

□ filed San Quentin

ACLU Protests Automatic Bail Denial in Angela Davis Case

The American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California filed a brief Friday, Sept. 17 with the California Supreme Court on the Angela Davis Bail Request Denial, which questions automatic denial of bail in capital cases.

In Miss Davis' case, a probation department and trial judge have found that her release on money bail will reasonably assure her presence at trial. Nonetheless, she is being held in custody.

According to ACLUNC Legal Director Paul Halvonik, "this categorical denial of pre-trial release in capital cases, when the judge is satisfied that conditional release will assure court presence, clearly undermines the presumption of innocence in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution."

Halvonik points out that such procedure resulted in black militants Huey Newton, Bobby Seale and Erika Huggins spending years in jail, only to be acquitted or have charges dropped. "If the simple lodging of a capital charge can result in unconditional incarceration, then we have given government a neat and unrestrained tool for isolating and punishing the politically disfavored."