exclusion" of minorities from the jury. A hearing was set for next Monday to review the jury-selection system with the judges.

Miss Davis is accused of plotting with, and providing weapons for, Jonathan Jackson, who took part in the fatal attempt to free three San Quentin prisoners last Aug. 7 in the courtroom of Judge Harold Haley. Jackson, 17, drew weapons in the courtroom and tried to kidnap the judge and other court officials.

The shooting occurred when the group confronted officers in the courthouse parking lot.