

26 Reporters Join In Magee Media Suit

Ruchell Magee's suit asking that he be allowed to have interviews with the media was joined by 26 reporters from across the country yesterday.

The 26 were named in a friend of the court brief filed by the American Civil Liberties Foundation of Northern California in the State Court of Appeal.

Magee is charged with murder, kidnap and conspiracy in connection with the 1970 shootout at the Marin Civic Center. He is due to go to trial October 18.

"This prison rule," said the brief, "that denies newsmen the chance to interview prison inmates strikes at the very heart of the First

Amendment's freedom of press and speech that guarantee a free flow of information," the brief said.

"If we are to prevent the kinds of conditions that led to last summer's tragedy at Attica and the disturbances at San Quentin, the public has simply got to know what is going on on the other side of those gray walls," it said.

Among the 26 reporters were Nicholas von Hoffman of the Washington Post, Tom Wicker and Earl Caldwell of the New York Times, Elizabeth Coleman of Newsweek, Ben Williams of KPIX, Carolyn Craven of KQED, and a number of underground newspaper reporters.