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# Angela Davis Wants Liberty So She Can Destroy Prisons

PALO ALTO, Calif., Dec. 27 (AP)—Jailed revolutionary Angela Davis says if she were free today, her first goal would be to abolish America's prison system.

"I would not really talk about prison reform. I would talk about the abolition of the prison system," said Miss Davis.

"The prison system attempts to completely rob the prisoners of their own humanity... of the ability of a man to love a woman, and for a woman to love a man.

"But conjugal visits now are rewarded to the prisoners who keep their mouths shut... who acquiesce to the brutality that goes on. So what appears at first to be reform is used to enlarge on the existing repression."

Miss Davis made the comments during an interview at the Santa Clara County jail, where she is being held pending a Jan. 31 trial on charges of murder, kidnaping and conspiracy.

## Regrets Judge's Death

She is under court order not to discuss details of the case. But the 24-year-old former university philosophy instructor declared her innocence of accusations that she helped plot the Aug. 7, 1970 escape attempt at the San Rafael Courthouse in which her friend Jonathan Jackson, two black prisoners and Superior Court Judge Harold Haley were slain during a gunfight with police.

Of Haley's death, Miss Davis said: "I'm very sorry... If we could have a revolution with-

out shedding any blood, that's the way it should be.

"But when you look at that, when you compare that one act, when you compare that to say one act of rebellion in the black community, when you compare the hundreds and hundreds of years and the millions of people that have been killed, it just doesn't seem to me to be rational for someone to get so upset about one person that they fail to understand the other side.

"This, I think, is the important thing, and this is going to be really difficult in the trial," she said.

In her two 6-by-8-foot cells joined by a narrow hallway, the black militant spends her time reading, preparing to be a co-attorney at her trial, writing, and smoking four packs of cigarettes a day.

She has a television set, radio, electric typewriter and, from cardboard boxes in which 100 to 400 letters arrive daily, she has fashioned shelves crammed with papers and books. There is no view of the sky, but the mint green walls are decked with family photographs, a yellow balloon that reads "LOVE," a wall toilet, miniature sink and mirror.

Her supporters are conducting an extensive publicity campaign declaring her innocence and seeking her release on bail.

## Expects Acquittal

But she thinks too much attention has been given to herself as a person. "I try to tell all the people who are behind me that they should also begin to deal with what's happening

in the real dungeons... San Quentin and Soledad."

Miss Davis is confident she will be found innocent if she gets a fair trial, "but you have to realize that so many of the people will come in thinking I'm guilty simply because I'm a Communist."

"There are going to be 12 people sitting there who are going to decide my fate." But she says the jury will not decide "my ultimate fate" and the role she will continue in trying to overthrow the government.

"If I am convicted I will see the jurors as having been willing or unwilling accomplices in a conspiracy presented by the state. If on the other hand, I am not convicted, I'll see that as a victory of the people."

Miss Davis was asked if she fears having to die some day in her attempt to overthrow the government.

"It would be very difficult for me now to be fearful of that (dying), because I've seen so much," she said. "So many of my friends have fallen. I don't think anyone should have to die in the struggle."

## No Compromise

"But I would never compromise my own ideals and my own commitments to revolution because I thought I had to die."

Miss Davis is accused of furnishing the four guns and helping plot what the prosecution says was a abortive attempt to take hostages in exchange for the freedom of the Soledad Brothers—three black prisoners accused of murdering a white guard.