SFChronicle New Soledad Brothers' Trial Delay

The Soledad Brothers trial was delayed again yesterday - this time by the State Supreme Court. which wants more time to examine charges that the two surviving Soledad Brothers are being brutalized and denied full legal representation.

The oft - delayed trial was due to open Monday in San Francisco, but the Supreme Court delayed that indefinitely while justices examine a massive habeas corpus petition submitted by defense attorneys Richard Silver and Floyd Silliman.

HEARING

The, petition asks for a hearing on grounds that San Quentin authorities have denied defendants John Clutchette and Fleeta Drumgo access to the courts. effective communication with their lawyers, and have subjected the two Soledad Brothers to cruel and unusual punishment since the third defendant, George Jackson, was killed in an alleged escape attempt at San Quentin August 21.

The Supreme Court is expected to rule Wednesday on whether a hearing will be granted on the petition.

"It's a great relief," attorney Silliman said of yesterday's Supreme Court action. "Frankly, even now we're still terrified at the pace with which this thing has been going. George Jackson's death rocked everyone. 'If nothing else, some time is needed to let things calm down."

PETITION

His and Silver's petition emphasized alleged brutality being suffered by Clutchette and Drumgo as well as by 25 other adjustment center inmates allegedly involved in the August 21 incident.

Attorney Richard Doctoroff, who submitted a deposition as part of the evidence with the motion, said his client, adjustment center inmate Arthur Anderson "had a look of fear on his face" when he visited him August