

Petition From San Quentin

Inmates Claim a Plot

By Huel Washington

A hand-written petition drawn up in San Quentin's adjustment center and signed by 26 inmates involved in Saturday's alleged escape attempt accused prison authorities of touching off the trouble as part of a conspiracy "to kill George Jackson."

San Quentin Associate Warden James Park quickly denied the charge and said that correctional officers "acted with great restraint." He denied that prisoners involved in the episode are being beaten or prevented from receiving medical attention.

Attorneys for Jackson and the two surviving "Soledad Brothers" tried to introduce the petition, written as a "motion for restraining order," in court yesterday. When that did not work, they read it to newsmen and supporters of the "brothers" waiting outside the court hearing.

"We, the undersigned, each being held incommunicado, because of suffering from both wounds and internal injuries inflicted upon our persons by known and unknown agents of Warden Louis S. Nelson," the petition began.

The document, written on the back of a large greeting card and smuggled out of the prison charged that "They (prison correctional officers) opened the gates and ordered (the undersigned) from their cells. We refused to leave and then the shotguns were heard."

Floyd Silliman, attorney for "Soledad Brother" John Clutchette, said his client told him that George Jackson ran out from the other inmates to draw the correctional officers' fire.

The Superior Court of California
IN AND FOR THE County of SAN
FRANCISCO

John Clutchette, AND,
FLEETH DRUMGO
Plaintiffs

vs.

Louis S. Nelson, Warden,
James W. L. Park, Associate
Warden, SAN QUENTIN STATE
PRISON - MARIN, CALIFORNIA
Defendants/
Respondents

No. _____

MOTION FOR RESTRAINING ORDER

Comes now the Plaintiffs Above Named,
Prays this Court for AN ORDER -
RESTRAINING, AND ENJOINING, the
DEFENDANTS/RESPONDENTS FROM CONTINUING
to beat, torture, threat AND hold
PLAINTIFFS INCOMMUNICADO, WHILE HOLDING
PLAINTIFFS up to Public RIdicule...

State of California }
County of MARIN } ss: AFFIDAVIT IN
SUPPORT OF RESTRAINING
ORDER

We, the undersigned, each being held
incommunicado, because of suffering from
both wounds and internal injuries
inflicted upon our persons by known
and unknown agents of WARDEN
Louis S. Nelson.

That WARDEN Louis S. Nelson AND

I, declare under penalty of Perjury the foregoing
is true and correct.

August 23, 1971

- (1) Kenneth E. Durma B-11396 A (2) Russell Magee
- (3) David Johnson B-16381 (4) Carl Johnson 1092
- (5) Charles Gardner B-24018 (6) Lawrence Justice 15105
- (7) J.P. COOPER B-33250A (8) ART HUR ANDERSON 5622

These are portions of the hand-written document—a motion for a restraining order and an affidavit in its support—that attorneys tried to introduce in court.

CHARGE

"George realized he was the one they wanted," Silliman said. "George sacrificed his life for the other inmates by drawing the fire."

The petition also contended that inmates in the Adjustment Center were forced to lay nude on the ground outside the center from 4 p.m.

Mancino, the inmate petitioned to 10 p.m. and were beaten individually with "blackjacks, clubs and guns . . ."

" . . . Allan Mancino was begging to have his handcuffs loosened," the petition said. "A guard stepped forward and told the man to keep quiet and shot part of his leg off."

Mancino, the inmate petition said, did not receive medical attention for an hour after he was shot.

(Prison authorities conceded that Mancino was shot, but contend he was only "grazed" in the leg when he tried to stand up. They denied the men lay on the

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(FINDLEY)

ground for six hours, and said Mancino was given prompt medical attention.)

The inmates, in their petition, said they are "now being threatened constantly," and ". . . are sure that (Warden Louis) Nelson will continue the beatings and threats."

Silliman, after reading the petition to the group outside the courtroom, urged "everyone of you who are families of men there (the adjustment center) to get out there and demand to know what is going on before these men are killed."

He said messages had been received from Senator Allan Cranston (Dem-Calif.) and Congressman Ron Dellums (Dem-Berkeley) offering assurances that they will personally investigate the case if necessary.

Appeals for an investigation of the prison were heard again and again from bitter and emotional supporters waiting outside a court hearing on the Soledad case.

'TRAGEDIES'

"Due to certain circumstances in this country today, people no longer believe in our system of justice," said Assemblyman John Miller of Berkeley. "Tragedies like this will occur and continue to occur — I want to get the investigation started now."

Both Miller and the Rev. Cecil Williams of Glide Memorial Methodist Church urged that at least part of the investigation body be composed of ex-convicts.

Similar calls for an investigation were made by Charles Bell, president of the San Francisco chapter of the NAACP, Carlton Goodlett, publisher of the Sun Reporter, and Marvin Stender of the National Lawyers Guild.

But prison officials have already flatly rejected calls for an investigation.

"We will not allow an investigation that will interfere or jeopardize criminal charges and prosecution resulting from this incident," said a spokesman for Corrections Director Raymond Procunier.