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# Miss Davis Hails Release as a 'Victory'

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SAN JOSE, Calif., Feb. 24—Angela Davis said today her release on \$102,500 bail after 16 months in prison was a "victory for the people" and vowed to work for the release of "all political prisoners."

During a 20-minute news conference at Defense Committee headquarters, a crowded, sweltering storefront, the 28-year-old avowed Communist and former philosophy professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, said the victory should signal an intensification of efforts "to free all political prisoners."

She said that her release yesterday meant that "the legal apparatus can no longer hold political prisoners in prison for long months prior to trial and attempt by isolating them and in many other ways to break their will to fight."

Reading from handwritten notes on a yellow sheet of paper, Miss Davis said:

"It is a victory all right, but a larger victory—even in my own case—is yet to be obtained. There are many, many thousands of sisters and brothers all over this country, who are forced to live their lives behind concrete and steel. We have to free all our brothers and sisters."

## Ranch as Collateral

Miss Davis was released on bail from the North County Jail in Palo Alto, Calif., after Rodger L. McAfee, a 33-year-old farmer from Caruthers, Calif., put up his 405-acre ranch as collateral as "a matter of justice."

Lawyers for Miss Davis had asked Superior Court Judge Richard E. Arnason earlier this week to release their client or bail in view of a California Supreme Court ruling last Friday that struck down the death penalty in this state. The judge ruled that since capital punishment had been abolished, the law prohibiting bail in capital offenses was also abolished and thereby granted Miss Davis's release.

Miss Davis seemed in good

spirits as she sat before a battery of microphones, smiling often to the many supporters who were packed in with the newsmen. She wore a multi-colored scarf over a green dress and carried a sheet of yellow paper and a small pocketbook.

When a reporter asked how she felt, Miss Davis smiled broadly and then laughed.

"I feel fine," she said, "better than I have in 16 months. The real reason is that now I am able to give much more of myself to the struggle to free all of our sisters and brothers."

Asked if she felt better "toward the American system of justice," she answered:

"As I said before, I feel that this was a people's victory. The people who struggled around conditions in prisons, who struggled around repression which prevails throughout the prisons in this country—it was because of the atmosphere that has been created by this struggle that the Supreme Court abolished capital punishment."

"This has been a victory in the sense that the abolition of capital punishment is very closely related to all the struggles conducted around the prisons in the last two years, related to the murder of George Jackson and to the massacre at Attica."

## Lawyers Present

Miss Davis was flanked by her lawyers—Howard T. Moore Jr., Miss Margaret Burnham and Miss Doris Walker. Behind Miss Davis sat her sister, Mrs. Fania Jordan, who had traveled across the country and overseas to build support for Miss Davis's release. Mrs. Jordan is the co-chairman with Franklin Alexander of the Defense Committee to Free Angela Davis.

Mr. Alexander, a tall man

with a large Afro, described how Miss Davis had spent the first few hours of freedom.

"There was a party of close friends," he said. "There were a couple of bottles of champagne. We did indeed hug and kiss each other all night long."

Mr. Moore noted that Miss Davis had been freed on the birthday of the late W. E. B. DuBois, a founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People who became a citizen of Ghana and a Communist after he was 90 years old.

The walls of the storefront headquarters, decorated with photographs and quotations of black leaders, including the late Malcolm X and Miss Davis, also bore this quotation by Mr. DuBois: "Not over graves should we shout this failure of justice, but from the housetops of the world."

Miss Davis faces trial here on Monday on charges that she participated in a plot that led to a shootout at the Marin County Court House in August, 1970, in which four persons died, including a judge of the Superior Court who had been taken hostage.

The prosecution contends that Miss Davis supplied the guns that were smuggled into the courtroom prior to the escape and kidnapping attempt. Miss Davis was jailed in New York as a fugitive on Oct. 13, 1970, and had been incarcerated since then until 6:55 P.M. yesterday.

About half an hour after the news conference, Gus Hall, a leader of American Communists, arrived. Mr. Hall, speaking at an impromptu sidewalk news conference, called the release of Miss Davis "a very important victory."