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Berkeley Asks Probe Of Prisons

The Berkeley City Council last night called on the United Nations to investigate "the death of George Jackson and penal institutions throughout California and the United States."

The 6 to 1 vote, with councilman Tom McLaren opposed and Ed Kallgren abstaining on a motion by Ira T. Simmons, came after an impromptu hearing, including testimony by Jackson's sister, Penny Jackson.

Passage was greeted with loud applause by more than 150 spectators in the packed council chambers.

The resolution said that "George Jackson was at one with all oppressed peoples of the world," and that "the explanations of the death of George Jackson offered by the officials of San Quentin Penitentiary leaves (sic) significant doubt as to how and why he died."

The U.N. has jurisdiction, the resolution noted, because of U.N. resolution 1503 . . . "whereby an individual can challenge a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights by a government."

And "the death of and the bizarre explanations of the death of George Jackson are part of the consistent pattern of gross violations of the human rights of persons incarcerated in penal institutions," it said.